

Catron County Fair Board Minutes

February 2, 2025

Call to Order: 5:04 pm at Catron County Fair Grounds

Opening Prayer: Steve Jensen

Members Present: Shilow Norton, Aaron Baldrige, Steve Jensen, Nancy Wolf, Shannon Wolf, Andy Werkman, Misty Werkman, Arden Ward, Haley Wilkerson, Doug Wilkerson, Tasha Donaldson

Guests Present: See attached Sign in Sheet

Approval of November Minutes: Arden/Tasha- Pass

Approval of December Minutes: Aaron/Andy- Pass

Approval of February Agenda: Misty/Aaron Pass

Treasurers Report (Arden not present but sent to Misty via text): Checking: \$66,530.63 Savings: \$1,522.92 CD: \$5,997.67

Unfinished Business:

- Scale: Misty still waiting on one more quote that would probably be the best scale to purchase of the options she has seen. So she would like for that final quote to come in before making a decision. Motion to Table Misty/Nancy- Pass
- Rule Book changes: Motion to Table Misty/Arden- Pass
- Dates for fair: August 19-23, 2026 Motion to approve- Arden/Haley- Pass

New Business:

- **Board Nominations:**
 - President: Shilow Norton
 - Vice President: Aaron Baldrige
 - Secretary: Misty Werkman
 - Treasurer: Arden Ward

- Director: Amy Parnell
- Director: Doug Wilkerson
- Director: Andy Werkman
- Director: Derrinda Burns
- Director: Steve Jensen
- Director: Shannon Wolf
- Director: Haley Wilkerson
- Director: Tasha Donaldson
- Director: David Silva
- Director: Shawn Menges

Motion to Approve Nominations: Misty/Doug- Pass

- **Out of State Participants:** Speakers will be given 5 minutes each.
 - Shelby Saulsberry- Presentation of Petitions and information Handouts
 - ◆ Petitions presented:
 - **76 Signatures**
 - **71 Facebook Electronic Signatures**

***Petitions on file with Fair Board Secretary. Available for inspection at request.**

- Steve Mills- Presentation of opinion and evidence from other fairs that out state participants are not allowed anywhere else. Wants to help get 4-H into the classrooms
- Katie Lee- Would like to see Thank you cards from kids to donors be increased. We should be protecting our kids and our fair.
- David Silva- Most families in Catron County are low income. The money from the livestock sale matters directly to them.
- Eric Fryar: Jakes has bought for years. Catron County is unique. He looks for the lower selling animals to try and boost them. He would

rather by 1 animal for \$10,000 than have so many they sell low. He is concerned the county businesses will suffer and receive the brunt of the out of state/county influx. And if we are not careful we will end up going to a limited sale slot show.

- Jessica Massengill- What is our goal? Numbers? If so, open the gates and let them all in. Maximize Quality? If so, Limit sale slots. Limiting sale slots rewards the kids who either work harder or have the bigger budgets. We shouldn't reward kids with terrible animals.
- Shilow Norton: Rules have been in place. The proposal is to restrict the rules. For years, people have come from everywhere.
- Amy Robertson: Exclusion weakens. Fair is more than livestock. If a kid does all the requirements they should be included.
- Marisa Simpson: Had a difficult time in Apache County. Her kids work hard. They do jackpots. She has put on jackpots. She would bring buyers. Her and her husband own a business and would be a buyer also. She feels hurt and has a bad taste in her mouth over this. She feels like they are the reason this meeting is happening.
 - ◆ Shilow Norton- Expressed his apologies to Marisa.
- Ashtyn Donaldson: Miss New Mexico Teen Queen. She wants to accept all so she can make new friends. She is the vice president of her 4-H club and would like to welcome them to her club if they want to join. She knows people from Colorado that would love to come to our fair. She doesn't care about winning. Its about community.
- Derrick Knight: From Apache County. Can put money into this fair. We have a cool fair. They support the Beckers. Has never bought an animal, but has made add-on donations. He has sold steers to kids in New Mexico.
- Denny Carver: Doesn't want to have to pool together money to buy kids animals for low prices.
- Audrey McQueen: More kids the better. But as a buyer, it comes to pooling money and still not paying much for these animals. The out of county sponsors and buyers are because we county residents are spending money at the businesses. Getting money is easier said than

done. Its hard. Limiting sale slots will drop numbers because poorer families will not play.

- Patty Knight: Kids would other ways to have money if we limited sale slots.
- Ryland Carver: Shilow is nullifying half the room.
- Margie McKeen: Kids don't just do this to sell and animal. She encourages them to work at it. She doesn't know what opening it up means but she is happy to have them. She would only have 4 kids in her club if we closed the state.
- Nancy Wolf: Gallup is her alternative. She drives over 2 hours one-way to both 4-H and Fair Board meetings. Money is tight.
- Haley Wilkerson: Ag promoted by the fair. Inclusion of all will increase buyers and kids. We shouldn't draw lines. Drives a long way to help dollar signs.
- Mike Becker: Both he and Jessica grew up here. He traveled a lot. Took a job at the power plant. Started in a Apache County. The club was awful. So they moved here. They donated \$2500 to split to all the kids. They will respect our decision either way.
- Jessica Massengill: We can talk about this all night. What if we referred to a committee to make this decision.
- Lee Saulsberry: Doesn't want to kick out anyone. Just want to limit those coming for no reason.
- Misty Werkman: Our facility cannot handle many more kids. The pens are already crowded. Kids cant get summer jobs like in other places. These fair animals pay for their first car. I would rather see 10 animals sell for \$10,000 each than 100 kids get only \$1,000 and that money being put right in the pocket of our 10 county kids. I do not feel same as Shilow and I would appreciate him not continuing to say "we" speaking for the entire board. Springerville businesses has denied sponsorship because they support their own fair. This cant be about friends. Kids will make friends everywhere. If Apache County is struggling, we should be hurting them worse to help our own, or we will end up in the same boat.

- Arden Ward: This issue has come up 4 times to the fair board. She brings a lot of support and wants to keep it local.
- Tasha Donaldson: Her husband grew up in Apache County. The kids had to drum up buyers. Grant County has a buyers committee that drums up buyers. Kids need to bring their own buyers. Kids need to do the work.
- Andy Werkman: Thanks to all who came tonight and voiced their opinions. He was truly listening. We want to improve the fair. This does affect local businesses. What if our own county businesses backed out? This needs to be a business decision, not an emotional decision.
- Aaron Baldrige: Appreciates all who came. He knows we can talk about this all night but this just comes down to a decision. **Makes a motion to keep the current rules as is. Steve Jensen Seconds. By Show of hands- For: Tasha, Shilow, Aaron, Steve, Nancy, Shannon, Doug, Haley. Against: Misty, Andy, Arden.**
- Denny Carver: That vote was a violation. Because it was not on the agenda that it would be voted on tonight, it cannot be voted on.
- **Motion and Vote Recinded.**
- **Motion to bring forth vote at the March 2nd meeting: Tasha/ Nancy- Pass**

Announcements: None

Next Meeting: March 2nd , 2026 @ 5:00 pm @ Catron County Fairgrounds

Next meeting Business: Denny Carver would like a “Pickup Party” added as a discussion item at the next meeting.

Adjournment: Aaron/Haley- Pass 7:31 pm

Meeting Sign In

PRINT NAME	City/State
1. Denny Carver	French Lake NM
2. Dave Parnell	Reserve, NM
3. Margie McKeen associate	Glenwood NM
4. Amy Robertson	Glenwood, NM
5. Daric Knight	Springerville AZ
6. Pat Knight	Springerville, AZ
7. Jessica Becker	SFV 4H
8. Levi Becker	SFV 4H
9. Leah B. Becker	SFV 4-H
10. Ashtyn Donaldson	SFU 4-H
11. Katie Lee	visitor, Quemado.
12. Khloe Donaldson	SFV 4-H
13. Hayli Donaldson - CCF Princess	SFV 4-H Club
14. Marisa Simpson	Eagar AZ
15. Calli Simpson	Eagar AZ
16. Adele Simpson	Eagar AZ
17. Cheyanne Sings	Luna NM
18. Kyril Sings	Luna NM
19. Pash Sings	Luna NM
20. Diamond Nay	Apache Creek, NM

Meeting Sign In

PRINT NAME	City/State
21. Audrey McQueen	Luna, NM
22. SHAWN MENGES	RESERVE, N.M.
23. Steve Mills	Snowflake, AZ
24. Shelby Saulsbery	Datil, NM
25. Lee Saulsbery	Datil NM
26. Zeno Kuehn	Zenon
27. David Soto	Reserve
28. Andrew Liles	Reserve
29. Eric Fryar	Reserve
30. Kelsi Walraven	Datil
31. Wacey Walraven	Datil
32. Abby Jensen	Quemado
33. Kayla Drummond	Reserve
34. Katharine Yellowhair	Quemado
35. Sarah North	Reserve, NM
36.	
37.	
38.	
39.	
40.	