Humboldt County Rodeo Board
Agricultural District #3 – Regular Meeting
September 17, 2026

Board Members Present in Person: Kent Maher, Dave Louk and Fergus Laughridge, Ginny Hawkins and Katie Nuffer

Board Members Present via Teleconference or Videoconference: Dale Owen

Board Members Absent: Chris Bengoa and Becky Hill

Staff Present in Person: Mike Mieras, Charlene Fetterly and Darrel Field

Staff Present Teleconference or Videoconference: Jacy Anderson

Staff absent: None

Others Present in Person: Don Kalkoske, County Manager

Others Present via Teleconference or Videoconference: None

CALL TO ORDER

Kent called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented at the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES CORRECTION - APPROVAL

Fergus moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 2026 as submitted.

The motion passed unanimously.

WINNEMUCCA EVENTS COMPLEX (WEC)

a. Humboldt County Request to rent the WEC House to an employee.

   Mike commented that the County Manager has approached him with a request to use the house on the Winnemucca Events Complex for a new employee on a temporary basis.

   Kent commented that historically the house had been occupied by a caretaker who could welcome guests to stalls on the Fairgrounds.

Don Kalkoske, the County Manager addressed the board to request a new employee be allowed to occupy the house on the Winnemucca Events complex temporarily.

Mr. Kalkoske cited the lack of available housing in Winnemucca and the surrounding area as the reason for the request. It is his hope that 6 months will give the employee time to establish a more stable residence.

Don also cited the benefit of having the house occupied and maintained. He noted that Humboldt County will also replace the heat and air in the house, and the occupant will also make some minor improvements to the house as authorized by the Director.

The board raised concerns about what agency will control the house and the overall fairgrounds. Kent asked about an item on the County agenda which would remove the house from Ag District #3 control. He notes that if the fairgrounds or items at the fairgrounds are controlled by the County, then there is very little need for the Ag District #3 board.

Don replied that “I don’t want that and none of my Commissioners want that”. He commented that county staff and management do not have the time or knowledge to maintain the Winnemucca Events Complex.

Fergus asked Don about the request to use the house, while denying the rental of RV spaces to contractors working in the Winnemucca area.

Don replied that the management and liability issues involved in renting RV spaces to the general public are prohibitive to our current infrastructure. He notes that the Director and he both agreed to let the matter lapse.

Kent moved to authorize Humboldt County to use the house on the WEC one time on a six month basis as outlined by the County Manager.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Review of proposals and possible acceptance or rejection of the proposals to purchase the following:

   i. Compact Wheel Loader

Mike presented bids from Empire Southwest, LLC for $117,969.17; from Bobcat for $120,837.98 and from Pape Machinery for $123,446.00.

Kent commented that we are required by law to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid.

Kent moved to accept the bid for a new compact wheel loader from Empire Southwest, LLC for $117,969.17.

The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Telehandler

Mike presented the only responsive bid from Empire Southwest, LLC for $133,542.12.

Kent notes that the mini loader is about $2,000 over budget but the Telehandler bid is under the $170,000 budget.

Fergus moved to accept the proposal from Empire Southwest, LLC for $133,542.12.

The motion passed unanimously.

iii. Horse Barn Stall Doors

Mike presented bids from Classic Equine Equipment for $150,512.50, Lucas Equine Equipment for $184,059 and from Silver State Welding for $112,854.30.

Katie moved to accept the bid from Silver State Welding for $112,854.30.

The motion passed unanimously.

EVENTS UPDATES, REPORTS AND SCHEDULING

a. Tri-County Fair

Darrel reports that the fair will likely not post an increase this year due to a couple of losses including $10,000 for the Friday night concert and $13,500 for the axe throw trailer. He also notes that the carnival revenue was nearly the same as last year and is waiting on food vendor reports for a better idea of the financial status

Later in the meeting, Jacy commented that she received many compliments on social media and in person about the quality of the Tri-County Fair.

Mike commented that the community turned out very well for the fair.

Katie reported that the Show and Sale broke many records with over 100 contestants and 98 animals sold at the auction. She commented that the beef prices averaged $9 per pound.

No action was taken.

2025 - 2026 BUDGET REVIEW – UPDATE

Charlene presented the budget report as of 8-31-26. At 100% of elapsed time, Ag District #3 revenue is at 269.77%, wage and benefit expenses are at 80.99%, service and supply expenses are at 122.48% and capital outlay is at 85.15%.

Event Center revenue is at 155.21%, wage and benefit expenses are at 77.61%, services and supplies are at 111.93% and Capital Outlay is at 100%.

Tax revenue is at 130.28% and room tax revenue is at 114.81%.

No action was taken.

2026 - 2027 BUDGET REVIEW – UPDATE

Charlene presented the budget report as of 9-15-26. At 25% of elapsed time, Ag District #3 revenue is at 45.89%, wage and benefit expenses are at 20.42%, service and supply expenses are at 25.26% and capital outlay is at 13.68%.

Event Center revenue is at 27.65%, wage and benefit expenses are at 19.81%, services and supplies are at 20.07% and Capital Outlay is at 0.00%.

Tax revenue is at 19.12% and room tax revenue is at 24.93%.

Charlene commented that the $10,000 elevator inspections, swamp cooler cat walks and State Fire monitoring inspections are difficult to judge and therefore impact the Service and Supplies account.

Kent suggested searching the last several years of expenses, consolidating the amount and adding it to future budgets.

No action was taken.

VOUCHERS – EXPENDITURES APPROVAL

Fergus moved to approve the outstanding vouchers consisting of the following:
$4,450.55 for Ag District #3 through August, 2026.
$59,802.13 for the Event Center through August, 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION, PROPOSALS AND OR REQUESTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS AND DEALINGS WITH OTHER BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS AND PLANNING AND SCHEDULING FUTURE EVENTS

Fergus asked about the Light Towers approved at the last meeting.

Mike replied that they were approved by the County and were functioning during the Tri-County Fair. He noted that the used towers work much better than our old ones and run

on diesel generators which save circuits for vendors and other uses on the Winnemucca Events Complex. He also plans to use them in the warm up arena for ACTRA.

Mike also reported that we are working on the stalls and new pens, especially the alley way between stalls and the building. WW panels swapped 12' gates for 10' gates and staff are working to install cowboy latches on the gates.

Mike also reported that miscellaneous capital expenses included a good paint sprayer with was used to paint new plywood around the main arena and the roping chutes. He intends to paint under the grandstands in the near future.

a. Proposal to permanently schedule Ag District #3 meetings for the third Wednesday of each month.

   Kent asked the board to consider moving the Ag District #3 meeting to the third Wednesday of each month which would place the meeting after the WCVA meeting and make it easier for staff to schedule their activities.

   Kent moved to accept the proposal to permanently schedule the Ag District #3 meetings to the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm.

   The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented at the end of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Fergus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darrel Field, Secretary