

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025
Fair Pavilion, 30 River Rd, Plains MT

Called to order at 6:00 pm by Randy Woods

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

Also Present: Ed Moreth, Tracy Scott, John Holland, Rick Sanders, Juli Thurston

Approval of Minutes from the December Meeting – Brian Crain made a motion to approve the minutes, Jim Newman 2nd – Motion Passed

NON-AGENDA: Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items - None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Fair Commission tabled the appointing of the new Vice President until the next meeting until the Fair Commission can take look at the Bylaws and go over if the Chairman position also needs to be reappointed. Brian Crain made a motion to table until the next meeting, Jolene Burke 2nd. – Motion Passed.

The Commissioners have appointed Rick Sanders to the new position on the Fair board. He will take his spot on the board at our next meeting.

There were two (2) bids placed for putting on the Demo Derby. One of them was 406 Promotions, who have been doing it for the last several years. The other was Rick Sanders, but due to the fact that Rick now has a seat on the board; he had to withdraw his contract due to it being a conflict of interest. The board accepted the bid from 406 Promotions with the stipulation of some changes to the proposal. The board asked if they could do \$10 off per seat instead of \$10 a seat. We wanted to make it clear that the camping is for the drivers only and not family members. We want to move tear-down of the arena to the daylight hours on Monday following the fair instead of directly after the demo derby. It is in the contract that 406 Promotions is to provide their own fire extinguishers, but they have been using the ones that are here that belonged to the Lions Club. We ask that 406 promotions pay to recertify the Lions Club's fire extinguishers instead of the fair commission paying for it. We would also like to set a noise curfew for the demo area for Midnight. Brian Crain made a motion to approve the changes that were asked for, Jim Newman 2nd the motion. – Motion passed

It is know that it is a safety issue for the people to go back and forth from the West Bleachers to the Beer Garden, so the fair board would like to make the West Bleachers Non-Drinking during the Demo Derby. The Fair Board would also like not to sell tickets for the West Bleachers during the Rodeo Performances if possible. They would like them to be for the rodeo contestant's families to sit.

4-H Report – Julie Thurston reported that they have 14 steers signed up for the 2025 year. That is 5 less steers than what had signed up in 2024. All of the other animal signups are higher in 2025 than in 2024.

Juli has been working with the Commissioners for funding to replace the remainder of the hog and sheep barn roof. Clark Fork Custom Metals is the one who is going to be replacing the roof. She said that she was able to get a grant of \$4,000 to go towards the replacement of the hog and sheep barn roof. Juli said that she could use the grant money to go towards any repairs that come up during the roof is being replaced. Kristy also asked for Juli look at the Horse Barn roof to see if some of the Grant money be used to repair what is needed on that building.

Fair Managers Report – Kristy has also been working with the Commissioners for funding for new electrical in the food vendor area, putting plug ins in the equipment shed, and putting a plugin in the office for the heater so we can get rid of the extension cord. She had also asked that the 4-H camping area also have the electrical updated to allow for more amps on each pole. The Commissioners approved all of the electrical bids except for the one that is for the 4-H camping area. The new electrical in the Food Vendor area will allow Kristy to place the food trucks in a line and have them back to back so it gets rid of the congestion and makes a good flow of people at each food booth. It is also for adding more plugins along the main lane into the fair so we can have food vendors there that can use a smaller amp plugin.

Kristy is working on getting bids for the Pavilion to submit for the T-Mobile for grant up to \$50,000. The grant will be used towards putting sheetrock on the walls and using the old roofing off the hog and sheep barn as a wainscot. The broken windows and screens will be replaced, we will put a vapor barrier on the ceiling in the main part of the hall, new trim around the windows, fresh coat of paint, new counter tops in the bathrooms, replace old sinks in the kitchen, along with replacing the countertops where needed in the kitchen. We will also redo the trim on the outside of the building and get rid of the wasp nests.

Kristy has still not heard from Ford on their decision to be our main dealer sponsor for the Rodeos.

Kristy asked the board if they would like to add Breakaway Roping to our Rodeos. They suggested that she talk to the stock contractor to see if it is possible to do. The decision will be discussed and voted on at the February Meeting.

CLAIMS – Motion to approve Claims made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Brian Crain – Motion Passed

FINANCIALS – Motion to approve financials made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Jolene Burke – Motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn made PM by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm