

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2024
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 5:58 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Brian Crain, Ted Forkum, Jim Newman, Jolene Burke Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: Annie Wooden, Rick Sanders, Juli Thurston, Tracy

Approval of Minutes from November Meeting – Jolene Burke made a motion to approve the November Meeting Minutes, Brian Crain 2nd the motion. Motion Passed

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items. There were no non-agenda comments

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

PRCA Convention Update was done by Brian and Kristy. They said that you learned some things from the breakout session classes, but more learned more by just talking with other committee members on what they do and how they do things. They found out that Ram would no longer be sponsoring the PRCA in 2025. Brian visited with another committee member from Utah and he let us know that they were having troubles with their tractor pulling their Black Widow Drag. He stated for us to look into a government lease with a local tractor dealer. We can lease it for 6 months out of the year and it is also works as advertising for the tractor dealer. Brian spoke with Kaleb Bennett about our shortage of bull riders in our Friday and Saturday night performances. Kaleb said not only is it a weekend that has a lot of other events going on for them to go to, but there is a shortage of up and coming bull riders. Kristy learned that the best way to promote our rodeo is with social media and not to advertise too far in advance. Kristy learned that not only is their grants to help fund the grounds and events, there are lodging taxes that we may be able to use. The board stated that this is where the Glacier Touring could help with grants for advertising costs. When Kristy got back from the PRCA Convention she called a few sponsors and they mentioned that they wanted to get my info so they can meet with me during the 2025 PRCA Convention regarding the 2026 sponsorship. Randy asked if Brian and Kristy thought that it was worth going down to the convention. They both said that it was worth going down.

The Montana Circuit Finals Sponsorship for the Hospitality Room is \$300 this year. The board asked what all is involved with the sponsorship and if it is worth it to sponsor. With the sponsorship the board gets discounted rodeo tickets, discounted hotel rooms, they get to hang a banner in the hospitality room where the meetings are and where everyone eats breakfast, and you get meal tickets for the committee breakfast. Randy said that he thought that it was worth it because you get to visit with the Montana circuit committees and the Montana contestants. Normally there is a jacket sponsorship that we do, but it was not presented to us yet. Kristy is going to email the Circuit and find out if they are doing it again this year. The motion was made to sponsor the Hospitality Room and the Jackets was made by Brian Crain and 2nd by Jolene Burke. Motion passed.

The contracts that are open for bidding this year are the Demo contract and the Parking contract. The board voted to open them up for bidding and have the demo contract be due to us by the next board meeting on January 8th. Kristy asked that the parking contract be open longer to give people a chance to get their numbers prepared to present to the board. Rick Sanders asked what exactly the board wanted in the bid proposal. Randy explained to him that he needed to provide us what he is going to charge along with what he is going to do in that fee. He will also need to include what he wants from the fair in his bid. Kristy presented a rough proposal from Tim Denson for the board to look over. We will choose the winning contract at the January 8th meeting.

Kristy found some bleachers online that came up for auction. She asked the board if they wanted her to bid on them and how much she could bid. The new ones that were looked up earlier in the year were smaller and would cost over \$24,000 each. We would need 4 of the new ones to make up the size of the 2 that were up for auction. The board presented a dollar amount of \$25,000 for each bleacher with a 10% leeway to go over if needed. There was a motion made by Brian Crain to bid and purchase the set of bleachers at the given amount discussed. Jolene Burke 2nd the motion. Motion Passed

Kristy has been in contact with the company that schedules and helps with the concerts at Happys Inn and the Halfway House. Kristy asked the board if she can sign a contract with the company and hire a band for the 4th of July and for the Fair. The board said that they thought that it was not a good idea to pay that much for a concert for the 4th of July, but they were interested in getting one in for the fair. They gave Kristy permission to sign the contract with the company and start getting in names of people and the prices that would be able to make the dates of our fair. Once Kristy gets the information in, she needs to get hold of the board so the dollar amount and name of the band can be discussed and voted on. The company does charge 10% of the act fee, and then we have to pay for the stage and sound fee on top of the act fee.

Julie Thurston was here to talk for the 4-H. She stated that the Jason Hannah sign that goes at the end of the small arena is just about done. Julie said that she had to resubmit the grant for the funds to go towards the sheep and swine barn roof, so they are still in process. She will get with the board when they are in to discuss further. 4-H enrollment are the same as this time last year, with the amount of goats, sheep, rabbits, and poultry being up, and the beef and horses are the same. The 4-H is going to start charging a stall fee for the breeding animals and asked if the board wanted to start charging a stall fee for the open class animals. The board was against the idea of charging the open class and said that it may turn them away from entering if we do charge them.

Fair Managers Report – Kristy has the small dumpster at the beach shut down until June 1st and we will not see a bill on that until then. Kristy found a new supplier for the hand soap that we needed for our soap dispensers since the last supplier discontinued it. She ordered a bunch of it to have on hand, along with other supplies that were needed in the pavilion and for the grounds. She has all the MT Circuit Finals rodeo tickets purchased and hotel rooms booked for next month. Kristy has been in touch with Brenda at Blackfoot on getting internet out at the announcers stand and the Secretary office so we are able to use it for all of our events and not just the cowboy channel. She is waiting to hear back from her. The commissioners contacted Kristy on a large Federal Grant that they would like to use towards updating the power issues and adding more power to the grounds, along with possibly separating the

water and irrigation lines. Kristy is working with Josh Smith from Smith Electric on getting bids for updating the power in the food concession area, adding more power posts in the Commercial Vendor area, putting plug ins in the equipment shed for the equipment during the winter, and updating and adding 30 and 50 amp to the 4-H camping area. Kristy has also been working with Tony Ferlan on the water and irrigation line bid. Once all bids are submitted to the commissioners and a decision is made, Kristy will let the board know. Since RAM is no longer a sponsor, Kristy has been working with Ken Saner with FORD to become our official sponsor of our rodeos. Ken is excited about it and is presenting it to FORD for a sponsorship of \$5,500. He will get back with Kristy when he finds out what FORD decides. Kristy has been in contact with sponsors and left messages with them. When she called Coors, she was told that she needs to call back next week to discuss the sponsorship and to be put on a list to be contacted for a meeting with them during the 2025 PRCA Convention. This is another important reason to attend the PRCA Convention in Las Vegas.

The board asked Kristy to look into trying to get sponsorships from major hat making companies such as American, Atwood, Stetson, and Resistol; and to look into finding a major tractor dealer such as Massey Ferguson, New Holland, Kubota, and John Deer.

CLAIMS:

Motion to approve claims made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Ted Forkum

FINANCIALS:

Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ted Forkum, 2nd by Brian Crain