

MINUTES  
Joint Meeting of  
Umatilla County Board Of Commissioners  
and Umatilla County Fair Board  
September 14, 2016, 9:30 a.m.  
Room 121, Courthouse, Pendleton

Attendance:

Board of Commissioners: Chair George Murdock and Vice-Chair Larry Givens (liaison to Fair).

Absent: Commissioner Bill Elfering.

Umatilla County Fair Board: Chair Lucas Wagner, Don Miller, Gay Newman, Mel Keely, Dan Dorrان and Bob Wolfe. Absent: Steve Anderson.

[Minutes taken by Melinda Slatt, Executive Secretary to the Commissioners]

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Murdock. He referred to the white board with his and Commissioner Givens' topics for discussion: 1. Moving Plan; 2. Security Area; 3. Staffing (in executive session); and 4. Barn Plans. His interest is the Fair and the County cannot be held up by the Rodeo and its plans.

1. Moving Plan. He asked for information from the Fair Board about storage containers. Gay Newman reported he had talked to an exporter who says there is no shortage of storage containers. He believes there will be whatever is needed for about \$800 to \$1,000/each – or about \$2,000 put on site. Discussion continued about the number of containers needed, how much equipment and other items there is to move, estimates of measurements of present area, office equipment/files, etc. Many of the current containers are leaking and not useable – no need to move anything that will not be used, proper ways to dispose of unwanted/ unneeded things (i.e. designated surplus, notices about disposal, what are legal requirements, etc.).

Commissioner Givens reiterated most important need is to discuss moving which includes pushing EOTEC about storage needs ASAP.

Don Miller provided copies of a list of equipment (Exhibit C to the property and fixture agreement with Hermiston School District). Discussion continued about needing to push EOTEC about secured storage area, panels, items/equipment that do not need to be moved/stored and how to dispose of them (e.g. a lot of old metal chairs). Also pointed out are potential conflicts with the Fair, EOTEC and the Farm City Pro Rodeo.

After 12/31, the grounds are not the County's obligation/responsibility. Back to the move, discussion turned to hiring temporary help – perhaps contracts- to get it done. It was felt there are things nobody wants, but items are “surplus” and there are legal notice requirements then next steps have to be spelled out. The need at EOTEC is to store items for the Fair that are permanent – discussion went back to getting an idea of how many storage containers are reasonably needed in order to determine costs and funding sources; in addition there is need to identify costs of fencing.

Commissioner Givens provided copies of an EOTEC area map (an older draft version). The group looked at the northwest corner of the property for storage (near the airport). Regarding containers, it was noted the ground is sand which will require gravel pads. With Mr. Miller's measurements and equipment lists, he and Commissioner Givens felt about 5 containers would be adequate. In addition, Mr. Dorrان suggested having workbenches with pegboards and/or shelves for tools in 1 container.

Chair Murdock noted the next Board of Commissioners' meeting is September 21 and he will have an agenda item for Fair transition discussion and approval/authorization of funding for storage containers and security fencing at EOTEC to be in place before the Fair move. Discussion continued regarding estimates of cost, making sure there is sufficient funding for what is needed – at this time, only talking about containers and fence – this is not the actual move. Fence: estimate of \$6,000 to \$10,000; Containers: estimate of \$10,000; light towers: estimate of \$5,000; also a generator should be considered since there are no utilities at the storage location. The total looks to be about \$30,000 needed for initial plan. Chair Murdock reiterated this plan is entirely for the Fair compound – not EOTEC.

Mr. Miller advised after a special EOTEC meeting, he was given initial OK about fencing in the area at EOTEC discussed today for the Fair to store equipment.

The group noted immediate need is for Board authorization and to approve acquiring storage containers and get fencing ordered. In the estimated need of \$30,000, it was noted that did not include gravel; Commissioner Givens advised he will talk to Public Works about gravel.

The group clarified that the boundary of EOTEC is all within the City of Hermiston.

2. Security. As soon as the fence is up, moving can start. The fence will be cyclone with barbed wire on the top. Only two more sides need to go up since the outside boundaries already have fence. In addition, there will be light towers.

Discussion turned to the Rodeo and School District and what effect will be to the Fair. The Fair Board will need to come up with the actual moving plan and advise the Commissioners. Mr. Dorran suggested that Lucas Wagner, Don Miller and Mel Keely look for a date to meet and get that started. Gay Newman suggested looking for any Fair equipment that will not be used for the horse sale (in October) that can be moved first when the place is ready – perhaps some office equipment/files can be moved.

3. Staffing. Executive Session, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a,b,h) – Employment. *Separate minutes were taken.*
4. Barn Plans. Mr. Miller advised a complete site plan is being worked on between EOTEC and Frew Development to include barns, pens, rodeo grounds. Referring to the map, the barns area will not include pens or the rodeo grounds. Bids for barns should be going out 10/1. The building committee is himself, Mike Kay and Byron Smith. They are looking at space and nearby areas “commons” and, at some future date, an RV park (but, no funds are available for that now). They discussed changes in design of barns to cut down on costs. The building committee will meet Tuesday (9/20) with Knerr regarding electrical and landscaping.

Chair Murdock noted at the 9/21/16 Board meeting, there will be an agenda item for Fair Transition Plan and EOTEC where the Board will discuss concern about getting the barns done ASAP. Byron Smith as EOTEC Chair is aware of the County's position.

Mr. Miller expressed concern about the fact the barns bid does not include lighting and restrooms. He also noted an issue about location of the restrooms (referred to the EOTEC map) – discussion about locating them in the rodeo area – outside the Fair area – this is an absolute need for the Fair to have restroom access within the fairgrounds; they do not want people to leave for the rodeo grounds for restrooms. There was more discussion about the map, possible location of certain pieces, beer garden, “mercantile”, barns and their size and concrete areas for bedding material, etc. When those items are built, it will determine where the rodeo grounds will go.

Lucas Wagner expressed appreciation on behalf of the Fair Board to the Board of Commissioners for their support. Chair Murdock responded about the importance of a wonderful volunteer Board and the volunteers who work hard to make the Fair happen each year. He pointed out that Commissioner Givens as liaison to the Fair will be the main contact for the Fair Board moving forward.

Based on changes of the Fair moving forward, the group discussed the usual joint meeting with the Board, Fair Board and Farm City Pro Rodeo Board (currently scheduled for October 17). It was felt a joint meeting would not be productive or needed. The meeting will be deleted from the Board's calendar.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

*/Melinda Slatt*