

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

Agricultural Advisory Council
Livestock & Animal Care Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2015
2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: George Gough, Chair
Lesa Eidman
Sarah Watkins

Committee Members Absent: Mike Curry

Staff Present:
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rick K. Pickering
Programs Manager Carrie J. Wright
Ag, Programs Manager Jay Carlson
Cal Expo Volunteer Randy Brink
Recording Secretary Linda V. Contreras

Others Present:
Andrew Becker Action for Animals
Eric Mills Sacramento Vegetarians Society
Don Knutson Sacramento Vegan Society
Linda Middlesworth Humane Society Sierra Foothills
Marilyn Jasper

1. Roll Call

Chair Gough called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and reported that there was an amended meeting agenda provided by Programs Manager, Carrie Wright and distributed to the Committee.

Chair Gough reported the agenda was amended to include the April 8, 2013 meeting minutes for the Committee's approval.

2. Introductions of Guests and Staff

Introductions of Staff and Guests were made around the room.

3. Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2014 and April 8, 2013

Chair Gough reviewed the meeting minutes for May 15, 2014 and April 8, 2013 and asked the Committee for any changes needed.

Chair Gough reported since there was not a full quorum at last year's committee meeting the April 8, 2013 meeting minutes were being brought back to the Committee for approval in addition.

Chair Gough commented any one of the public wishing to address the Committee on any matter listed for consideration on this agenda shall fill out a Speaker's Form and provide it to the Committee's Recording Secretary. All speakers will be recognized by the Chair to address the Committee.

Programs Manager, Carrie Wright commented Committee Member Jennifer Fearing asked that her comments be clarified on the April 8, 2013 meeting minutes and corrections were made and the meeting minutes were amended.

Motion:

It was moved by Committee Member Watkins and seconded by Committee Member Eidman to approve the meeting minutes for April 8, 2013. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Motion:

It was moved by Committee Member Eidman and seconded by Committee Member Watkins to approve the meeting minutes for May 15, 2014. **All in favor, motion carried.**

Programs Manager, Carrie Wright clarified the membership of the Committee. The Committee is much smaller as compared to last year.

4. 2014 State Fair Recap

CEO Pickering provided an update on the 2014 State Fair. CEO Pickering reported our average daily attendance was up by 11% and won a number of national and international regional awards.

CEO Pickering reported the relocation of California Kitchen from Expo Center to Building B and making that adjacent to the Farm and putting shade in that area allowed people to move from the California Kitchen to the Farm which increased traffic to the Farm by 28%.

CEO Pickering reported on the success of the Beach Buddy Adventure Program partnership with the California Coastal Commission and the Youth Conservation Corp.

CEO Pickering invited the Committee to the Sacramento County Fair which opens tomorrow through Monday, May 25th.

5. Annual Review of Livestock & Animal Care Educational Programs for 2015 State Fair

Including, but not limited to the following:

- Horse Racing Update

CEO Pickering reported the California Horse Racing Board has awarded the 2015 California State Fair three weeks of thoroughbred racing.

CEO Pickering reported a new inside safety rail is being installed at the racetrack to protect both jockey and horse.

CEO Pickering reported there was a quarantine placed at Turf Paradise in Oregon which ships

horses for racing at Golden Gate Fields and the fair circuit. One of their horses tested positive for a vascular issue so the California Department of Food & Agriculture and the State Horse Racing Board has placed a quarantine on any of those horses and we are not allowed to accept those horses from Oregon.

Animal Health Checks

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported Staff will be working once again with UC Davis and providing veterinarian services. Mr. Carlson announced the new State Fair veterinarian for 2015 will be Dr. Pam Hollinger.

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson provided an update on the avian flu pertaining to the poultry program.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV)

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson provided an update on the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus. Mr. Carlson reported there will not be young piglets in the nursery. There will be a farrowing crate on display with educational signage explaining and how they are used in the swine industry.

DNA Testing

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported that DNA Testing continues to be utilized and is primarily used for the purpose of enforcing ownership of market animals.

Drug Residue Testing

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported in an effort to increase awareness of the responsibilities associated with the production of consumer oriented products, exhibitors of market animals are required to participate in this program and to sign a Medication Declaration Form. This form acknowledges the use of any substance in or on an animal for which the required withdrawal period is not completely elapsed prior to arriving to the Fair.

Livestock Nursery

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the Livestock Nursery program in conjunction with UC Davis and the Veterinarian Medical Teaching Hospital, we will duplicate exactly what we did in 2014. In addition, educational signage will be increased and continues to be a very popular exhibit.

Milking Parlor

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the Milking Parlor will be used for the hand milking cows. During the dairy shows it will run 24/7 basically shuts down for 30 minutes twice a day so the certified milk is sold and used by various companies.

Petting Zoo/Pony Rides

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the Petting Zoo/Pony Rides will be provided by Great American Entertainment once again. Staff receives animal care plans on their exhibits and programs. The State Fair provides hand washing stations at various locations where every animal exhibits are located.

Livestock Shows

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the Livestock Show programs will be similar to the 2014 schedule with the four basic sections. Mr. Carlson reported there is an adjustment to the schedule to accommodate the Sale of Champions which is scheduled for Monday, July 13th.

Equine Programs

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the Equine Programs will again be coordinated by Michelle Solorzano and has created a very diverse program.

Aquaculture

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported there will be an increase to educational signage at a request by participants and guests.

American Kennel Club (AKC) Dog Agility Competition

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the American Kennel Club Dog Agility Competition is scheduled on Sunday, July 19th.

Nature Exhibit

Programs Manager, Carrie Wright reported on the Nature Exhibit will be returning from the California Coastal Commission and as CEO Pickering reported.

Commercial Vendors

Programs Manager, Carrie Wright reported staff continues to review applications and do not have a final list available.

State Rules Committee

Programs Manager, Carrie Wright provided an update on the State Rules Committee and Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson is our key contact person. The State Rules Committee met last November to review the 2014 handbook with slight changes.

6. Annual Review of the “Animal Welfare Practices” Handbook

Chair Gough reviewed the Animal Welfare Practices Handbook with the Committee.

Ag Programs Manager, Jay Carlson reported the handbook is dedicated to establishing and maintaining the professional and responsible approach regarding the health, care, and welfare of all animals housed within the facilities of Cal Expo.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Mills, Action for Animals

Mr. Mills wanted to thank the Committee for the most humane State Fair in the country. Mr. Mills is thankful that the goldfish and hermit crabs vendors are gone. Mr. Mills asked the Fair to consider getting rid of the farrowing crates.

Don Knutson, Sacramento Vegetarian Society

Mr. Knutson is a strong advocate of compassion and caring for animals. Mr. Knutson commented that there has been a noticeable decline in the influence of organized religion with the youth of today. Mr. Knutson commented organized religion has worked as a barrier between human beings and animals and thinks that many youths see animals as co-inhabitants on this planet and should be more caring of animals and be more caring. Mr. Knutson is concerned for the animal's fears in regards to the fireworks program.

Linda Middlesworth, Sacramento Vegan Society

Ms. Middlesworth commented on the use and exploitation of animals for food and entertainment is cruel and inhumane and asks the State Fair to move more towards education of animals and their health.

Marilyn Jasper, Humane Society Sierra Foothills

Ms. Jasper commented that microphones should be used for the public to hear well. Ms. Jasper asked if there will be a rodeo schedule. Staff reported there is not a rodeo scheduled. Ms. Jasper asked if the Animal Welfare Practices Handbook available on our website. Programs Manager, Carrie Wright will provide a copy to Ms. Jasper. Ms. Jasper asked about the vacancy left by Jennifer Fearing. Chair Gough provided information to Ms. Jasper on the vacancy.

CEO Pickering provided a brief report on the State Fair Farm School Tours.

Cal Expo Volunteer, Randy Brink provided his report to the Committee.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gough asked for any final comments. The Committee had none.

The Agriculture Advisory Council Animal Care & Livestock Committee meeting was adjourned by Chair Gough at 2:55 p.m.