



HCYLSA

April 8, 2025

6 PM @ Sage Country Vet

Present: Amanda Tyler, Shane Otley, Ann Becker, Jay Nelson, Katy Wallace, Melissa McElhannon, Stephanie Falck, Crystal Otley, Gretchen Bates, Kurt Beaubien, Katlen Schimmelpfennig, Shylee Otley, Talina, Bobby Grinder, Kody, Hayes and Diane Hunter with Powder River

- 1) Approve minutes from the March 11th meeting
 - Stephanie made a motion to approve the minutes. Gretchen seconded. Passed unanimously with no discussion.

- 2) Fair Board Report – Jay Nelson
 - The fair board is looking for a way to take big donations from local donors, with it being a non-profit, so that they can receive a donation receipt.
 - HCYLSA asked our lawyer, and they strongly recommended against it. We can run large sums, but when they see a large sum come in and then a large sum go out to a government entity (which the fair board is because it falls under Harney County), it causes big red flags.
 - Harney County Opportunity Team is set up to take in and disperse funds, and they do it for the Chamber (we think), so that might be an option.
 - The committee is willing to talk, but we can't see a way to fit something like that into our bylaws with our organization being set up to support youth specifically, and the bylaws being pretty narrow.
 - The Fair Board will be shutting down and paneling the red barn/outdoor arena to make room for kids to practice throughout the summer.
 - New Building is being held up by moisture at the site, as well as some issues with building permits that are being straightened out. They hope to start soon.

- 3) Treasures Report – Ann Becker
 - Our checking account balance was \$75,017.80 and Pass the Pants account was \$16,923.62. We recently received a \$100 donation from Jane Jones and a \$100 donation from Dana Smith. Additional revenue includes:
 - LCL Tyler Ranch LLC: \$1,100 for beef ring 2025 sponsor
 - Harney County 4-H: \$300
 - Kiwanis Club of Burns-Hines: \$500
 - Cash donation: \$150
 - Some new checks are coming in for the sponsoring match of the Beef Show Ring and for Pass the Pants.
 - We need to get some accounting software, especially since we will be taking over the auction part of it.
 - Crystal made the motion to purchase QuickBooks. Melissa seconded.
 - Discussion: Should we include a dollar amount?

- Not sure of the total amount until we purchase it.
 - Passed unanimously.
- Kari Ott also offered to help with setting up QuickBooks this year since we are taking over the auction, and there will be a big change.

4) Show Chair Report

- a) Shavings have been ordered.
- Big R is ordering a full truck, and we will use those this year.
 - Big R will charge us, and we will pay the invoice, similar to what we did last year

5) Media Report from FFA Interns – Shylee Davis

- Instagram is up and rolling with 7 followers – Account is @HCYLSA.Burns
 - Some people thought it was a scam.
 - Will work on promoting the account, and will make a post to put on Facebook sometime in the next week.
- Did not do poll on the awards, hoping to get more followers first.

6) Awards Report

- No updates

7) Update on panels

- Update on panels by Kody Hayes, as the previous bid expired without an order.
 - Some adjustments in price as we fine-tune bid and adjust for current costs. See Attached.
 - Still getting a discount of \$8,559.06 for freight.
 - Just shy of a \$14,000 price increase at this point, up to \$184,660.25
 - Current bid is good for the next 30 days, hopefully we can get the order placed ASAP.
 - Bobby thinks Big R is still planning on covering the remaining freight as a donation.
 - We did overshoot the grant requests, so we should still be able to cover the increased cost...if we get them.
 - Panel production time is still a few months, similar to last.
- Have we looked into the Oregon Bill SB 771?
 - Grants for Rodeos/Fairs where the county is under 12,000 people.
- We have not seen anything from OTEC or the other grants yet.
- HEC posted something on their Facebook page about a grant “Sharing Success” COBank would match a HEC grant up to \$30,000.
 - We aren’t sure if it is the same as we previously discussed or not.
 - Applications must be received by June 30 (opened April 1)
 - If it is the same one, we won’t see the funds until way later in the year. We could still apply and have it reimburse our accounts.
 →Action Item: Stephanie will reach out to HEC and see if we can apply for it.
- Roundhouse reached out to Steph through HDP, asking if we needed funds sooner due to the flooding and emergency situation.
 - We don’t as animals seem to have been housed
 - Does suggest we will be receiving it.
- Ford Foundation application was submitted April 2, and will be considered every few months. Not sure when they will consider applications again.

- AgWest – No Updates
- Hines City Tourism Grant – Awarded us \$5,000.
 - We were also planning on going into Burns, but with recent flooding, we may delay asks.
- With committed donations and in kind donations i.e Big R donation of freight and Powder River for panels, we have \$102,500 currently.
 - We have \$122,500 worth in grants applications we are waiting to hear from

Action Item → Stephanie and David will get a letter to the editor into the paper.

Action Item → Interns will post on the Facebook page also.

8) Make a Wish Fundraiser

- Allen Taggart emailed about a local youth on transplant list who is getting a wish soon. Would like to fundraise at fair, specifically for local youth who qualify for wish kids, and who are also 4H/FFA members. He could arrange for families who received Wish's to attend and speak. Are we willing to consider it? If so he is willing to come and talk at our next meeting.
- Nothing to lose by hearing what he says and how it will work for the committee to consider and see if it fits into our bylaws and non-profit.

Action Item → Autumn will Add to May Agenda.

Action items

9) Fair

a) Commission Percentage?

- Do we want to separate out add-ons and sale animals when it comes to commissions?
 - How much did we get on each one? For the last number of years (4?) it's been 5% on both.
- We are using past commissions to help purchase panels and to support and run the Show and Auction.
- We want more buyer participation. If we take commissions off of add-ons, it may encourage more add-ons, but it may take away from people being buyers.
- We can see the rub with add-ons, but those are often made to individuals and can be made privately if there are big concerns.
- Commission-wise, where are the other counties?
 - The commission also helped cover expenses from Producers.
 - Our goal is to be in line with what is taken at other counties and to be able to support the auction without taking large commissions.

Action Item → Autumn check with other counties to see what commission their auction committee takes.

- From Malheur County: The Sales Committee will retain 5% of each exhibitor's total payout for the purpose of the market sale administration. Of this 5%, if all funds are not necessary to pay the related expenses, remaining funds may be used to help provide needed equipment to conduct the market animal program at the Malheur County Fair.
 - Note: They have an MOU that gets signed by all exhibitors. Might be a good idea to include in Fair Entry.

- From Grant County (WI): Consignors of beef, hogs and lamb wethers and dairy cheese will be charged a mandatory 6% commission on premiums received over market price. The market price for beef, hogs and wethers will be the market price found on the Equity Livestock Exchange website for the week of the sale. A 3% commission on the total sale price of goat wethers, poultry, and rabbits will be mandatory.
- Grant County (WA): 5% commission fee for the Sale
- Coos County: A 6% sale commission will be withheld from the sale of all auction animals. Upon successful completion of all parts of the Auction Animal Program, this commission will be reduced to 3%. Refer to the checklist provided with the samples of forms used in this project for details of the project requirements.
- Lake County: We know there have been questions about the 5% deduction from members' checks. Each year the Sale Committee does assess a commission to help with the expenses of running the sale as well as certain fees that all livestock producers would pay when they sell an animal such as beef or pork promotions. The Sale Committee is also responsible for paying for animals who may die when being transported after the sale, carcasses that are condemned, and also when animals are sometimes not properly fed and do not meet industry standards this will affect resale prices and the Sale Committee must absorb those losses. This year part of that 5% fee will also include a .5% fee to the Lake County Fairgrounds. This money will be used in the future to help with repairs and maintenance of the livestock facilities and 4-H and FFA clubs wanting to do community service projects can also approach the fairgrounds to use these funds. For example, if a club would like to paint stalls they could ask the Fairgrounds to use these funds toward the project. Each year the Sale Committee assessed a number of items and determines where to set the percentage, keeping in mind to take the least amount possible from the members' checks. Last year we had a 5% percentage and voted to not raise it for 2022.
- Deschutes County: The Deschutes Co 4-H/FFA Livestock Auction will hold in reserve 5% of gross sale for promotion of the sale, 4-H/FFA member scholarships, 4-H/FFA program support, Buyer's Appreciation Event, and auction supplies.
- Last year, we lost \$400 even after commissions.
- We should wait and see what we get grant-wise and how much our accounts decrease after purchasing the panels.
- Discussion seems to be keep it on add-ons, and potentially decreasing % after we know what money is coming in.
- On grants submitted this year, we have stated we take 5% to balance. There is also an opportunity to give back to the community, and we could potentially offer a grant or loan to help purchase animals in the future using commission money.
- Currently, we are also taking over the auction we were charged \$4,000 by producers, there will be expenses, we are getting a line of credit to ensure we can cover the auction this year, but our goal in the future would be to have the funds to cover checks while waiting for buyers to pay, without incurring interest.

- Gretchen moves that we keep the commission structure at 5% for 2025, on both sale and add-ons. Katlen seconded. No additional discussion. Passed unanimously.
- b) Auction off Show Ring Name for 2026 at 2025 auction?
- Auctioned off names for the 2025 show rings. Do we want to auction these names off at our HCYLSA Auction at the fair?
 - The Hub would like an opportunity to bid on it the future, and thought is was a cool idea.
 - If we do it, it would make sense to auction the name after that species (species group) goes through.
 - After pigs sell, auction pig show ring name. etc.
 - Con = the auction is for the kids. If you break and sell something else out, would it take away from the kids?
 - If we did it at the dinner, we could advertise it better. We could do a new fundraiser in the future for that purpose and to donate.
 - We will present the signs from the show rings to the sponsors during the auction.
 - Good advertisement for the work we have done.
 - Crystal made a motion to advertise the availability of sponsorship for the next year at the auction, and to do a separate event where the naming is auctioned off. Melissa seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

10) Concerns/ Questions

- At some point, will scales be available for people to use to weigh their animals?
 - If there is power, there will be.
 - We plan to have hog panels set up soon to help, and beef pens are set up.
 - Should we put something out on Facebook? What are the logistics?
 - Put something out after the next weigh-in.
- Are we planning on changing the add-on rules?
 - We have a problem with people adding to individuals. How do other counties do it?
 - We think they all allow for add-ons and individuals.
 - We should encourage buyers who are putting add-ons over \$10,000 to put that money to animals at the sale.
 - Good way to spread it out over multiple people a little more.
 - If there are extra bidders, then the bidding goes longer and it encourages more bidding.

Action Item→ Autumn send Katlen a list of buyers who did over \$1,000 in add-ons.

Action Item→ Katlen, reach out to encourage them to do more bidding. Remind them that they can do bidder groups (they just have to let us know and say what % each buyer is taking).
- For add-ons: someone said they didn't get recognition
 - Buyers get main mentions and recognition in the paper and on Facebook.
 - Add-on buyers get less recognition and are not in the paper, usually just a post with a list of names.

- Big R goes to Grant County, and they get a thank you from every kid and very few from Harney County
 - Action Item→ Autumn: reach out to Grant County and others to see how they are doing it.
 - Is it tied to the checks? In the past, you did not get your check if you didn't turn in Thank You's.
 - In Linn County, in the past, you had to drop off thank-you notes.
 - In the future, have HCYLSA and 4H cover the postage of thank you notes.
 - I think we need to be stricter and make it happen.
 - Kids need to write their own thank-you notes.
 - Ann motioned and Crystal seconded that checks will not be handed out prior to receiving checks.
 - Amended to say that thank you notes must be dropped off in a labelled envelope to get the check.
 - We must hand out the Thank You List to kids when they get checked out on Sunday.
 - Kody – the online auction stuff will set records. Highly encourage it.
 - Can think about it.
 - Amended Motion: After cleaning stalls as part of checkout, kids will receive a thank-you list from the superintendent. A thank you note must be written to all donors (buyers and add-ons), and must be dropped off in an addressed envelope at the 4H office in order to receive their check. For late add-ons, kids will receive an updated thank you list via email, or they will be available at the 4-H Office.
- Confirmation from Adamson Meats that animals will only go to 3 locations, if an individual wants an animal to go to Adamson's, or be independently butchered, they will have to make those arrangements with one of the 3 processors. We will only have 3 trucks/3 paints for the 3 locations.
- Encouraging breeding/production projects to be removed Saturday after auction to reduce risk for issues loading trucks
- Steve Rickman has a huge generator and was interested in donating it to the committee.
 - We don't think we will have a big need for the generator in the future. It's a very low-hour generator that could run the whole fairgrounds.
 - Burns Electric would rather donate us a transition box to use if we need to use a generator.
 - It's probably a \$15,000-\$20,000 generator.
 - Would they be willing to donate it to the committee to sell or raffle? It may be too big.
 - It's not on wheels, but we could make it more mobile.
 - Would require more maintenance than use.
 - Not sure we would use it enough.
 - Could he donate it to a better cause, such as Emergency Management?
 - This would allow more to benefit from it than just us.
- Big R has another set of panels at the store, and will get a flyer for donations on it.
- Big thank you to Powder River for support and attending our meetings.

Action Item→ Autumn: Have a Sign-In Sheet at Meetings so she doesn't keep forgetting to write it down. (Thanks Gretchen!)