Members Present: Jamie White, Amanda Stade, Kevin Hofer, Jo Beal, Denise Muntefering, Justin Bell, Scott Cordts, Judy Stevens, Sherman Gose, Erin Yost, and Dennis Harstad.

Excused: Faron Wahl and Dusty Anderson.

Department Staff Present: Peggy Besch, Candi Briley, and Kati Eslick.

Guests: Scott Wick and David Smith.

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair White called the meeting to order. The roll call was called, and a quorum was present.

**Introductions:** White welcomed Dennis Harstad (Brookings, SD) to the State Fair Commission who provided a self-introduction. Besch introduced the new Events Services Coordinator Bella Philips, and Briley introduced the summer intern, Riley Roduner.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Yost made a motion; seconded by Hofer to approve the agenda; motion passed.
2. **Approval of March 18, 2025, Minutes:** Bell made a motion; seconded by Beal to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025; motion passed.
3. **Public Comment Period:** None.
4. **Review of Open Meeting Laws:** Bell explained some changes to the Open Meeting Laws that will go into effect July 1, 2025. Bell briefly overviewed the “2023 Conducting the Public’s Business in Public” brochure. A newer version should be published in the near future to include the latest legislation revisions. Besch stated this will be an annual review after the first of the year.
   1. [SB 74A](https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/25472): Require the publication and review of an explanation of the open meeting laws of this state.
   2. [HB 1059B](https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/25720): Clarifies the meaning of teleconference for open meeting requirements.
5. **SHED Construction Update:** Besch reported that construction is going well. They are currently finishing up the drywall and have started working on hanging lights. Plumbing and mechanical are complete. In the next couple of weeks, they will begin working on painting, caulking, flooring (pending materials), bathroom fixtures, and the wood for the donor wall.
6. **SD State Fair Foundation Commission Member Vacancy:** According to the SD State Fair Foundation Bylaws, the “Board of Directors shall consist of six of the current duly appointed members of the SD State Fair Commission…with each of the members selected by a majority vote of the SD State Fair Commission.” Yost made a motion; seconded by Muntefering, to cast a unanimous ballot for Beal and Stevens to serve on the SD State Fair Foundation.
7. **2025 SD State Fair**
   1. **Wednesday Activities:** Besch gave an overview of a project being developed, a “Sensory-Friendly Morning” on Wednesday, August 27, to provide an environment for children and adults with sensory processing disorders and other disabilities to join in on some Fair fun. During this time, the Fair will be more “toned-down,” where participants can enjoy a lower-stimulation environment before crowds arrive. A task force has been helping to develop the concept to include animal encounters, arts and crafts, and some special programming. Besch mentioned current partners helping with this project and some potential partners. Developing some ‘calming areas’ will be important.
   2. **Education Entries**: Education entries closed mid-April. Entries are up substantially from the previous year.
   3. **Static and Exhibitor Handbooks:** All exhibitor handbooks are published except equine. Besch mentioned there are hundreds of classes people can participate in, whether arts, crafts, horticulture, literature, photography, sewing, food, canning, baking, etc. She encouraged commissioners to take every opportunity to encourage people to participate.
   4. **Horizons Hall Superintendent:** This position is still vacant, but Besch mentioned a couple of individuals are considering it as co-superintendents.
   5. **Camping Reservation Renewals:** The rule-making process is complete, and camping package prices are finalized. Camping renewals will go out this week.
   6. **Vendor Renewals:** Approximately 260 contracts have been sent out, with over 180 returned. There are not many vacancies. There are two open spots in the Food Court.
   7. **Entertainment/Programming:** Briley gave an update on some ground and stage entertainment confirmed. Grandstand tickets will go on sale as follows:
      * VIP: May 27
      * Backrest: June 2-3
      * Friends of the Fair: June 4-5
      * Public: June 9
8. **4-H Update:** Stade reported on a variety of things, including:
   1. August 12 is the entry deadline (no late entries will be accepted).
   2. Livestock Skill-a-thon: Will be held on Wednesday, August 27.
   3. They have moved robotics to the Sioux Empire Fair and the Central States Fair to increase participation.
   4. Beef Showmanship moved to Monday.
   5. The stoves in the Nordby Exhibit Hall will be replaced thanks to the fundraising efforts and contribution from the SD State Fair Foundation.
9. **Non-Fair Time Activities:** Eslick provided an update on many upcoming activities in the DEX. Besch mentioned Wheel Jam June 5-8. Besch also provided some statistics regarding visitor attendance using Placer AI.
10. **Maintenance and Repairs:** Besch reported that the installation of water and sewer at the Gate 13 campground is nearly complete. The siding for the Tap Haus, Food Court, and Wine Pavilion has been slightly delayed, but should still be complete by the fair. The new LED light fixtures have been installed in the Dairy Barn, FFA Ag Adventure Center, Tech Center, and Nordby Hall. Construction has started on a new roof on the Dairy Barn.
11. **Commissioners or Manager Reports:** Gose asked about doing something different with SD Largest Classroom regarding Thursday’s lunch so as not to interfere with the Veterans Day program. Members briefly discussed locations and time. Briley will research further to determine action. Stade asked if anything was finalized on a photo op on the midway with livestock. After a brief discussion, Besch will visit with the carnival operator to discuss having a ‘sunrise photo option’ only. There are too many safety concerns in the afternoons and evenings.
12. **Executive Session**: None.
13. **Next Meeting**: July 15, 10:30 AM.
14. **Adjourned:** Motion made by Yost;seconded by Stevens, to adjourn the meeting.