



SD STATE FAIR COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 • 10 AM CT
Nordby Exhibit Hall, SD State Fairgrounds



Call to Order and Roll Call: Vice-Chairman Jamie White called the meeting to order. The roll call was called, and a quorum was present.

Members present: Jamie White, Dusty Anderson, Amanda Stade, Jo Beal, Scott Cordts, Tom Harmon, Gary Sharp, Sherman Gose, Loren Noess, Justin Bell, Erin Yost, and via conference call Denise Muntefering.

Guests present: Secretary Hunter Roberts, Jim White, Karla Hofhenke, and Wayne Soren.

Staff members present: Peggy Besch, and Candi Briley.

1. **Approve Agenda - Additions/Changes:** Motion to approve with the agenda with the addition of "State Fair New Logo" as item 6.g., was made by Bell, seconded by Anderson; motion carried by roll call vote.
2. **Approval of July 20, 2021 Minutes:** Motion to approve was made by Sharp, seconded by Harmon; motion carried by roll call vote.
3. **Public Comment Period:** There were no public comments.
4. **DEX Update:** Secretary Roberts provided an update on the DEX. He provided a brief explanation on the process with several meetings with Office of State Engineer, the construction committee, Henry Carlson Company, and several other engineering firms. He spoke to the positive relationship the State Fair has with the City of Huron and how they are working together to address infrastructure improvements as it relates to water and sewer. This is a Construction Manager at Risk project. Bids for a pre-engineered constructed building are due August 24, which will determine the direction moving forward. Roberts explained construction costs and materials have skyrocketed up to 60 percent increase in some cases. Prices are very volatile and ability to secure materials could also be a challenge. He mentioned due to the increase in construction cost, some changes have been made from the initial design, but the most important elements remain intact. Members viewed the current building design. The DEX will be the biggest investment ever made on the South Dakota State Fairgrounds and will host generations of South Dakotans.
5. **SD Farmers Union:** J. White welcomed Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of SD Farmers Union, and Wayne Soren, Vice-President of SD Farmers Union. Hofhenke and Soren gave a presentation that spoke to the longstanding support of SD Farmer's Union to the State Fair and South Dakota agriculture, and their desire to support the DEX fundraising efforts through naming rights. However, due to the elimination of the naming rights opportunity as presented to them, they are withdrawing their initial pledge. Both Secretary Roberts and J.

White expressed their appreciation of SD Farmer's Union and respect their decision. Anderson asked SD Farmers Union if they would give any consideration to any of the other giving levels for the DEX fundraising efforts.

6. **2021 South Dakota State Fair**

- a. **Staff vacancies:** Besch stated while several seasonal positions have filled, there are several openings in the afternoons for gate attendants and will continue efforts to fill those positions.
- b. **Vending:** Vending numbers are very comparable to 2019 numbers with over 600 vendor spaces filled with several more pending.
- c. **Camping:** There are over 1,700 camping reservations confirmed. Gate 13 reserved sites are sold out and there are only a handful of sites available at Lot H.
- d. **Entries:** There are nearly 9,000 exhibits (up 10% over 2019 numbers).
- e. **Open Class Beef Show:** A Frequently Asked Questions document has been created and distributed to Open Class, 4-H and FFA Exhibitors, to aid in the changes this year with showing Open Class Beef on Tuesday, August 31 and Wednesday, September 1.
- f. **Assignments**
 - a. Commissioner assignments were handed out.
 - b. DEX Groundbreaking Ceremony: Thursday, September 2, 1:30 PM.
 - c. Beer Garden Ribbon Cutting: Thursday, September 2, 4 PM.
 - d. Bob Duxbury Award: Saturday, September 4 at 12 noon.
 - e. State Fair Logo: Besch reported efforts are underway to establish a new logo for the State Fair. Fairgoers will have an opportunity to vote on the logo during the State Fair.

7. **Executive Session:** Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Yost, to enter into executive session to consult legal counsel; motion carried by roll call vote.

Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Anderson to withdraw from Executive Session where J. White noted legal matters were discussed; motion carried by roll call vote.

8. **Next Meeting:** Informal short work sessions will be scheduled for September 2, 3, 4, and 6, at 9 AM for any commissioners who are available to attend for purposes of discussing daily activities, commissioner assignments and where help is needed to assist with daily activities. If a meeting is not necessary, it will be cancelled.
9. **Adjournment:** Motion was made by Yost, seconded by Anderson to adjourn meeting. J. White declared the meeting adjourned.