

## **Torrance County Fair Board**

### **Meeting**

**2/22/24**

**Present:** Marcie Wallin, Kyria Encinias, Patrick Riley, Johnny Perea, Albert Chavez

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### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Marcie Wallin at 6:35

### **Roll Call**

Members present are listed above

### **Discussion**

**Discussion regarding the February 13, 2024 Fair Board Meeting Agenda not having detail regarding action items, thereby creating a requirement to redo the Junior Sale action item discussion and vote.**

Janice Barela-Members of the board and members of the community the items that I'm up to discuss is the February 13th 2020-24 fair board meeting agenda not having details regarding action items thereby creating a requirement to redo the junior sale action item discussion and vote this came to my attention this request to have this done this way by several members of the community and I to be honest with you is accounting manager I have never really gone to great detail to look at the fair boards agendas in the past had I've done that I could have probably saved a lot of what's going on today the agenda that I saw from February 13th just had a list of items it didn't stay where there was a discussion item or action item and if it were in Acton item it didn't state exactly what this board would be considering and so I did speak with Marcy and asked her to consider having a special meeting and for the agenda to be specific as far as what the request for approval is and I believe that we were able to sit down Marcy and I and go through this agenda and have it accurately portrayed for the public with transparency with his voice is considering today if there are other actions from that meeting that need to be revisited I'm asking at the next I'm used to think Commission fair board meeting that you would put it again on that agenda to do over again I figured this is the only one that I heard from constituents about and so that's why this is in here I want to say thank you to Marcy she's the main one that I had communication about regarding this and once I explained it to her she understood Hold on that it was intentional to do anything different than what you normally have done but with this being a contentious issues I think that's important is Revisited and properly noticed so thank you for all the fair board members for being here today and for reconsidering this and allowing me to work with you to do a proper wording on an engine so that's what I have to say with

that first section or discussion of I would like to comment and say it wasn't malicious and like you say we've done it that way the get-go I was educated quite nicely by Manager Barela and proper procedure to do an agenda and look forward it will be probably rent by you to make sure it's Sharon concise and I apologize I'm so used to getting up and speaking after I've already been up for those who don't know me I'm Janice Barela County Manager for Torrance County so think I do plan on working very closely and reviewing those agendas before we post them on the website so I hope to just make this a better process and I'm excited to work with you all on that because I believe that you are trying your best in your positions.

### **Discussion regarding the right of all Board Members to vote on all action items.**

Janice Barela-his is another request that I had for this agenda in having discussion about how everything happened at the last meeting whenever I was inquiring about that I found out that the way the structure this board has been through the years is that the person is the chairperson is not voting on items unless there's a type and then did with the time that's not how the commission runs that's not how other board appointed commission board appointed the board's friend or Christian pointed Sports my understanding is that you were following the Robert's Rules of Order my concern for that is in particular with the current chairperson that you have Marcy is appointed specifically to represent a district by a commissioner and I know I'm speaking to that commissioner he was not aware that his commission District didn't have a voice when it came to voting on issues so I'm requesting on behalf of the Commissioners that that match all the other Commissioner appointed towards or even the members that they are operating the same way that every member has a vote on every action night that's what I just would like to ask it doesn't have to do I just wanted to make sure that you Marcy I think you're representing district is it too cuz I know Johnny you representing District 3 so I think it's District 2 yeah it's based on where you live however whenever the resolution was passed restructuring the fair board they worked with the members that were there and the decision was made at that point that Johnny through represent this District Marcy represented this other district and it was laid out that way I can pull the resolution to get exactly who is the one that I do know but I refuse the resolution to see if there was something in there and declared that voted I didn't see anything there but I did see that Marcy was actually appointed as a district representative to the board Edition

### **Request for Fair Board to create an updated Torrance County Fair Board Rules of Procedures.**

Janice Barela-this is another item I requested to be on the agenda the Torrance County Commissioners has the rules of procedures for how they operate their commission meeting and I'm not stating that she had to follow them exactly cuz there's has a lot more details as far as

items that they would considered for appointments that they make to for very similar to this one I just think that if you have one in place

**Public Comment** (Comments limited to two minutes.)

Dusty Wrye-Hello I am Dusty Wright I'm a lifelong member person that's been involved with Lawrence County Fair I got it dressed on this cell issue of restricting fair animals to one person can only sell one animal it kind of disturbs me it to a degree but yet I understood what the fair board is doing is trying to get all the other people involved with the cell so my first address on this issue is our County Fair has cut down cell slot numbers when I was showing and selling to what it is now from when I was showing there was so it has cut down substantial over the last 25 years which I have not been able to understand to degree yes there is considerably less people showing but my main concern is people who show multiple species how is it fair to them to only feel one animal when they're chilling pictures multiple of each species and how are we trying to build up numbers in our County Fair with animals if we're going to only limit one person for sale so my scenario is why are we cutting down till numbers at the same time like I said with 48 sale slots environment right last year do we even have that amount of exhibitors Towing throughout our County Fair how many kids did we have showing totals 48 what you want to sell last year and how many 48 sales slots okay so now is we're trying to build up people animals on every division why are we going to restrict people who sell multiple show multiple species?

Alan Moreland – I am Alan Moreland with the Torrance County Farm and Livestock bureau and we got involved with some of the fair board meeting oh four or five months ago. I read a report that farming and ranching has decreased 16% since 2017 and we need to do something to help the fair attract these kids in to have more exhibitors coming in and everything we didn't know how to do it we still don't know how to do it but Johnny come up with a good idea and it has to do with what you was talking about Dusty we feel like it's going to spread the amount of money down the line to get more exhibitors to where they win some kind of money I like Johnny's idea I think has a lot of Merit to it and we're going to support it all that we can and again we're just trying to get the younger people to stay in agriculture we don't care what we have to do here at the fair or anything but that's our ultimate goal is get these kids to stay in agriculture too many of them are leaving.

Lee Widner I'd like to start by saying thank you for hosting us tonight and give me an opportunity I am a big fan of inclusion when it comes to our kids I'm a big fan of trying to get as many kids involved as we possibly can because as Dusty was I was also one who saw multiple animals in the barn that being said I'm not sure I agree with the one animal limitation and while I have a minute left I'm going to go ahead and tell you. My thought is if we could do it we increase our sale slots to 50 animals whatever 50 sale slots I think it's proven last year that our community will support it and we make those at large Lottery slots for lack of a better way of saying what I did would like to suggest is we take any family that has two or more kids showing and we limit them to three and three animals. So if my kids are blessed enough to get four animals in the sale we have to make a decision we have to make a decision of where to pull that animal whether we take it on but it opens up a sale slot, if I did my math right from last year that would open up four more slots because there was four families that sold multiples of 4. The first year my son sold he did not make the sale and the next year he came back even harder to make the sale. Final thing and I'm running out of time I would like to suggest the third tier to that is

any kid that shows up to the Torrance County Fair and is willing to put something in that sale or something in that show of whatever it is we allowed the community to actually put money in for them as well to do an add on for them as well. Granted it might be 20 dollars that's one bag of feed we all know that but that's at least the community showing you hey we're proud of you thank you for doing something that is going out of style that costs a lot of money that we all know cost a lot of money but allows our kids us to support the community I'm not a time and I'm not going to talk up here and filibuster but that's what I would like to suggest is my thoughts thank you very much?

Marci Wallin- it's really hard to get buyers we all work really hard on it and it's not a guarantee

Lee Widner-I understand that and understand what y'all do and I truly do that being said if we're talking about adding two I can tell you two buyers last year that didn't get a chance to buy at the end and I know that they would come back I do and so that's just my thought and I thank you guys again.

Johnny Romero- I am not going to repeat what Alan said. Farm Bureau wants to bring more people into farming. Two years ago, when I started with Farm Bureau we gave 1 1500-dollar scholarship, last year we gave 3 scholarships, and this year we are going to give 4. We don't have the money you people have, we don't have the funding you people have yet we are doing more and more to include people, you guys have a lot of money and you can distribute it better, you have the power to do that, we are not asking to take from these people that buy 2000.00 animal whereas someone buys a 200.00 animal it costs the same to raise that animal and it takes the same amount of time. So, I ask you guys if we can do it you can do it.

Joe Everett- I would like the fair board to look at taking a percent of the sale of the animals and trickling down one percent of one and a half percent of the total sale price the animals and trickled that down to the other things that go out into Fair the ag mechanics the craft portion so it's not just a ribbon it's a cash reward or something for all the kids that participate in that kind of stuff too. Agriculture is a big industry. It is ag mechanics, mechanics and welding all that stuff but they don't get the recognition that the kids that raise the animals do. I understand that's the big draw but perhaps we could set up a community contributions thing that could add to that pot.

Jimmy Waldrop-I would just like to say with all respect to the Farm Bureau and everything, inclusion sounds great but you do not get participation trophies in ranching or farming. You have to go out to go to work for it if you have any questions or any doubts in your mind or what you're doing you can always ask somebody for some help and it's there that's what we're here I just and I'm a resource for you guys if you guys want to do any beet or anything like that I don't know anything about anything else that I can help you with. I would like to say that my kids have shown here forever and we have walked away from this Fair without a sales slot. Knowing the sale slots that we have potentially going into the year that's what helps us budget for the next year we're already budgeting after the county fair so if we don't know the money that we're going to be spending on the next animal or not, that is going to dictate whether we are going to bring good animals to the fair or not get animals if we're just going to be giving himself and I don't think it's going to help with the numbers at all the animal numbers are going to come down quality of the animals are going to come down and you can go anywhere in the state and look at

the other county fairs and I guarantee you Torrance county is up there at the top but the quality of animals quality of kids and is you go to the sale, the quality of the sale too.

Greg Smith-I just want to add too, I'm a little concerned over the decision to limit the kids to just one sale slot. I'm always open to discussion as far as making change, I'm for change I think change makes us better it keeps us from being stagnant. But I guess my question is, why right now, why February of this year when we're just five, five and a half months away from County Fair? Jimmy just mentioned there's animals purchased, if there was just one cell slot I don't know if I buy two calves, I probably would have only bought one I don't know if we go make trips out of state into other breeders to look at sheep the way that we already have scheduled the way we've already purchased. So as Jimmy said, I'd like to reiterate that it has a direct impact on how I go about future year, so I would say on the decision as you're going to present this here a little bit I'm asking you let let's talk about this but let's talk about this going forward in 2025 and how that is going to impact and have a real vetted dialogue amongst everybody, and I think if that happened, everybody wouldn't be sitting in here and I think that the county manager touched on a lot of what I had to say about the open meetings act, transparency of agendas and everything else because when things are listed on there specifically it gets more attention, then it is vetted and this board can say you had that opportunity to show up and you either did or you didn't. I would like to thank all of you, I have been involved with fair boards in some capacity for over 20 years, and I can tell you without hesitation this is the hardest working board I've ever been around and doesn't mean we always make the right decisions or on even kill with each other but you guys doing and you're the hardest working Board of anybody I've ever been around and I appreciate that and I hope we can continue the good dialogue with each other.

Ann Schropp-I'm here tonight as both the wife of the county commissioner of the third district and as a former competitor in 4-H and FFA livestock shows. I made most of my college tuition on sales of those animals and train horses. Sam and I moved here from Richmond Utah the side of the largest longest continually running pole stallion show west of the Mississippi River .15 years ago I watched the Holstein heifer so for \$458,000 to a Saudi Arabian buyer, that is not going to happen in Torrance County, Torrance County Fair is a children's show the object being to teach animal husbandry responsibility cooperation along with about a million other benefits. That exposed a number of problems with the show as it currently exists, by the way as I hear this is about 50 more people than usually show up, thanks for being here .It's time for the fair board to appoint a rules committee which is representative of the children involved, that is you parents, it's roughly 6 months to the 2024 County Fair that's plenty of time for a rules committee to take comments from the parents put together a new rule book for the show starting at the end of this one, one which reflects the current needs of the children of this County those rules would be agreed upon and transparent when rules and protocols are clearly defined and understood there's much less chaos confusion discord finger pointing and back biting. I personally have heard griping from every conceivable direction in the seven years we've been here. It's past time for this group to reorganize itself to meet current needs form a rules committee with agreed upon parameters and pay a whole lot more attention to exactly what your kids are taking from the whole experience this is about them they're supposed to be learning tons and having fun while throughout all the hard, because it is hard work we need to think long and hard about exactly what your kids are saying right now and what they're gaining from their Torrance County Fair experience thanks.

Melita Waldrop-So I just have some numbers they could be wrong you guys can correct me so there was 42 kids and 47 sale slots are that, about right? So, what we're what you guys are trying to do is say everyone gets a sale slot next year? So, you are cutting down the sales slots? So, if we are cutting down our sales slots, our numbers are going to go because our animals are getting cut in half, why have three species if we can sell a \$50-dollar sheep with one eye. Doesn't matter what we bring they're probably going to come in here and be able to get a sale slot because what we're trying to do is encourage new people to come in so you know I strongly believe that participation Awards and this is what it sounds like it can be is going to stunt competition and lead to entitlement. Entitlement is going to strangle the drive of competition and improvement in all aspects of life. These kids that come in here say you're a winner even if you're not you know we're going to give you guys a sale slot, we're going to cut sale slots or if we're even going to cut some more sale slots, we had a \$290,000 sale last year so why are you know what's the reason and I guess we don't understand cuz no one's told us exactly what the plan is and it seems like it's going to be a mystery until you guys tell us here in a little bit but that's what it's coming out to be. I'm just saying showing starts at the barn it does not start at the show. So if our kids work hard all year and they have multiple species they should present them to show them, so why bring multiple species of animals if we only get one sale slot or try to get one sale slot, I'm going to leave my 2 minutes in what is the life lesson that the fair board is trying to show our kids show up and you get a sales slot or work really hard and you still only get one or try to get one .I think it should be more competition more sale slots because obviously our community can support it. I do think our sale can support more competition and more kids.

Marci Wallin- I just want to say Melita it's not about participation awards because that's not the intention of where this arose from so that's what I have to say.

Terry Henson- Moriarty FFA Ag Teacher, thank you for letting me speak today. I grew up in this County, got to show in this county, was a part of Moriarty FFA. I've heard both sides of this because I have a ton of students who are part of this County. You guys making this decision right now at this point in time, is the biggest load of bull shit, sorry for my French. A lot of parents are stating it and I hear it from both sides, but making decisions right now I have 15 students right now we're looking at buying multiple species animals to come to this Fair it is hard for me as an ag teacher to tell my students to go to Torrance County Fair because right now I have about 10 families who feel undercut because they want to show steers they want to show sheep, they pigs, by doing this at this point in time and not getting everyone's thoughts on it, you are just telling the kids, our future leaders, this is a dictatorship and everything you want to do and have a voice in doesn't mean anything to anybody. I am very passionate about this one reason, is I'm an Ag teacher and I want them to do it the right way. To undermine the history of this fair, the history of all the families, corporations and everyone else who has invested time, money and effort to come do this, because pretty much I have 15 kids in the program that want to go to Santa Fe County. Hopefully you will reconsider this and come this fall after the fair sit down and talk about it like adults.

Johnny Perea-I have something for you Terry, the first comment you made proves that you are not an adult, when was the last fair board meeting you came to, I do not appreciate being talked

to like that, I put this out there, I want you to know that it was me and I did not take this lightly, I thought long and hard about it. I ask that you apologize for that first comment.

Terry Henson-I do apologize for it.

Kaycee Riley Chavez- First I want to say thank you to the Fair board, I know it is a lot of hard work, secondly, I will stand up here and accept fault, I have not attended Fair Board meetings, I am very involved in the community, I am a leader of a 4H club in the county. I am asking and my thoughts on it, is that the decision that was made, I do not think it was taken lightly, but I do think it was too late in the year, for that families have already purchased animals, families have already budgeted what they are going to spend this year. This type of ruling needs to be at the beginning of our season which is October, September, right after our county fair. People have already thought about what they are going to do, I do think this will cut our numbers as a fair. It will open up sales slots, you are correct, but it is going to cut our numbers in the species. I also believe you are limiting families to one species, you are not allowing them to try out other species or maybe venture out into being a multi-species family. I ask that you reconsider this, I have also heard about the rules committee, I think that is a great idea, that we have a rules committee that can propose changes and develop growth for our fair and our community.

Jacob Sarno-Thank all of you folks for being here this evening as well as reopening this meeting. I understand that the fair board is under a lot of stress and deals with it on the regular. I have not attended fair board meetings, I plan on it moving forward. With that said I feel it is of the utmost necessity that our children witness the heartbreak of not receiving the win in everything that they do, this is the realization that has been lost in the world and can clearly be seen in colleges and the workforce. It is our kids in the show world that continue to stay realists well after they have left the ring for the last time, this is due to lessons learned from growing up with this tight knit community, I can say that my kids have never won a blue ribbon, we did have one Torrance County Bred which was fantastic. It is about the work and lessons learned, but if the day does come that it happens the reward will mean that much more to them. Aside from the personal impact that comes from this decision, I also look at it from the community level impact. In the last 15 years we have seen a decline in contestants at the fair, with this new decision, I feel it will make a devastating impact on our little fair. If contestants know it does not matter what they bring to the fair they will only sell one animal it will greatly influence the numbers we see, in terms lowering the fair's revenue until it is no longer able to sustain. I do believe this is not something that any of us true show families want to see, the way we see it is, well if it's too tough, well it is. I showed in this fair, my kids showed, I never won anything, agriculture is a gamble, today we may win, tomorrow we may lose, it's not something any of us want to think about as far as the losing, but moving forward I hope we can come together as a community and do what's best for our kids and also expose them to the realization that agriculture is tough. Yes, we want kids in ag, we want to raise them on farms and ranches, but if we do these rose-colored glasses thing for every one of our children what are we doing for them. Thank you for your time.

Chelsea Chavez-So pretty much everyone has said what we are all here for, I do feel it is too late in the game to make a change this extreme. I would like to see the board be open to a rules committee, it would set a good example for our kids, it would set a good example that adults can

still act like adults. I would like for the board to be open to new ideas. I think our fair is dying, we used to love to go to the county fair and now it's hard, and it's especially hard if you don't have animals at the fair. I would like to see some fun things come back for our city kids. There is nothing for them to show up and do while they are at the fair. Last but not least, you all have to remember that we are in it for the kids, it's not an entitlement, it's not everyone's expected to get a trophy, it's you work hard and you try and you set goals and you hope you achieve your goals in the end. So, I think it would be in everyone's best interest that this be reconsidered, it would be for the greater good and all the kids involved.

Linda Warren-In full disclosure, the young man sitting at the end of the table is my nephew, he voted for this when it came up and we have had quite a few animated and civil discussions at our house because I had a different point of view. It did not mean he was wrong and I was right or vice versa, it simply meant it was a difference of opinion. I would like to thank the board for some of the decisions they did make at the last meeting that I am extremely excited about. I love the idea that the Gymkhana is coming back to the fair lineup. I agree with the county manager that if this item needs to be brought back up then the others that were voted on also need to be brought back up. Talking about the Gymkhana, I donated 200 to go towards prizes, I would also like to provide goats so that they can have live animals to tie up at no cost to the fair. I do agree that we have to have community involvement. I apologize to the board, I used to come to the meetings quite regularly, my son graduated 2 years ago and I got lazy and complacent. I do also agree with what everyone is saying here tonight, I do not think that going to one sale slot is a terrible thing, I just think it was too late in the year to be considered. I would like to ask for it to be tabled and looked at again after the 2024 fair. I don't think it is fair that kids have already invested in animals and feed and time for the upcoming fair and then tell them they can only sell one animal. There are a lot of alternatives that we can look at going forward. I also want to thank the board for their hard work and time, there would not be a county fair without them. Thank you to the Commission because without their financial support, which pays for the fair, but not the junior livestock sale, there would not be a fair. I also believe these kids earn their spots in competition, and this is for the kids. Thank you.

Javier Sanchez- I just thought I would encourage this board, I heard of the changes that had been passed and I thought on the whole it may put the fair board on a very positive trajectory. I believe it took My Perea great courage to put forth this proposal, and many times change requires courage I know that from experience and so I encourage this board to engage to fully Engage The concerns which are valid that have been raised in opposition to this, but not to regress to maintain his forward trajectory and its momentum.

Marci Wallin- 5A discussion and possible action regarding increasing the number of eligible Junior exhibitors in the Torrance County Fair sale while maintaining the current number of sales slots. So, I'd like to open this up for discussion.

Johnny Perea-So in answering some of your questions and I don't know if this will answer many of them, the reason why the reason why it's so late in the game and so forth for the reason why is yeah there's a bunch of you that came up here and there's a bunch of you that came up here and spoke and I appreciate that very much, there is not one kid that came up here and spoke, so that makes me wonder actually what the motive is behind these people defending this and I know what the motive is the bottom line is dollars, or they wouldn't it wouldn't be at such an issue

when it comes down to affecting somebody's bottom line then we all show up. You know Janice, with all due respect, and I totally understand what you were saying as far as printing this stuff where it's very much more well explained, but this wouldn't have come up in a controversial matter where it didn't affect somebody's bottom line nobody would have said anything about our agenda for another year and that that is the truth as far as the number of sales lots and so forth what I proposed was every kid that is eligible for the sale, sell one. I didn't say every kid sell one, you still have to be eligible to maintain the sale now that's really hard to explain and what you can't really explain it Dusty wouldn't know about it some Greg wouldn't know about it the fair board knows about it until you sit down and, in those meetings, where we break classes and actually figure sale slots. Even now it would have nothing to do with that, we break 15 classes of hogs every class would have a first and second place eligible to sell the way would print it with as many sales lots as we have and with the number of kids exhibiting then we start pulling down further and further into those sales slots okay and I'm not going to sit here and lie you that and say that I didn't take into account the number of exhibitors last year compared to the number of sale slots thinking madman we have a pretty good chance of getting all these kids in the sale without actually saying you're all going to get in there because I think you still have to compete for them and that was my intention so that's where that came from okay what I'm up here speaking for is and you all spoke mostly for your own selves personally and they're humble people and they're not going to do it I'm up here for Aurelia Chavez I'm up here for Westyn Green that don't have any help and then this partially my fault okay, and it's tough for those kids to get up there I mean it is tough, this county is tough, it is extremely tough. I am part of the ones that made it that way, whether you believe it or not, me and my daughter and my friend Gene have done it as good as anybody in this County ever has and we know the ups and downs of it and we were always at the top end and that doesn't mean that I discount these kids are at the bottom end and so you know that was my reasoning behind it as far as coming with that decision. It was probably abrupt, I say it was radical, I'll 100 percent say it was radical But it doesn't mean that I was trying to discount anybody you know we talked about the blue ribbons okay if that was truly the intent, the blue ribbons then why do the is the sale slots matter I mean if that is truly the intent of the competition whether we make it or not why do the sales slots matter? I know why they matter cuz you do try to fund things from your year and that is part of it if you look at it and I promise you it's been from the work up here more than anything this sale is phenomenal it's one of the best sales in the state now these animals are bringing almost double what they were three or four years ago that's another reason to some of my thinking, and it's not a participation and entitlement you know where the entitlement is here? It is these families thinking they are entitled to two sales slots that's the entitlement in this county, I've come to find out. I mean it really is when it comes to it, you know nothing was ever said by a kid or a family that did not make the sale, it was all said by families thinking oh God he's going to take something away from us. Some of those families made \$25,000 last year I mean I'm not saying that a total entitlement thing is a good thing but that was not my intention and I promise you the entitlement is not in those kids that didn't make a sales slot in this County anymore it's someplace else. We got lamb blasted by an ag teacher a while ago, you know the one person that is a leader in this county that does make a difference, Deb Mayberry she's here at every meeting and she knows what's going on she might not agree with it but if somebody took her as an example you know as far as the 4-H or an ag teacher position or whatever then maybe none of this would have come to be. Then we would have known this is not going to fly. Everybody's going to Santa Fe County in my mind that's fine they don't like what we're doing here and don't think that we're

good enough for them, I commend them for going and trying to do better that's what they think. I had another ag teacher call me about it and you know what the first thing coming out of his mouth was also well my kids are probably going to just do one or two animals now right whatever they were doing and that's probably right in that family never was there a mention as to, how can I help these other kids that didn't make the sale to try and get them up there or even a comment about I understand what you're doing but you need them there to keep the numbers up but that's not let them kind of excel and try to get one in the sale. So one more thing as far as the nastiness and the treatment of Fair board members like cursing them out in public and so forth I don't think that's right and I'm not and I'm not going to stand for it anymore I mean there's nothing we can do here about it and if that's the example they want to show in the community that's up to them but their workplace in front of children and cuss them out I think that they're right doing it because they're sitting here smirking about it right now do you all I mean if that's where we're at then I guess you know that's where we're at but these people they don't agree with me on this issue all of them and this thing may get overturned tonight but I'm telling you exactly why I did it but I'm going to tell you that we've been told that we need a rules committee that we can give to this because, is Mrs. Schropp still here? There's a fair book in place and if they have just changed what it come through that fair book would have been updated but I mean and it is we have to we have to sit here and go through that thing in detail every year and try to get that lined out so everybody knows what is going on. As far as being late in the year it is probably a little late in the year but it has no effect on everybody anybody's budget I don't think and please remember that I'm saying this cuz I've been playing this game a long time you made your money last year and that's what you guys are banking on to buy your animals this year if it happens that you don't get what you get in the sale next year then you make adjustments. It may affect what you do going forward and that's totally up to you is a totally free world as far as what you want to do but that's my thinking on how and I'm saying that just based on my own experience and we didn't buy animals and we found a lot of animals we bought I know we were blessed I don't know that we weren't and our goal was you know we did love the county fair but it was not our goal. I mean as far as a lot of families this is their deal and that's why I go back to these kids that I was trying to support in the beginning the kids that don't have I don't even want they don't have the help and again I'll say that's partially my fault but they are just they keep pushing I don't know that the numbers I have a way better chance of getting in the sale maybe we can get a few more into and if we don't I'll own it I fully will own it because I mean I'm still going to fight for the ones that don't have a voice I do this and whatever and whatever I do and then and I think that's part of my responsibility on this board. I guess I have no more comments so I appreciate the time and thank you all for being here.

Patrick Riley-Thank you Johnny for your comments and discussions, also thank you community members for being here tonight. So, I'm going to go through some numbers and some research that I conducted over the past few weeks. So, numbers of exhibitors that sold based on the sales sheet that I have right here there were 19 exhibitors who sold one animal 13 exhibitors who sold two and eight exhibitors who sold zero. The current rule as it stands states that each exhibitor is permitted a maximum of two sale slots there's no limit to the number of permitted to sell at the Packers bid. I would like to consider two changes; possible changes change in the Torrance County junior livestock sale limit to each exhibitor will be allowed to sell a maximum of one animal in the junior livestock sale or changing the Torrance County junior livestock sale to limit exhibitors be allowed to sell 2 animals in the sale but only one animal per species. If this gets

tabled or if this gets proposed to take effect after the 2024 sale, so be it. Right now, this is a visual graphic of the way the sale slot shook out so the red indicates sells lots that were put they were sold by one exhibitor one animal the blue slots indicate slots they were sold by one exhibitor with two animals and then the white boxes represent exhibitors who didn't sell an animal. If we go and change one of one animal per exhibitor it would look like this so we get there would either be four slots that weren't taken up or they could be maybe put as an at large slot and then those other this is possible right like this is not set in stone or is it just a scenario based on the number of sale slots we had last year right. I cannot account for unknown variables. Number two if we were to change it to the one per species that would have looked like this okay. This is a family affair family survey so some of you may be asking why he names are blacked out, I was asked not to show names from some of the families, some of you can probably figure out some of the families and call them just as well as I can if you don't believe me or the research so this is about half right when you column the furthest right hand column so we have four families who are in favor and five against, so a pretty even split. This is the county graphic map of our state so the items in pink right on my screen looks red up there looks pink or our counties and our state that show the same way they sell the same way we do or anything of two animals each exhibitors allowed to sell two per exhibitor the counties in blue or the lighter colors of limiting one per species so you can sell two animals just one per species the counties in the dark yellow are counties that have made the change too you can sell to unless you sell a steer or a heifer you sell a steer or you can only sell one. Quay County limit their sale to selling only one per exhibitor he first year they saw 30% increase in participants so the bar graph shows that in that first year they saw an increase from 28 market class exhibitors to 36 and then it's leveled off since then the next County I'm going to highlight is Roosevelt County so they've been selling one animal per exhibitor or limiting it to 100 for the last 20 years their sale averages there's sale numbers average in terms of gross numbers \$275,000 annually so I don't know if we can argue they'll hurt the buyers I spoke with two Counties in Arizona as well as two counties in Oklahoma each effort so they have members Each participant gets a sale slot each exhibitor gets a sale slot those 4-H and FFA are those Representatives I spoke to highly encourage or highly discouraged that highly caution if they say that they have showed that their quality of animals has dramatically dropped by giving every kid a sale slot as well as the work ethic will say in the kids and is not there so whatever change we make if we make changes they highly discourage or caution against just giving so some counties in Oklahoma the first County highlighted is Texas County Oklahoma they do premiums so they collect from the community and they give premiums depending on the numbers they collect for first and second place second county is Mays County exhibitors in Mays County can only sell one and then they click premiums for the other placing animals now no Oklahoma has not seen the same decline in Fair participants as New Mexico and Arizona have which brings me to the elephant in the room okay State trends 90% of counties in New Mexico have seen a decline of participants 2023 County enrollment so the total number of it the whole butt bar graph or pie chart excuse me his number of enrolled kids in FFA or 4-H only 25% roughly my question is why ?

Debbie Maberry-Can I answer that? There are over 200 projects that kids can participate in, so if they do not have livestock they have a lot of other choices.

Patrick Riley-Also you know while I'm up here some future ideas that I have moving forward and you know just in case you keep the Target on my back I was bringing back the horse show some possibly some new bringing like a new show Family crash course right now also probably

enough popular idea of a blow and go show and some little red barn changes making it more educational for younger kids as to where their food comes.

Marci Wallin-I would like to say thank you to Johnny for getting up and doing your speech, it does take courage to make change. My statements on this, I do not believe in entitlement and the intent of this is certainly not to have every kid that participates in this to get in the sale, we have notoriously pulled down in the last seven years to sixth place pulling into the sale. It is a product of extreme hard work and increasing knowledge. I would also like to mention my concerns over the decision is the timeline.

Albert Chavez- I have been on the fair board for over 35 years and my kids have never missed a sale hole in the entire United States. We would get 2 calves into the sale but always pulled one so another kid could pull into the sale. When you get on the board you are not just for Moriarty or Estancia, you are for everybody, every one that comes through this fair is my kid. They have told me I am too old I need to get off of the Fair Board. Well that's what I have to say.

Kyria Encinias-Not to beat a dead horse, but we all said a lot of the same things, Whenever a decision like this is made I need to see things I need to work out figures I need to be able to check numbers the expedience of the vote and the passing of last meeting I was not comfortable with I did not vote for it I mean that's public knowledge for anybody that wants to know. For a couple of different reasons that being one and the other being its too late in the year to make a significant change like that. I think that's something to look at following the county fair the previous year going forward to the next year. I don't want to pick apart anything else other than the fact that a room full of people out there the little intimidating usually there are 2 people out there. So where ever you people are sitting tonight you need to be sitting there next month and the next and the next. You need to show up and represent these kids your ours, we are all in this together and that's what we should be doing in this room we should be able to work together. I have taken calls since we made this motion and it passed and I have been nothing but respectful to everyone that has called I have been chewed out, I have been told off and I respect that you have your opinion we all do have our opinion, but I think that's a little bit of why there's some defensive mode tonight is that's gotten a little bit out of hand and for many different reasons including the fact that a lot of you didn't know that it was coming and so I respect that and that's what I've told you that I've spoken to outside of this room and I hope that you see that you are still able to come to us and have a communication open with us to make change because that's what we should be doing as a board and community members and that's my whole point moving forward.

## **Approvals**

Discussion and possible action regarding increasing the number of eligible junior exhibitors in the Torrance County Fair Sale while maintaining the current number of sale slots.

Johnny Perea-I move that we open the discussion to reconsider this vote on this item. Albert Chavez-2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor Albert Chavez, aye, Johnny Perea, aye, Kyria Encinias against, Patrick Riley yes.

Johnny Perea-Kyria do you understand what I was saying, this is to open the discussion up?

Kyria Encinias, oh my apologies, yes.

Johnny Perea-So madam president in listening to everybody, not everybody was against it but most were, it seems like the quality, everybody is worried about the quality of animals going down and so forth and that may happen, I still stand by my statement, the entitled bunch here saying you gotta give me two sales slots, but they seem to be the majority and I respect that, so if its about the quality then its about the quality from one end to the other. Madam President I move that we go back to 2 sales slots that if kids are eligible that they be required to sell their two highest placing animals through the sale if they decide to sell 2. Albert Chavez-2<sup>nd</sup>.

Marci Wallin I will call for the vote, All in favor, Albert Chavez, yes John? Yes Kyria?

Kyria Encinias-Can I ask a question, you are saying if they decide to pull they would nullify a sale slot

Johnny Perea-If they decide to pull one of their highest placing animals they can sell whatever they want, if they are going to sell two they have to sell their 2 highest placing animals.

Public Comment-Can you speak louder, we cannot hear you?

Kyria Encinias-What portion did you not hear?

Public-all of it, we heard Johnny's motion

Patrick Riley-Johnny correct me if I am wrong, the motion on the floor is putting it back to 2 sales slots, however they must sell their 2 highest placing animals. There are several counties that do that in the state, you cannot pull their grand and reserve.

Johnny Perea-This does not apply to just grand and reserve. You don't have to sell two animals, if you chose to sell 2 you must sell your two highest placing.

Public Comment-So if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> place animal and a 5<sup>th</sup>, you would have to sell your 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to sell your 5<sup>th</sup>.

Johnny Perea- Yes if those are your 2 highest placing animals and they get in the sale.

Kyria Encinias-So if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> place hog and a grand champion lamb if you don't sell you grand champion lamb....

Johnny Perea-No, if you want to sell 2 you have to sell both of them. If you chose to sell 2 you have to sell the two highest placing animals

Public-So you are pretty much saying keep our state fair animals at home if we want to go on past county fair.

Johnny Perea-Well I'm saying that's your choice, it seems to be what I heard was about the quality, we have to keep the quality up, apparently you do not care about the quality going to the buyers then, because if that is the case we would obviously want to send our best through to the buyers, because if the quality is the issue here, quality is ok until we get to the buyer portion and they can have what ever is left over. So that is my motion madam president.

Public-So are you saying you can sell 2 if they are your highest placing, if you chose not to sell one, do you forfeit both slots or just one?

Johnny Perea-If you chose to sell just one, you can sell whichever one you want.

Public-My only caution is that when you get into the lower part of the classes, it is going to get a little muddy.

Kyria Encinias-the trickle down is going to get confusing

Johnny Perea-Obviously everyone here is so concerned about those 2 sales slots and I get it, we heard about it and the quality, if you want to talk quality you have to talk quality all the way to the buyer. So that is my motion mam.

Marci Wallin-Kyria? for Patrick? I vote no just on the complexity of it, I agree on the principal but until we have time to iron out how it will work I vote no for that reason.

Marci votes no, there are 3 yes's and 2 no's', the motion prevails.

**Announcement of the next Fair Board Meeting:**

Marci Wallin the next meeting is on March 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM in this room

**Adjourn**

Albert Chavez-I move to adjourn, Patrick Riley 2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passes unanimously.