

SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR BOARD MINUTES

Parks and Fair Admin Conference Room

San Juan County Fairgrounds

Friday, June 12, 2026

CONVENE MEETING

9:03AM

Attendance: Barbara Bevens, Terri Brown, Herb Mason, Clinton Gauthier, Amanda Smith, Milene Henley, Kevin Roth

Approval of Agenda: June 2026, Herb motioned to approve, Terri seconded, unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: May 2026, Milene motioned to approve, Terri seconded, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Council Liaison Report: Jane Fuller; not in attendance

4-H DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Clinton Gauthier

- 4-H fair entry is now open, and registrations are beginning to come in. To encourage strong participation, Clinton will host a series of registration assistance events for families. Clinton will be on Lopez this Saturday and scheduled to visit Orcas in mid-July to ensure members across the county are able to complete entries successfully.
- 4-H held a very successful weigh-in and 4-H Day on May 30, with approximately 50 attendees. 10 animals weighted in, and a goat showmanship clinic was offered, along with still life activities in Marie Boe. Lunch was served from the Rambler booth, creating a great opportunity for community connection. The County Manager and Councilmember McVeigh attended and were able to see both the grounds and 4-H programming in action. Clinton has prepared an impact report from this event to share.
- 4-H will be represented in the 4th of July parade with a float featuring youth members and animals. This is a great opportunity to promote both 4-H and the San Juan County Fair. We would be happy to include any additional fair messaging or materials. We will also be carrying a "See You at the Fair in August" banner.
- Due to limited volunteer capacity and a small number of riders, 4-H horse members will not be participating in the fair this year. Instead, we are focusing on delivering a quality experience for those youth by hosting a summer horse show on Orcas. Members are still encouraged to participate in the fair through open class and other 4-H entries, including educational exhibits related to horse.
- Overall, as we shift into fair season, our focus is on supporting strong youth participation, maintaining program quality, and continuing to build visibility for both 4-H and the Fair across the islands. In light of anticipated budget uncertainty in 2027 and beyond, we are especially focused on making this year's fair a meaningful and celebratory showcase of our 4-H youth and their hard work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Meeting Recap

- First superintendent meeting was held on May 26th with 17 superintendents in attendance! Agenda items included: Staff introductions, department needs, exhibitor guide edits deadline, securing judges, Entry Day changes, Sensory Friendly morning and assessing training needs.

Fair Timeline Progress:

- Fair staff meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9am to discuss and check off Fair tasks off of our master list. Fair Board members are invited to attend if they are interested.

Poster Distribution:

- Posters are printed and ready to be distributed. Fair Board members are encouraged to distribute posters to the businesses they frequent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Horse Department

- Terri Brown shared vet recommendations from the WA State Vet

Vendor Update:

- Amanda shared that vendor sales are strong with both the Food Court and Main Building spaces and that waitlists have been started for both areas. At the time of the meeting 6 outdoor booths remained vacant. In addition, the Green Village sales had increased since being told that they were staying in the space they have occupied for the past two years.

Grounds Layout Update:

- The triangle will house Craig Starr's vintage tractors, the Ag Tent & Green Village will remain in their original space.

Fairgrounds Events Update:

- Island Rec programming in the Main Building and Marie Boe are winding down for the summer season, but Dragonfly Camp is beginning to set up. Private events are also slowing down, and the Main Building is no longer available for events until after Fair.

Table Count Update:

- Superintendents have been asked to provide their own tables whenever possible, and 70 tables will be rented from Skagit County Fair with pickup on Monday 8/10. In addition, vendors have been told that tables will not be available for rental this year.

Sponsorship Update:

- Valmark is continuing to sponsor the Fair at the same rate as past years, Banner Bank has reached out to offer sponsorship, and several departments have received donations from various businesses including: Blick Art, Roche Harbor Resort, San Juan County Textile Guild, WA Wheat Grower's Association, and the San Juan Island Garden Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Fair Board Meeting

Friday, July 10, 2026

ADJOURN: 9:46 AM