

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC
Wednesday, August 5, 2026**

PRESENT: Kobervig, Jones, Whitaker, Carter, Bloxsom, Williams, Warden, Pitts-Garcia, White, Forni-Feathers, Sanders

MANAGER: Kathy Dunkak

OTHERS: Amanda Koch, Robin Cleveland, Dina Gentry, Patricia Mordello, Joan Wicklund

EXCUSED:

1. Call to Order at 4:32 pm

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Record verification of legal meeting notice. Kobervig authenticated the verification.
- D. Determine Quorum. Kobervig determined that the quorum requirements were met.

2. Approve Agenda, Previous Minutes, Consent Items, and Correspondence items:

Warden moved that these items be approved. Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Public Forum: Dina Gentry, President of Kiwanis, gave an update on the Wheelbarrow races. Great turnout; grandstands were packed. Thank you to the Fair Board and staff for the great work fixing the broken water main in such a timely manner.

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business:

A. Fair Recap

Attendance was just under 68,000. Issues with flow and people who were supposed to be scanning. The Sheriffs did great moving people through the lines quickly. Employees, department heads, and volunteers had badges with barcodes that were missed. Attendance numbers for this year's fair were generated from reports based on tickets sold, scanners, quantity of staff, volunteers, vendors, and clicks.

We have a safety meeting for temp employees on the Monday before the fair that turns into an orientation and short training session.

First year with Sapphire Ticketing went well; they sent out a rep to assist on Wed/Thurs to troubleshoot any issues, and it was well worth the money.

New Admissions Supervisor, Joe Brengle (retired CEO), and Krystal Fernandez did an amazing job.

Ridership on El Dorado Transit was up by 22%. Provided rides for approx. 13k vs 10k (in 2025). Ray Lawyer Park and Ride was full several times, especially on Friday and Saturday. Our parking also sold out several times on Friday and Saturday.

The Auction was another record breaker, \$1,103,367.00, with the Heritage Hog selling for just over \$70k with add-ons.

With Poultry back at the auction, we put the poultry under a large tent in the apple area; it seemed to work well.

We are considering eliminating the livestock portion from the Entry Guide, which would eliminate costs.

Almost all livestock people use the online guide, as it is the most current.

Bars: This year, Hangtown Saloon (formerly Tiki Bar): \$29,012; Capital Bar: \$28,767.00; combined tips: \$6,636.

Fair entries were down slightly over last year. We have asked the Department Heads for recommendations on where to share entry information and entry guides. One department we need to address is Mineral & Gem.

Their entries have been steadily declining, now down to 20. We paid our \$53 in premiums and spent about \$75 on ribbons. Their members supplement the display with their own rocks, and they take up a significant portion of the building. This is sad; this used to be one of the largest departments, but their group is aging with little influx of younger people. Any ideas? Carter thinks there would be way more participation from youth and adults if setting up and displaying each person's entries wasn't so labor-intensive. Need to make it easier.

Our volunteer appreciation dinner was held last week, with a little over 65 attendees. It was a great time, and they are very appreciative of the gesture. Thank you, Dee and Lori, for attending.

Blast: Attendance was just under 3,000; Revenue (including bar) was \$34,848, expenses were \$19,029, for a net profit of \$15,819.17. (Only counts "on-grounds" parking; does not count race parking).

- B. **September's Retreat:** Kobervig asked for ideas. Whitaker said paintball. Kobervig will send out the plans and the invite once she has them figured out. We will stay with the first Wednesday, September 2, at 10:00 am. Plan on about 4 hours. Dunkak will begin working on the Strategic Plan, so be thinking about that. Warden made a motion to have the retreat on September 2, meeting at 10:00 am followed by lunch and an activity. White seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. **Manager's Report**

Taylor Hutchinson (new hire in February) decided to stay home with her baby. We have interviews with prospective employees scheduled for Friday. We will be cross-training, beginning with Robin's tasks, as Robin (Cleveland) will be retiring next August.

We have a rodeo coming to town. Eric will be utilizing rented equipment and altering the track to the requests made by Reno Rosser of Flying U Rodeo. We will be returning the track to its current condition immediately following the rodeo.

We opted in to manage the bars, so we need help with volunteers for the bar for the Rodeo. Not just bartenders, but people checking ID's and applying wristbands. We will pass around a sign-up sheet.

Facilities built a new portable bar from a Tuff Shed, which we will use for this event and other outdoor events, and will also rent out (to on-grounds events).

An Eagle Scout project will rebuild the retaining wall in Barn D and add a French drain, which will hopefully help keep the barn dry for use during the winter.

The American Legion has operated the Beer Tree Bar for many years. Their contract ended this year. We had an issue with a group who wanted to provide free beer for the buyers (at the livestock auction), but the Legion did not want to give up that spot.

Kobervig, Warden, and Dunkak met with our BOS Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Brian Veerkamp and George Turnboo. Our county CAO liaisons, Emma Owens and Grant Webber, attended, along with Laura Schwartz. Topics of discussion included the property (the fairgrounds' biggest issue is lack of parking), Solar, and a porta-potty at the skatepark. Parks and Trails staff moved from the office at the skatepark (in late June) to a building near County Facilities. The county is not sure yet what the building will be used for. Dunkak would like it to be a respite building for local law enforcement.

Ryan Kronenberg, one of the original owners of Hangtown Halloween and the driving force behind Golden Road Gathering, is hosting another music fest in late October, called "HangTime". The music will be somewhat similar to Golden Road Gathering, though more blue grass/blues/country (less electric). It will begin on a smaller scale, growing to another night next year. He has told me that his first sale promotion exceeded the same for Golden Road Gathering significantly.

I highly encouraged both Ryan and the Rodeo staff to purchase event insurance in the event of a catastrophic fire. We have started work on the Organ Building by removing all the pegboard, adding drywall, cleaning the walls for paint, and ordering "sound boards" that may also be used to hang art. We will be replacing the heaters and repairing the swamp coolers, possibly adding one to the rear of the building once a determination on the organ is made.

Our water lines keep breaking; every week we seem to have another. Old pipes and high-water pressure.

Dunkak handed out a report on the money spent on projects to date.

Williams asked how this year compares to last year. Revenue was up.

7. **Treasurer's Report**

June: City of Placerville sewage bill (4/15-6/15) is an issue. Typically, \$ 1,100 at this time of year. This year it is about \$9,000. The city says we have a leak, but EID doesn't reflect it. Dunkak is questioning how we can flush more water than we purchase. Livestock Vet: He checks all animals on load-in and is on call for the week.

July: Ck#54016 June Health Annual Loan – payment from a workers' comp claim. Usually, payment is around \$18,000. We have one more year of payments. Williams wants to know if we can get our own workers' comp; would it be less? We cannot; it is in our County MOU.

Dunkak: Forklifts are falling apart. Constantly needing repairs. We rented one for fair to have a dependable one. Jones said forklifts are \$35,000 to 40,000. United Rentals has used ones for about \$18 – 22,000.

Kobervig made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. White seconded the motion. Motion carried

8. **Ad Hoc**

Adopt-a-Spot: Sanders thinks we need to tighten up on those who don't work their gardens. What is the process? Do they reapply each year? We should double-check whether they still want their garden. Sanders would like an

email list to check in with owners to see if they would like some of the plants she gets from Home Depot. Send out rules and app each year to see if they want to continue. We got 12 citrus trees that facilities planted by Henningsens.

Organ: Dunkak reached out to Jack (Organ Specialist) in Benicia to see if he could come out to give us an exact price for restoring it and/or breaking it down and crating it. The cost to provide report is \$2708.

Solar: Kobervig found a company that will do our solar for \$383,000. No battery. One company wants 13% for a loan. There is a \$151,000 credit that should come back to us if completed by December 2026. Only Henningsen (not grandstands). They will remove the existing solar at Henningsen and repair the roofing as needed. Covers one meter (we have 10) – concession and Forni

Directors To/From:

Jones: Pig barn was good during fair. Does he need to fill out a Conflict of Interest form since he is now on the Ag Commission?

Forni: Excited for the retreat. Would love to go over the Directors' duties since we have some new directors. Wants to keep the Fair Ad Hoc and have a meeting in April to take some things off the staff's hands.

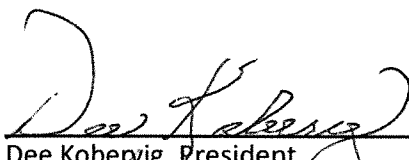
Kobervig: shaky opening ceremony.

Pitts-Garcia: Miss EDC was amazing. Have amazing girls. If we need their help with anything, let her know. Forni said the Little Royals contest was amazing.

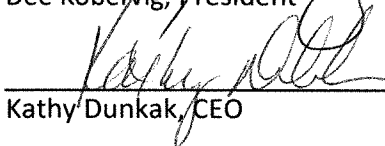
Bloxsom: Number of personnel – 26 EDS employees on Thursday, 30 on Friday & Saturday, 26 on Sunday. Received a 4-page document from the Chief of Fire; there was a strife between Search & Rescue and First Aid versus Paramedics–next–level condescending comments about pre-planning. The first responder road this year with collector pins for kids to collect was great. Will be more Sheriff, PD, and probation in 2027. People thought the gates were more efficient. People felt safe dropping off their kids and picking them up later. Worked with Carnival, helping with fights about cutting in line. A couple of incidents and minor altercations. First year using the ODIN implementation LPR. It will be back. Facial recognition – first year in barns – had a 180 view. Starlink was better for communications – next year will enable more cameras in barns.

9. Closed Session: Nothing to report

Board Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 pm.



Dee Kobervig, President



Kathy Dunkak, CEO

10-7-2027
Date

10/9/2026
Date

