

**SWEETWATER COUNTY EVENTS COMPLEX**

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**January 28, 2020**

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approvals of January 28, 2019 Meeting Board Minutes
5. Financial Report
6. Approval of Checks:
  - 1st Bank Checks: 57137 – 57154
  - 1st Bank Direct Deposits: 5844 – 5872
  - Commerce Bank Checks: 1346 – 1354
  - Commerce Bank Direct Deposits: 24340 – 24389
7. Public Comment
8. Presentations
9. Listing of March 2020 Events
10. Correspondence
11. Old Business
  - Foundation Update
  - Specific Purpose Tax Discussion
  - Event Recruitment
  - Water Drilling Update
  - Water Metering Station & MOU with City of Rock Springs
  - County Commission Budget Amendment Update
12. New Business
  - Future NHSFR events
13. Closing Comments
  - Staff: Executive Director
  - Board: Open Forum for Board Comments
  - Commissioner Comments
14. Executive Session, if needed.
15. Adjournment

\*Next Board Meeting is March 24, 2020\*

**Sweetwater County Events Complex  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
February 25, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Spicer called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Faith Harris, Paul Zancanella, Janet Hartford, Roger Torgersen, Bob Spicer and Rob Zotti.

Absent: Kaye Goicolea and Donald Palleson

Also present: Larry Lloyd, Robert Perry, Lena Warren, Tamara Musgrove and Erika Koshar

**Approval of Agenda:**

Trustee Hartford moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Trustee Torgersen. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes**

Trustee Harris moved to approve the January 28, 2020, board minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Zancanella and passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:**

<b>Cash Balance, February 1, 2020</b>	<b>\$816,493</b>
Add Receipts	\$59,314
Less Expenditures	\$140,765
 <b>Cash Balance, February 25, 2020</b>	 <b><u>\$735,042</u></b>

Trustee Hartford moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Trustee Zotti and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Checks:**

Motion to approve-

1st Bank Checks: 57137 - 57154  
1st Bank Direct Deposits: 5844 – 5872  
Commerce Bank Checks: 1346 - 1354  
Commerce Bank Direct Deposits: 24340 – 24389

Trustee Zotti inquired about the checks written to Orchard Trust. It was noted they hold our deferred compensation

Trustee Harris moved to approve all checks as presented. Motion seconded by Trustee Zotti. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Presentations:**

None.

**Listing of Events:**

Erika Koshar reviewed the March 2020 events.

**Correspondence:**

None.

**Old Business:**

*Foundation Update* – Lena Warren provided an update on the Bootlegger’s Bash this previous weekend. The event was about 20 tickets away from selling out capacity. The event raised approximately \$18,000.

*Specific Purpose Tax Discussion* – Director Lloyd noted that a memo was sent over the County Commissioners describing the importance of completing the water line loop across the property. It is imperative to complete this line before we can continue construction and additions. Director Lloyd asked Commissioner Lloyd why the water project was dropped off the ballot.

Commissioner Lloyd noted that he didn’t have a perfect answer as to why it was directly dropped. He was a nay vote on the allocation, but his opinion is not the majority. The board will reconvene in March to continue the discussion.

Director Lloyd noted that this water project must take place with the Exhibit Hall expansion, so we need to know where the funds will come from. Removing the project will impact our construction.

Discussion ensued regarding the fast decision making within this process. Trustee Zotti noted that the City of Rock Springs is also returning to the conversation requesting about \$400k in additional funds.

It was reiterated that the water project is needed for either the Exhibit Hall or Indoor Arena project.

Trustee Zotti reviewed HR-25 in the legislature as it effects special use taxes.

Chairman Spicer presented the one-page recap of the Exhibit Hall expansion. It will keep the Board all on the same page for informational purposes.

*Event Recruitment* – Lena Warren reminded the Board that the **Escapees** group are joining us in June, 2020. Registrations are still growing. They’ve sold out of 100 “dry” boondocking spaces, which tops us at 800 units on the property.

The Board inquired as to why the increase for us? Warren noted that it's a new location... intrigue for Wyoming and the new area. This is a younger group and excited to explore. Director Lloyd also noted that a committee spent 2 weeks in our area as to prepare for questions and direction.

The **Newmar** group will join us in August, 2020. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce to organize three days of tours to the area and locals to provide seminars. Estimating 500 coaches.

**Tiffin** is looking for August 2021 dates to return.

**Airstream** is still researching the possibility of a rally in 2022 or 2023.

Director Lloyd would like the municipalities to come out to hear a presentation as to why we are here and what we can showcase of our community.

Kandi Pendleton noted that we have confirmed the **World Series of Team Roping** is moving to Rock Springs from Jackson Hole and we are excited to host them in June, 2020. We will also add the **Million Dollar Barrel Race** to our August 2020, line up of events. Stalls and RV reservations are already coming in through the website.

Trustee Spicer requested a sheet of large events that can be presented to the Board to have on hand.

Kandi Pendleton and Lena Warren are working through presentations at local meetings to help disburse the event information.

*Water Drilling Update* – Director Lloyd noted that an agreement has been reached with the well driller. The original well will be capped and filled with concrete. The new well will be drilled within about 35 feet of our current space. The well driller and pipe supplier will both be on site to ensure all aspects are handled directly.

*Water Metering Station & MOU with City of Rock Springs* – Director Lloyd noted that historically we've had silent agreements of "you help us and we help you". We've determined that we need written agreements with other agencies (memo of understanding) for all its uses by different organizations. Currently, we have a water metering station on the SEC property. Electricity and maintenance of the building has been paid for by the Events Complex. Recently we covered the bill of \$29k for painting and repairs. We are entering a dialogue with the City of RS to share future costs. The line for this water supplies the golf course.

Trustee Zotti noted that he doesn't want it to be a constant back and forth between us and the City. The timing will be looked at negatively. Trustee Spicer noted that he would have a hard time paying a bill 'after' the fact. He'd like to see the MOU going forward.

Trustee Harris noted the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with the City of Rock Springs. We need to keep communication open and looking at all possibilities. The conversations need to be thought out and presented in the right manner.

Director Lloyd noted his need for due diligence to present the information to the City. We need to continue to commit to our promises and someone from outside agencies to appreciate what we have provided. Discussion ensued regarding presentation and conversation methods.

Monies are tight at the Events Complex and we don't want to be taken advantage of for usage. We are required to provide the same services but at a lower cost.

*County Commission Budget Amendment Update* – Larry Lloyd noted that the funding from the County was reduced by \$89k - \$23k for the insurance and \$66.9k for the mill levy reduction. It was presented at the County Commission meeting and the board requested a budget amendment; however at the following meeting, the motion died for a lack of second without discussion.

Commissioner Lloyd noted a budget amendment was put together for the upcoming meeting to only cover the health insurance.

**New Business:**

*Future NHSFR events* – NHSRA has indicated that they are changing their bid model to require facilities to have an Indoor Arena. Right now, we have a tentative contract for 2024 & 2025; however, they may decide to withdraw due to our lack of indoor facilities. If they do not return, we lose our recognition as a national draw.

Trustee Zancanella noted that the Million Dollar Barrel Race received flack for coming to Rock Springs because we cannot provide multiple indoor arenas.

Inquiries for additional funding sources outside the 6<sup>th</sup> penny funding were discussed. The business council grants are extremely competitive. This project would be an extreme positive economic impact.

Trustee Spicer wondered if we need to create a coalition to lead the charge on a new Indoor Arena facility. Trustee Hartford noted that we need to workshop this idea.

*Shrine Circus* – The Shrine Circus event takes place during the Escapee Rally this year. Kandi Pendleton informed the Board that we are meeting with Keith Santa and Bob Spicer with the Shrine Circus to work through some of the logistic changes for 2020. We believe we can facilitate parking at the Grandstands parking lot and bussing patrons into the Indoor Arena,

*Fair Youth Horse Show* – Kandi Pendleton presented the background of a current issue. Pendleton recalled that 4-H members attended the October non-quorum meeting with the idea to run the same show once with two different judges. This takes care of 4-H and open judging all at once, saving time for the kids.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the 4-H office requested a meeting with SEC staff and the FFA liaison to make changes. They did not invite the horse development committee. The meeting group agreed to make scheduling changes and merge some Open Class and 4-H events with separate judges. SEC staff proceeded moved ahead and hired judges, the announcer, etc., to prepare for the event.

However, after the meeting Marty did not convey the changes to the 4-H Horse Development group.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, an email was sent to the 4-H office to make sure someone from that office planned to attend the 4-H horse development committee to explain the changes. 4-H office assistant, Melissa, emailed the new schedule to the horse development committee and it was received negatively. In the end, the Horse Development parents are unhappy and Marty does not return from maternity leave until Mid-March address the situation.

The fair show is no longer just a 4-H show, but a youth show including FFA. There is one participant family that would like to use 2 different horses between the 4-H and open shows. The changed schedule will not allow that to happen.

Director Lloyd inquired if there's been a decline in participation. Kandi noted that there has been a decline of about 25% over the years. Trustee Zancanella noted that the classes are now so specialized instead of using one horse for all the classes, some families focus on one area.

Director Lloyd said this issue should be referred to the extension office and we will follow their lead. The extension office, FFA and the horse development committee members should agree on the direction they'd like to take and then we'll make it happen.

**Closing Comments**

*Executive Director:* None.

*Board Members:* None.

*Commissioner Lloyd:* None.

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Hartford moved to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Zottie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Bob Spicer, Chairman

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Faith Harris, Secretary