

Utah State Fairpark Authority Board Meeting

October 16, 2025

<u>Teams</u>	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Wade Garrett	Lillian Bayles	Larry Mullenax	
Jennifer Seelig	Dave Lewis	Becky Knight	
Ted Lewis	Darrell Hunting (DFCM)	Allan Kitterman	
Jim Webb			<u>Excused</u>
Paul Morris			
Steve Lund	<u>Public</u>		
Kip Paul	Bobby (unidentified)		
Senator Sandall	Bennie Cifuentes		
Kelly Pehrson (Dept of AG)	Sadie Cifuentes		

Meeting was called to order roll call was taken as stated above. October 16, 2025, 9:00am

Approval August & Septembers Board Meeting Minutes:

Darrell made a motion to approve, Lillian seconded seeing no discussion all are in favor motion passes.

August Financial Review:

Revenues were up. The Jaripeo was our largest Jaripeo to date over 10K in attendance. Expenses were up just as a note 42K of that increase is the water bill alone. Overall, we are doing very well on expenses. Year-to-date expenses as you may recall were a record year last year and we are up slightly over last year. This year's numbers reflect even better than that.

Senator Sandall asked the question if the water bill increase was outdoor irrigation? Larry responded to the question. He explained that the water company increased the fees associated with sewer water that increase was 243%. There was a slight increase in consumption of about 18% but the actual bill went up 243%. The Issue we have is that a lot of the water that is used as the Fairpark is labeled as culinary water in their system and is being used for irrigation. We have asked Salt Lake City to come down and tour the park during an event setup so they can see how that water is being used and to see if we can add a meter so we can start tracking the water that as of now is tracked as culinary water that is in fact used for irrigation. Hopefully we have some type of closure soon.

Year to date expenses are up over last year and we are up over budget as well but again that is mostly due to the increasing cost of water. Our net ordinary income is up over last year. Going into the Fair that puts us in a really good position. Our cash position is up over last year.

2025 Fair Financial Review:

Reconciliations are going very well. We should be able to have a good number for management discussion with Larry by the end of the month and plan to have Fair numbers and September numbers by the next meeting.

Next meeting will be November 13

Staff Incentive Discussion:

Wade made a motion of \$50K for a bonus to distribute now to the staff. Ted seconded the motion was approved for \$50K. Larry will allocate as he sees appropriate.

Call to enter closed Session:

Lillian made motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing a proposed development pursuant to section 52-4-205c Darrell seconded the motion. All were in favor motion passed. October 16, 2025 @ 9:27 am @ 155 N 1000 W Salt Lake City Utah 84116

Fair Reserve Lamb Disqualification Appeal:

On September 11th, Thursday following our market lamb show, the exhibitor Sadie was recognized as a reserve champion market lamb. Immediately following that champion drive, we did the blood draw. We had a board member, the mother and the exhibitor present. Following that, the blood test came back, and we were notified by the lab that the test was positive on both the 1st and 2nd test they draw to. It tested positive for cannabinoid, so CBD in the blood. That's against the state rule, State Fair policy because it is not approved by the FDA for animal consumption and to go into the food chain. We immediately Notified Bennie, who is Sadie's mother, and informed them with a certified letter later that day with all the details.

Sadie's lamb started limbing after returning home from Ag Expo in Logan. She was concerned about her lamb health and that was the most important thing to her. After talking to a lot of people that she trusted and doing research, they all concluded that snake oil would be the best option to give the lamb to make it feel better. The website for the snake oil said it was safe for market animals, and it said all in supplements have never tested and will never test. So, they trusted them and used it on her lamb, and it did help. If Sadie knew it contained CBD, she would have never given it to her lamb. The lamb means more to her than anything else. They felt that it wasn't their fault because they trusted what the company's website stated. All that is wanted is to get the lamb back. She realizes that she will forfeit the winnings from the show and may not be able to show at the Utah State Fair again. But most of all she would like the lamb returned. Sadie will be allowed to show next year. The animal cannot be returned. Ted made a motion to approve the disqualification of the lamb Lillian seconded. Ted made a comment that we put these policies in place to generate fairness and to keep improper substances out of the food chain and we've made our policies clear in advance. The motion passed to disqualify the Lamb and will make sure in the follow up letter that it states that Sadie will be able to show in the upcoming Fair's shows.

Red West Recap:

Friday the event was launched it was a fantastic and magical night. We were aware of the storm coming in that was communicated to everyone we had numerous meetings with emergency management teams and others. The weather started to move in around 5:00 on Saturday the decision was made by the EOC (emergency operations command) to evacuate the park it rained really hard. The river swelled up to the point that it almost came up over the banks. The event went into a paused position the team did everything that could be done to keep people safe. 5 UTA buses were brought in to get people out of the weather. People were put into buildings everywhere we possibly could. The pause continued till about 10:00pm when it was decided it was too wet to move forward it was unsafe to turn the power back on to continue the event. The crew did a remarkable job they convened early Sunday morning they identified all the problems. The doors opened on time Sunday morning. Unfortunately, there was an incident that occurred across the street that got linked back to this event with a lot of misinformation. One of the attendees evacuated out of her own free will before the event had decided to evacuate. She was parked at the 801 Event Center which is on the south side of North Temple. She paid to park there which is directly adjacent to the new building that's being constructed. She was in and out of her car. She stepped out of her vehicle a friend was holding the door because the wind was blowing so hard. Keeping the door from shutting on her and at that point in time a wood plank from the scaffolding was dislodged and landed on her. Causing her brain damage that she never recovered from. In the end the event was extremely successful. There's a lot of other moving elements that took place, but in the end the fire Marshall and others complimented the team on the evacuation process that they safely evacuated. The team did a fantastic job. We lost some revenue share on that Saturday parking and beer. About 33% of the show took place on Saturday.

NFR & IAFE

IAFE Sunday after Thanksgiving if any Board Members would like to attend, please let us know this week so arrangements can be made. Also, we have the NFR meeting coming up the first week of December and we also encourage Board Members to attend the Rodeo meeting as well to learn a bit more about Rodeo production to help us put on a better Rodeo.

Committee "Fair" Reports

- **Legislative-Steve Lund:** Not much to report on the Legislative side as of right now.
- **Education-Steve Lund:**
The presentation went well. A lot of good responses from folks from Utah State and from the Cattlemen's Association they would like to continue to move forward and to continue to build on it like a coalition between the cattlemen, the wool growers and the Dairy Association on the like stock side and also on the crop side building that coalition so that we can actually speak with one voice rather than 10-12 different voices.
- **Fair-Lillian Bayles:** We had 694 more entries this year than last year. The largest increase was in the fiber arts, but all the departments were up. We also had 213 more exhibitors than last year. The fair was so good this year and the staff was amazing. We did increase the premiums this year and it was a very successful year.
- **Rodeo- Wade Garrett:** Attendance was up over last year the Rodeo went well we will be working on things to continue to improve the attendance moving forward. I Drive logistics was a Rodeo sponsor Wade will be meeting with them before the NFR to get ideas they have for some different advertising and things they think might help with driving more attendance. Darrell made the comment that a lot of the Rodeo help is volunteer and do we do anything to thank them for their support. Wade thought that was a good idea and will work on doing something like that moving forward.

Larry made a comment that a few years back the chairman created a group of individuals that were going to look into hosting an appreciation banquet for all of the supervisors that help us out with the Fair. Larry believes that would be beneficial for not only the Rodeo but for all the individuals that support us putting on the best Fair we can. He suggests that we revisit that idea.

- **Livestock-Jim Webb:** Highest auction we have ever had. Most people were appreciative of the money that the board contributed to the show. There was some confusion over where the money came from, but we quickly explained how that came about. It was a good auction. Jacee did a fantastic job. There were 403 animals at the auction which was second to 2023 which sold 406 animals. In 2018 we were selling 277 animals. The total money spent during the auction was \$674,700.00. That is an increase of about \$140,000.00 over last year.
- **Safety & Security-Ted Lewis:** Ted deferred to Aly's report in the packet. We had no major incidents and overall, the public safety plans were in fact executed well and were a success.

Ted complimented Larry and his team and the entire staff for the successful Fair for the amazing job they did at the Red West event and for all they do the entire year. All were handled exceptionally well. And the Board would like to reflect on their genuine appreciation and support for the staff's efforts.

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting Ted seconded meeting adjourned at 10:04