



MALHEUR COUNTY FAIR BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Malheur County Fair Board was held on March 16, 2026, at the Malheur County Fairgrounds, Ontario, Oregon. Fair Board members present were Chair David Tschida, Vice Chair Garrett Chamberlain, Cody Franklin, Jennifer Hall, Jacqueline Heid, Maddie Hewitt, and Dave Tiffany. Advisory Members present were Kim Thomas and Dallas Tschida. Public: Chané Nelson (OSU Extension Service), Casey Leppert, Victoria Leppert (4-H), Bernie Weldon (TVCC), Chris Chapan, and Rod Stokes (Malheur County Fat Stock Sales Committee).

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chair Dave Tschida called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Chair Dave Tschida introduced the guests present at the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes from the February 16, 2026, board meeting were presented for review and approval. Chair Dave Tschida called for a motion to approve the February 16, 2026, minutes. Garrett Chamberlain made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Jennifer Hall seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote; the motion passed.

Vote: Chamberlain, Franklin, Hall, Heid, Hewitt, Tiffany, all in favor. – Motion Passed

FINANCIALS:

The financials for March 2026 were presented for review and approval. Chair Tschida called for a motion to approve the financials. Jennifer Hall made a motion to approve the March 2026 financials as presented. Garrett Chamberlain seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote; the motion passed.

Vote: Chamberlain, Franklin, Hall, Heid, Hewitt, Tiffany, all in favor. – Motion Passed

TVCC:

Bernie Weldon from Treasure Valley Community College wanted to remind the board of the upcoming rodeo scheduled for April 3-4, 2026. He wanted to make sure that the bathrooms were unlocked and ready for the event. Chair Tschida will make sure they are up and going before the event. He also wanted to see if the State of Oregon FFA had paid for the venue for the upcoming chicken judging on April 25, 2026. We have not spoken with them, but we will be watching for their communication to get this scheduled. They also have someone who will clean up all the

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manure the board requested be removed. The board also relayed to Bernie that the water truck fill station is still broken, and the college needs to work on getting it fixed so it can be used for the rodeo.

4-H / MALHEUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE UPDATE:

Chané Nelson with the OSU Extension Service came to the board with a copy of the proposed livestock exhibitor schedule, which was presented at the last meeting, and asked whether any concerns had been raised since then. There should be no further revisions to this schedule. Once the superintendents approve, they will provide us with a copy ready to print for the fair book. Chané also presented a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a shed to be donated to the Malheur County Fair Board by the Ontario High School Agriculture/Mechanics program for use during the fair by the Malheur County Extension Office/4-H. The MOU details that the fair board will carry insurance on this building, and the Extension Office will carry a renter's policy. For record-keeping purposes, Garrett Chamberlain made a motion to accept the donated shed from OHS to be placed on the Malheur County Fair Grounds, which is to be used for the Malheur County Extension Office and 4-H, as stated in the presented draft MOU. Jennifer Hall seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote; the motion passed.

Vote: Chamberlain, Franklin, Hall, Heid, Hewitt, Tiffany, all in favor. – Motion Passed

SHEEP AND GOAT BARN:

Pat Woodcock of Engineering Northwest, LLC, presented a revised blueprint to the fair board. A discussion of these plans took place, and it was decided that, due to the time constraints, we would not be able to safely construct the new sheep and goat barn before the 2026 fair. Construction would begin after the conclusion of the fair. Jennifer Hall made a motion to move forward with the revised plans presented by Pat for the sheep and goat barn. Jacquelle Heid seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote; the motion passed.

Vote: Chamberlain, Franklin, Hall, Heid, Hewitt, Tiffany, all in favor. – Motion Passed

Regarding the demolition of the existing sheep and goat barns, the board decided to leave it open to bid.

DOOR LOCKS:

After a meeting with the door lock company, Jennifer Hall said that the company from Portland will travel to Ontario on April 20, 2026, and will be on-site April 21-22, 2026, to work on the door locks.

SWINE SCALE:

The USDA tech came to certify the scales for the upcoming fair, and the Swine Scale failed inspection because it would not zero out. Garrett Chamberlain is going to reach out to the sales committee to see if they have anyone who can come repair and recertify the scale.

HOG WASH RACK:

Rod Stokes and Garrett Chamberlain came to the fair board to ask whether the board would entertain the idea of the sales committee upgrading the wash rack in the hog barn as one of their improvements to the fairgrounds. The board is in favor of the sales committee moving forward and getting a contractor to prepare plans to upgrade the wash rack.

Secretarial Note: Hewitt left the board meeting at 7:44 p.m.

VENDOR UPDATES:

Jacquelle presented to the board that we have only 7 spots left in the commercial building. She also called all vendors from last year and reminded them of the upcoming application deadline before filling spots with those on the waiting list. The board also reviewed an email from a food vendor. We will meet with this vendor for a walk-through to address her concerns.

Discussion was also held about completing the upgrades to the food vendor spots along the side of the red barn. We still need to install dividers as part of the food booth upgrades, along with connecting a sink to each booth for vendors to use as a hand-washing station and a place to dump their used water. A couple of the board members will go out and look at the space and come up with some options after the board meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The board reviewed the upcoming events we have booked for the next couple of months.

EVENT SECURITY:

Jennifer Hall reported to the board that the head of the company we use for event security (Rusty Bashon) passed away. At this point, there is no control of the company. She has reached out to TVCC again to see about using the college's security. The board asked about using someone from Idaho, but we have to use an Oregon company that is Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) certified.

WASTE REMOVAL (not on agenda):

Dave wanted to bring up the waste removal again and see if Jacquelle was able to make contact with someone to remove it. She stated she had posted it on Facebook for anyone to come and get some if they wanted it, but has not had any takers.

FAIRGROUNDS CARETAKER (not on agenda):

Dave brought up that it's time to start mowing and watering the grounds. As of right now, we still don't have a caretaker hired, and he is wondering what the board would like to do. The board said they will have to come start watering and mowing.

OREGON SENATE BILL 1601 (not on agenda):

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Jennifer reported that she wrote a letter that was read regarding SB 1601. It is a financial administration bill that, among other provisions, modifies the allocation of lottery proceeds and addresses state funding gaps. Regarding County Fair Funding, the bill removes the statutory cap on transfers of lottery moneys to the County Fair Account beginning July 1, 2027, allowing the full 1% of lottery revenues to be transferred annually. She explained how this will affect our fair and how we were able to budget some additional funding because of this.

RESIGNATION LETTER (not on agenda):

Dallas informed the board that we received a letter from Misty King resigning from the advisory board. It has been forwarded to the county.

ADJOURNMENT:

Garrett Chamberlain moved to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Hall seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote, which passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

These minutes were presented to the board of directors for review and approval on April 20, 2026.

- Approved as Presented
- Require Revisions
- Rejected

/s/
David Tschida
Malheur County Fair Board Chairman

04/20/2026
Date

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