Shana Withee, 4-H Extension Agent, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm with 14 persons introducing themselves.

Joanna Corson was asked to take minutes and write 4-H Happenings for the paper. Rob Fisher volunteered to represent 4-H at Fair Board meetings.

The American and 4-H pledges were led by Shana Withee.

Minutes of the August 2007 meeting and notes of July 2007 were approved as presented.

The 4-H Treasurer’s report was presented and a report of the 4-H Buyer BBQ. After some discussion, the reports were approved.

This was our 2007 HC Fair Evaluation meeting and Shana expressed a Big Thank You to all with special recognition of Fair Clerks, Superintendents, weather and volunteers. Dustin Johnson was commended for his initiation at his first Fair and a job well done.

Weather was a factor on Tuesday when a summer lightning storm in the arena caused concerns about safety and a portion of the Horse Show was cancelled. The covered dressage area was not available, as stalls had already been set up there for race horses. It was agreed that we would request that this building be kept available on Tuesdays in the future if needed due to inclement weather.

The cost of bedding for animals was discussed at length. 4-H was able to secure chips for bedding for 4-H animals through Big R and the Fair Board secured additional chips from Anderson Supply. Some areas did not have enough chips for bedding. Are some chips used for race horses? Open class does not pay bedding fees. The cost of chips has increased substantially and the stall fees paid for bedding this year did not cover the costs. Fees for 2007 were Beef $5, Hogs $3, Sheep/goats $2, BBQ $2. After much discussion it was suggested that bedding fees for 2008 be increased as follows: Beef $16, Hogs $8, Sheep/Goats $5, BBQ $2. This will be finalized at our November meeting.

An area of concern was the awards. Some clubs have sponsored awards for their clubs that has caused a doubling up and this is a concern. All awards need to be routed through 4-H. We need to look at what we are giving. Presently we give a plaque one year, silver bowl the next, and belt buckles the third year. The buckles are very expensive and this was our year for buckles. A committee was appointed to look into awards. Serving on the committee are: Lee McConnell, Michelle Tummonds, Joanna Corson, Sandy Whitmore, Karen Moon and some older youth will be invited. The committee will meet on Jan. 9, 2008, at 6 pm prior to the regular 4-H Leaders meeting.

Not clean stall fee of $35 was discussed. Only one stall not cleaned this year.

Buyers BBQ was discussed. Assigned schedules was good but we need to look at some of the shifts. Some kids need to get their animals ready for the sale. Since this is a Buyers Appreciation BBQ, buyers should have preference in the food line. There was very little waiting and over 800 people were served. Suggested that some of the servings were very large especially early and supplies were limited at the end. Overall everything went very well.

Herdsmanship Judges were not good. Judging was not consistent. Suggested that barns work as teams with duty rosters so someone was on hand to answer questions. Some were down graded when they were in the show ring even though they left notes on where they were. Judging was done while the parade was going on and many youth were participating there. It was suggested we not have a herdsmanship
contest next year, have contest but scores not kept, timing of judging looked at. Cleanliness of area and animals was first issue. More discussion on this at Nov. meeting.

Shana reported that the Shriners would like to have a pizza party and video in the Sales Barn on Wednesday night of Fair to thank the 4-Hers for selling tickets and the video would tell them more about what their support means to kids. 7pm was suggested as the best time for this. Shana will let them know.

It was suggested that we use a single species format for showing animals next year. We would use a split ring, would need 2 PA systems, clerks & judges for each ring. Pigs would be shown first on each day, market first day, showmanship second. Other animals would show for market in morning, breeding and showmanship the same day. Chickens and rabbits would need separate times. 10am Thursday for Rabbits and 10 am Friday for chickens was suggested. What about the Round Robin? If we make the change, there needs to be lots of publicity on it so both the participants and the public are aware of changes.

Anne Sheeter moved to have one species per day, with the exception of pigs, include outside clubs, FFA advisors, and work out logistics on how this will work at our November meeting. Seconded by Ramonda Thompson. Motion carried.

4-H Fair awards ceremony and photos was discussed. This year it was not a success. Suggested we start it earlier than 3 pm next year. The Photography Club would like to take photos and it was suggested that it be in the Sale barn rather than the show ring which was messy and made picture taking more difficult.

Business banners in the show ring during picture taking was discussed. This year there was a problem that was taken care of promptly.

A Rate of Gain contest was suggested for next year. Would this take the place of the Carcass contest or be in addition? All animals would need to be weighed on certified scales on the same date. If weighed on weekends, weights need to be called in to the office on Monday. Lee McConnell agreed to travel to outlying areas for the weigh in. Criteria for days on feed by species will need to be agreed upon no later than January and all clubs advised.

Fair Projects were discussed. The OYA has agreed to build a lattice photo display for the 4-H building for next year. It was suggested that we prioritize our list of projects and write a letter of recommendation to the Fair Board with suggestions on what we see as major points to consider. Our list is: #1 Sale Ring Grandstand (cost share with Fair Board); #2 Cover Beef Scales and Pig Scales; #3 PA System. Lee will cover the beef scale temporary to keep our the water. It was suggested that the PA system might be a good Eagle Scout or Senior Project for someone.

The fires this summer with the fairgrounds used by the fire crews caused a number of problems due to access being denied to anyone other than fire personnel. It was necessary for us to cancel our State Qualifying 4-H Horse Show as we were denied access to the arena even though it was not being used and a ranch horse rodeo was granted access the next week. In event this should reoccur, we will ask that 4-H access to the arena for scheduled shows be written into the contract in future years. It was suggested that we could use the south exit road from the fairgrounds as our entry to the arena. The 2008 Horse Show has been scheduled for June 21.

Anne asked about the State Fair result for llamas. Nothing had been published on them. Shana advised that she had just received the results this week.

Record book judging was discussed. What about consistency in judging? Shana gives a training session before each judging. Individuals are assigned to judging just
one section of books so they are consistent in their judging. A sample permanent record is a guide to how it should be filled out. It was suggested that samples also be made of species records. Breeding projects continue from one year to next so it is not necessary to re-copy them each year. Shana will do workshops throughout the county to help leaders become more confident in advising their members on how to fill out pages.

Becky Cunningham advised that she has a revolving award for the rabbit clubs. There was a question about fiber arts and we will check on this.

The Horse leaders will have a meeting in February.

All leaders will receive a written notice of the Nov. 14 meeting at 6 pm with the agenda.

Fair Premium Book changes/corrections need to be in to Carrie Winsted at the Fair Office by January 1.

4-H Achievement Night evaluation: 76 lbs of food donated (about half of previous years). Do we need a different night or format? This year was an exception. Homecoming Week was moved up a week and many of our kids were involved at school. Consensus was to stay with same format.

4-H enrollment and recruitment is taking place now. All leaders and members must register for the new year. Packets for the new year for all leaders are available. We have election of officers in January. We need people willing to serve as President, Vice President and Secretary.

The 4-H Fundraising Dinner has been scheduled for March 1, 2008 at the Elks. We need a theme.

4-H Horse Bowl questions are due Nov. 1.

Older Youth Training and Pizza party – Nov. 27, 6 pm at Courthouse. Should we have one also at Crane? If so, we need to set a date.

New Leader Training – December or January. Shana will be in Fields Nov. 16. There will be no 4-H Leaders Meeting in December.

Shana Withee presented Lee McConnell with a “Thank you” poster signed by 4-H kids and leaders and a gift certificate in recognition of all the support and hard work he and Tiny Pedersen gave on our behalf at the Fair to keep things moving smoothly. Tiny Pedersen was not present to receive his poster and gift certificate and Shana will deliver it to him.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Corson, Secretary pro-tem