



SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD AGENDA
Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room
San Juan County Fairgrounds
Friday, April 17th, 2026

CONVENE MEETING

9:04AM

Attendance: Terri Brown (remote), Clinton Gauthier, Josephine Bangs, Herb Mason, Barbara Bevens, Mark Hampton, Amanda Smith, Jane Fuller (remote), Milene Henley (remote)

Approval of Agenda: Josephine moved; Mark seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: March 2026, Josephine moved, Herb seconded. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: Jane Fuller:

- County Council had a joint meeting with Town Council on 4/1. Very productive meeting full of good discussion. Plans to collaborate on affordable housing and ferry issues. Joint task forces will be set up to work on these issues.
- Levy Lid Lift is top of mind for Council. Hopeful that it will pass to continue with critical county programming.
- 4/20, 4/21, 4/27, 4/28 meetings for the remainder of April

4-H DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Clinton Gauthier:

- Leaders Council Meeting on Tuesday, May 16th from 8am-12pm at Marie Boe; Fair Board members are invited to attend.
- Nice weather meant that Clinton was able to tackle the 4H storage space and give it a much-needed cleaning and reorganizing.
- Livestock tent will not be going up for Fair, but there are several ideas being considered to create shaded space over and around the Livestock Arena.
- Animal counts are up slightly from last year
- Livestock work party May 2nd will be followed by public presentations and Youth Fair
- Spring Weigh-in & Livestock Clinic will be May 30th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Entry Days – Perishable vs Non-perishable Entries:

- Searching for ideas to make entry run more smoothly
- Early entry days have not been as effective as we had hoped and may be too much to ask of still life supers
- Staff proposes Tuesday be only for Non-Perishable; Wednesday would be only for Perishable entries. Doing this would even out the flow of traffic and allow staff to more available to assist all departments with entries.



- Staff asking for Fair Board recommendations.
- Amanda shared her plans for getting the word out to the community.
- The Board has recommended that no one be excluded from judging for the first year as the community gets used to the change.

Layout:

- Without 2 stages we have space available in the Triangle area next to the arena.
- Green Village would like to keep their space up in the trees by the cabin.
- Josephine would like to see the Ag Tent featured in the triangle; may be difficult to separate them from the Green Village as they have been collaborating over the past few years.
- Other ideas included: Dog Department (may want to keep their shady spot), Craig Starr's tractors (concern about running the tractors during horse events)
- Zucchini 500 will likely remain in the triangle no matter what else is placed there

Re-imagining Entertainment:

- Jenn is interested in adding an additional Chicken Race Day (Fri/Sat preferred)
- One stage instead of two; less programming slots. Family entertainer will remain.
- Ticket prices are rising; would like to keep the event feeling special/entertaining
- Ideas include Hammer Race, Baby Races, Fair Feud, BINGO, sack races, silver dollar prizes, tug of war, etc.
- Should we find another space for BINGO/Fair Feud?
- Jeri, Jenn & Terri plan to meet next month to discuss other fun ideas
- Music should be the priority on the stage
- Can we rent an additional stage from somewhere local? Can the arena be used for entertainment?
- Reach out to high school bands at FHHS, SSIS, Orcas High, Lopez High

South Gate Closure (Dougherty Entrance):

- Staff have proposed that once livestock is in that the gate be closed for entrance.
- Don't have the budget to pay a service group to staff the gate
- Boy Scouts will staff the Horse gate like last year.
- Will need fixes to the fence to accommodate large trailers.
- Livestock Supers/4H will have the ability to unlock the gate early for livestock participants.

Open Horse Policy:

- What does the Fair want to do to create equity across all departments regarding the expectations for each department
- Have been asked to keep animals on the grounds for the whole Fair, but Horse rules have been less consistent
- Mandatory in time for vet check and stay until Fair is closed?
- Common in other Fairs for Open Horses to come and go, Re-vet check?
- Open Horse has to pay to participate, popular with visitors and has the potential to bring in a lot of money
- Charge a day use fee for stalls? No stall reservation beyond payment. Maybe the tent doesn't get put up unless participation warrants it?



- Fair Board recommendations:
 - Stall signups deadline
 - Time In & Time Out is enforced
 - One point of contact, coordination with all groups
 - Fees need to be enforced; forms available for late signups and fees collected before riding.
- Brandon, Clinton, Amanda, Terri, Tamara meeting to discuss expectations and set clear rules. Amanda to reach out and schedule a meeting.
- Will honor \$1500 judge fees for 2026 without housing.
- Mark raises a motion to approve raising Open Horse fees, Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Washington State Fairs Association Super School Re-Cap

- Josephine, Milene, Clinton, Herb, Terri were in attendance
- All agreed that overall, it was worthwhile, they got ideas and enjoyed connecting with other Fair people

Grandstand

- Demo is next week
- Pad prep is next, complete by mid-June
- Installation end of June – mid-July

Leave Update:

- Joe Vlach will be taking on Director role in Brandon's absence
- May 14th is Brandon's last scheduled day before leave.
- The board would like him to attend the May meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Fair Board Meeting

May 8, 2026

ADJOURN 10:54 AM