

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2026
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:03 pm by Randy Woods

Present: Randy Woods, Brian Crain, Jim Newman, Rick Sanders, Michelle McGuigan, Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: Wendy Carr, John Holland, Dan Rowan, Jamie Schmidt, Ed Moreth

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2026 Meeting made by Rick Sanders, 2nd by Brian Crain – Motion passed

NON-AGENDA: Randy Woods called for public comments on non-agenda items. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Randy went over the current budget with the board and let them know that we had a meeting with Nicola McDonald in the treasurer's office about how much we were off and what needed to be fixed. Kristy is working with Nicola and Michelle on making sure that all of the items were put in the correct line items in hopes to lower the purchase services negative dollar amount. Kristy said that part of the amount that is in the purchase services line item is the rooms for this year's rodeo personnel which normally comes out of next years budget after the fair is over. Randy stated that he believes that there is enough money left in the budget to finish out the year and do the repairs that are needed and if not, the county could do a budget amendment. Dan Rowan spoke up and said that it is not easy to do a budget amendment and thinks that the board needs to watch the spending until the new budget comes out.

Randy read the bids for the Security, Cleaning, Ticket Usher, and the EMS contracts out loud to the board. The board only received one (1) bid for each contract except for the Ticket Usher, we received two (2) for.

First to be read was the Security bid from Gates Private Security in the amount of \$17,500. Brian Crain researched the company and they have really great reviews and look to be very professional. There was a motion to approve the bid for Gates Security made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Brian Crain – Motion passed.

Second to be read was the Cleaning bid from Gray Services in the amount of \$17,900. This is the same people that have been cleaning in the past, just under new ownership. There was a motion to approve the bid for Gray Services made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion passed.

Third to be read were the Ticket Usher bids. The first of the two was from the South Side Sparks in the amount of \$3,400 and they have been the ones that have been doing it for us in the past. The second of the two was from Heart of Home Falls Chapel in Thompson Falls in the amount of \$3,400. There was a motion to approve the bid from the South Side Sparks made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Brian Crain – Motion passed.

Fourth to be read was EMS bid from the Plains Community Ambulance in the amount of \$4,000. There was a motion made to approve the bid from the Plains Community Ambulance made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion passed

The board relooked at the new sound system for the main arena. Kristy said that she is not comfortable with doing the system that was submitted if there aren't going to be any speakers put on the east

grandstand side of arena. Kristy is concerned that the sound of the speakers on the west side of the arena will not be enough sound to reach to the other side of the arena over the cars and crowd noise. The board asked Kristy to do research to see what other fairs have that put-on demolition derby to see what they have and how it works.

Kristy let the board know that she had planned on having a concrete slab poured where the hospitality tent is going to go. She had Hi Land Construction come by to look at it and they gave her an estimate cost of \$1,800 for it. They can work it in at the same time as the concrete needed for the demo derby car ramp. Kristy said that it can wait until July, but the electrician needs the concrete work to be done before he can put in the lines for the power, and that has a deadline of June 30th to be done. There was a motion to approve the concrete work for the hospitality tent and the demo derby car ramp made by Rick Sanders, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion passed

4-H REPORT: Wendy Carr introduced the new County Extension Agent, Jamie Schmidt. Jamie started out by going over what the 4-H kitchen has planned for this year's fair. They have a hog and a beef donated for the food at the fair, and they are also working with Carissa McNamar on putting in a garden so they can serve all fresh local items at this year's fair. Jamie passed on some questions that were asked by the kitchen board to the fair. They would like to come in and paint the window trim a green color and would like to have some picnic tables moved closer to the pavilion. Kristy let her know that she was fine with the trim being painted, but let them know that she is in the process of getting a grant to redo the inside walls and trim of the pavilion, so it will not stay that way. Also, Jim Newman asked her if the kitchen didn't make any money this year and they don't continue it in 2027, do they want to go thru the work and the expense of painting the trim. Jamie said that she will let them know the board's response and see what they wanted to do. Kristy said that she will put tables closer to the pavilion, but we may have to wait until all of the vendors are in place first. Jamie and Wendy asked if they were able to hand out samples of the food that the kitchen was serving, and the board said that isn't allowed from the food vendors, so we can not allow it for the kitchen. Jamie asked Kristy if she could send her the copy of the food vendor contract so she can look at it. Also, it would not be allowed by the sanitarian either. They asked if they could have a sandwich board outside of the pavilion with their menu on it and the board ok'd that for them. The board also suggested putting a sandwich board in the 4-H area with the kitchen menu so people can see it when they are walking thru. Wendy gave the board a breakdown on the number of 4-H exhibitors and entries from 2021 thru 2025. It showed that the number of exhibitors has doubled by almost half and the entries have doubled. With the \$3,000 that the fair gives for premium money, the dollar amount that each ribbon is worth goes down with the increase of exhibitors and entries. They would like for the kids to receive more money for the ribbons that they receive. They asked the board if they could put an increase of premium money in their budget for this coming year if their budget received allowed it.

FAIR MANAGERS REPORT: Kristy gave the board a report showing the income brought in since the last meeting. From the February meeting until this meeting, there has been \$8,470 in deposits made. Kristy also gave the board a report on what rodeo sponsors have paid up to date. The dollar amount that has been received in rodeo sponsorships that has been received year to date is \$24,500.

Kristy filled the board in on how the house repairs were coming along and that she is slowly working on them. She has the bathroom trim and the base board to do in two of the rooms. She will need help with putting in a couple of light fixtures, a few outlets and light switches, and putting in all of the interior

doors. She will see if her husband can come help her with these things since Derek refuses to help and there is no money in the budget to hire it out.

Kristy let the board know that the new caretaker, Dallas, has already turned in his two weeks' notice because he is unable to perform the duties because he has to have shoulder and knee surgery. With Dallas leaving, Kristy has asked Derek to help her with the house and he refuses to help.

Derek has been keeping up with all of the leaves and has already mowed the front part of the grounds.

Kristy let the board know that she was told by a contractor that was there working on the bleachers that when we had the huge wind event, the SE grandstand roof was lifting up almost 3 feet and coming back down. Also, the tower that the arena lights are on is not anchored down very well because it is moving around also. Kristy told the board that she also witnessed the structure that the lights are mounted on that was on top of the NE grandstand was also moving around with the heavy winds along with several pieces of tin. These will need to be repaired as soon as possible so we avoid them being blown off.

CLAIMS: Motion to approve claims made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion passed

FINANCIALS - Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion passed

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made to adjourn made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion passed - Adjourn 7:35 PM