



Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

Roll Call

Present: Middle Park Fair & Rodeo Board Members David Buckley, Jordan Meeks, Dalene Harthun, David Valance, Creyten Shearer, Bonnie Wheatley (via zoom), Jace Provance, Taylor Flanigan, Koby Miller, and Andy Murphy

Also in attendance: Karrah Shearer, Sidney Pryor, Cole Sammons, Cole Garner, and Juli Sanders

Approval of MPFR Board Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2026 – Jordan Meeks motioned to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 Middle Park Fair and Rodeo Board Meeting. David Valance seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 9, 2026, minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comment – During public comment, Twila O’Hotto raised questions about the Open Exhibit Hall. The intention is to have the full Exhibit Hall as always with a CSU Extension Office intern expected to serve as the interim superintendent. Judges for the Exhibit Hall have not been confirmed but they will be soon through contacts from the CSU Extension Office. The entry fee per item is projected to remain at the previous year’s rate of \$3. David Buckley confirmed that the Open Exhibit Hall will proceed, and the Board will address any related concerns moving forward. Questions were raised about the readiness of the fair books, which are scheduled to have a first draft available by the end of the month, with ads having been due by April 1.

President’s Report – David Buckley reported on positive meetings with the Town of Kremmling's Board of Trustees and staff regarding plans for 2026 events, which include the concert on August 1 and parade on August 4. David met with town staff to work through concert and parade details on patrols. David reported the fair has secured 110 sponsors, totaling \$61,322.50, which significantly surpasses the 67 sponsors in 2025. Sponsorship support reinforces a change in community trust for this Board and the many volunteers and extension office staff that are committed to the fair’s success. David recognized this jump in sponsorship as a tremendous accomplishment and hats off to all for the effort and commitment. The 4-H club Grand Animals was specifically thanked for securing 33 sponsors for \$5,000, earning them a pizza party. It is recommended that this type of youth involvement in sponsor recruitment continue next year. The board discussed approaching larger companies for 2027 before the fourth

quarter of this year, with one target being a potential \$10,000 "blue ribbon exhibit hall" sponsorship. David announced a superintendent walkthrough at the Fairgrounds on June 22, which will serve as a MPFR Board meeting; the time was tentatively moved up to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate schedules. Admission fees will only be charged for the Ranch Rodeo on Friday night (\$5) and the CPRA Rodeo on Sunday (\$5), plus a separate fee for the concert on August 1 (estimated at \$40). Although the deadline for advertisements in the fair book has passed, groups can still sponsor the fair and have banners displayed, but to be included in the fair book, the final draft must go to print by early May.

Treasurer's Report – Jordan Meeks presented the report. All account balances are as of April 13, 2026

Operating Account Balance - The Operating Account balance as of today is \$95,011.18, driven by recent deposits of \$29,557.97 from ads and sponsors.

Livestock Account Balance – Unchanged at \$24,688.69 with no deposits or expenses. The Livestock account does not earn interest since it is a checking account.

Scholarship Account Balance – Unchanged at \$6,361.12 which includes interest earned.

Fair Coordinator Update: Karrah Shearer reported that all 73 buckles for the fair have been ordered. There is a need to add at least one more buckle to the order for the Middle Park Raised Producer, which was missed on last year's order per Jordan Meeks. Karrah shared that if MPFR wants a booth at Kremmling Days a preferred spot is possible. Plans for the upcoming Kentucky Derby event were discussed, including the need for a YouTube subscription or livestream account, as well as the booking of an MC, and the ongoing collection of donations. Additionally, Karrah is working on contacting judges and has most judges' positions filled.

A motion to approve Amazon expenses for the Kentucky Derby party totaling \$89.37 for stickers, toys and a photo backdrop was made by Andy Murphy. David Valance seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

Royalty Superintendent: Juliane Sanders reported that the Royalty ladies participated in the Cliff View Easter egg hunt and they are planning to attend the Grand Lake Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Teagan Bruchez proposed starting an Instagram page for the program to increase involvement and promote their activities, an idea that was approved by the board. David Buckley asked if Royalty will be available to lead the parade on August 4, outlining plans to gather participants by 5:00 p.m., start the parade at 5:45 p.m. and finish around 6:30. A potential fundraiser was discussed where the Royalty could set up a donation-based "flower bar" for hat decorations at the Kentucky Derby, but this needs to be checked against an existing vendor who sells hats and accessories to avoid competition. David suggested the Royalty might want to consider running the dummy roping during Kremmling Days as a potential fundraiser. Royalty is interested in starting a story time at local elementary schools, which would involve reading to children and handing out small goodies, possibly utilizing old fair stickers.

Committee Reports / Superintendent Reports

Horse Show Superintendent: Lacy Thurston noted that there are 57 classes on the 4H horse show day and she is trying to secure English, Western and all-around awards. Segregating the English and Western adds some divisions that Lacy would like to have awards for with the board's support. She is trying to get more interest out of Summit by adding the jumping and expanding the English division. The Board resolved a misunderstanding regarding the scale of

the horse program's award request, confirming that the request was solely for all-around awards for intermediate, junior, and senior high-point winners across specific disciplines, not for every single class. It was concluded that the more limited scope of the request meant the budget proposal would likely be manageable. David Buckley suggested proceeding with the recommendation to handle the overall high-point awards for each discipline this year. Lacy added that practice is starting every Friday from 9 to noon as of May 1. She has met twice with the East Troublesome Rescue about using their arena, and Summit Rescue has offered their trail course.

Sale Committee Superintendent: The Sale Committee has reviewed survey results and the sale will be outdoors. Out of 32 responses, 54% voted for outdoors. The indoor will be prepped in the case of adverse weather. David Valance would like MPFR to budget for pop-up shades for the bleachers. The committee needs to finalize a quote for the buyer's dinner by May and vote on the photographer's contract. Brittany Randall (Brit Images) has been secured as the sale photographer and will bring a second photographer, with the quoted cost being \$2,300, plus an additional \$23/animal after 100 animals, which is less than last year. Trace Lewis will provide trucking of livestock to 307 after the sale. The board discussed the approval of gifts for buyers and cups for the Kentucky Derby event. The ask is for 300 hats with the MPFR logo for the buyer registration gift bags, costing \$5,820. A motion was made by Andy Murphy to spend \$8,320 out of the operating account to cover the hats, \$200 for the jacket to present to Trace, and \$2,300 for the photographer. The motion was seconded by David Valance and passed unanimously.

The Sale Committee would like to order cups with the MPFR logo for the Kentucky Derby event so they can be sold with discounted mint julep refills as a fundraiser. A motion to approve the cost of \$1,128 out of the operating budget for the cups was made by David Valance and seconded by Jace Provance; all voted in favor.

There are two additional expenses which will need approval in August, one being approximately \$4,000 budgeted for the buyer's dinner as well as animal insurance to cover animals after sale through dropoff at 307.

Guest Cole Garner: Cole reported on acting as a liaison between the Buffalo Soldiers American West nonprofit and the MPFR to include the Buffalo Soldiers as a special guest. Plans include setting out promotional literature and participation in the parade, as well as a presentation on Wednesday. The full presentation on Wednesday is tentatively scheduled for 5:00 PM to 5:45 PM, which works with the Queen's Barrel Race start time of 6:00 p.m. Cole will seek sponsorships for the Buffalo Soldiers' participation and for the fair generally, including a possible half-page inclusion in the fair book. The promotion will highlight the Buffalo Soldiers' local history, including their role in keeping peace, scouting in Middle Park, and their connection to Medal of Honor winners.

Old Business

Live Entertainment Planning: The August 1 concert contract with Red Shahan is being reviewed and will be finalized soon. The event is planned for the midway, not the track, with an anticipated ticket price of \$40 per ticket. Plans are to look for an opener to start at 6:00 p.m. and the main concert to conclude at 10 p.m.

Fair Kickoff Parade and Town Involvement: The fair kickoff parade is scheduled for August 4, with staging starting at 5:00 p.m. and the parade beginning at 5:45 p.m. Royalty and the Buffalo Soldiers will lead the parade, which will culminate in a cattle drive, with the goal of being finished by 6:30. The event is open to 4H clubs to create floats and is intended to be a larger kickoff event.

Approval of Chamber of Commerce Membership: The board agreed not to renew the Summit Chamber membership and discussed joining the newly reorganized Greater Northwest Grand County Chamber of Commerce. A motion was made by Andy and seconded by Jace to join the Greater Northwest Grand County Chamber of Commerce for an annual membership fee of \$250. All voted in favor.

New Business

The next MPFR Board meeting is scheduled for May 11 at 6:30 PM at the Extension Hall, with the Sale Committee meeting beforehand at 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.