

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 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 (by Phone), John Holland, Dan Rowan, Leslie Baldwin, Sandy Everson, Taylor Salmi

Approval of Minutes from the January 14, 2026 Meeting – Motion to approve the January 14, 2026 meeting minutes made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle McGuigan – Motion Passed

**NON-AGENDA:** Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items – There were none

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Taylor Salmi started by saying that she never heard back from the board about the letter that she had wrote to them right after the fair. Kristy assured her that she presented it to the board and they did discuss it. Kristy told Taylor that Randy said that he was supposed talk to her about the board's decision and to not worry about getting hold of her. Taylor talked about the emails back and forth with her and the fair office. She was concerned about the fair office not restricting the menu items that the food vendors are selling so there is no competing between them. The fair office replied to her that we would not limit all burger sales from the fair because we have had some complaints about her burgers being taken out of a crock pot and being barely warm when served. Kristy let Taylor know that the office is looking at all of the menus that are coming in and will do their best to limit the amount of duplicate items being served. Kristy stated that the office does not have the time to go around to each food vendor at the fair to see if the food trucks are serving additional items that they did not put on their contract. Randy let Taylor know that he was sorry about the emails back and forth with the office, that they should have been more professional. Taylor asked if the board could lower the percentage or have a set fee for the nonprofits to help them out. She has to have about 100 volunteers to help in her booth during the fair and has to get all of the products fully donated or they do not make anything after they pay the fairs 20% fee. The board came forward and stated that they would have a few members go around monitoring the food trucks to make sure they are serving only the items they gave to us. They want to see if this helps with the sales at the nonprofit booths before they look at anything further.
2. Leslie and Sandy from the Golden Circle of Champions gave the board a report on how their first year of the events went last year. They had all kinds of hiccups with things not going as planned. Leslie let the board know that there were a lot of people that would not work with them to make the events successful. She did say that the Sanders County Fair was the smoothest going event for them. Kristy and the board stated that we would like to have them come back to our fair and asked if there was a contract that they can do up so we know what all they are doing and what all the board has to do to make their event go smoother. Kristy and Leslie agreed to work together on a contract to make sure everything is taken care of.
3. Kristy called Wendy Carr so she could be available to discuss the 4-H MOU with the board. Randy went over all of the changes proposed by Kristy and by the livestock board. The first change that Kristy made was under I. e. where it says that the 4-H and families could park anywhere parking was available if they had a parking pass. Kristy changed it to there should not be any parking in the contestant parking area starting on Thursday morning, that it was for the rodeo and demolition derby participants only. The livestock board asked for an exception on Thursday morning when they need to have vehicles in and out of there for setting up the panels and unloading and loading the cattle for the 4-H show. In I. g. the 4-H would like to take out the work **exclusively** for 4-H since all of their events are open to the families and the public. In II. a. the 4-H would like to add that all restrooms and all shower facilities in the 4-H midway will be cleaned by the fairgrounds prior to 4-H

use for the fair. Kristy stated that the first year she was here she was told that they were cleaned so she did not do it, and last year she cleaned the bathrooms really well and made sure all of the toilets were fixed and or replaced before fair. The showers should have already been cleaned because of a family reunion went on and they were supposed to clean them. Kristy stated that she would make sure that they were cleaned before the week of the fair. In II. h. the 4-H council is wondering if it is possible to increase the premium amount of \$3,000 because they have more kids and premiums to pay out so the amount each kid gets isn't that much. The board said they could not address this question right now because they have to wait until the new budget comes out. In III. J. the 4-H council would like to not provide the free meal passes to the board members, fair management, and the commissioners anymore. This is because they are short of funds and they have to pay for many kids to go to state events. The Commissioners stated that they are fine with giving up their meal passes and Kristy stated that her office did not need them either. Everyone on the board was fine with giving up their meal passes except for Randy. Jim Newman asked if the board could table any of the decisions being made so they had more time to look over the MOU. It was agreed upon by the board that any decisions that need to be made on the MOU were tabled until the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4-H Report:** Wendy said that there was nothing to report on for the 4-H report.

**Fair Managers Report:** Kristy provided the board with all of the deposits from the December meeting to the January meeting and the fair office brought in \$2,370.06. From the January meeting to the February meeting the fair office brought in \$1,123.00. Kristy let the board know that all of the Commercial Vendor contracts and the Food Vendor contracts were out and are now starting to slowly come in.

Kristy has sent out all of the sponsorship letters and we are now getting a bunch of payments back from them. Kristy let the board know that she has signed up for The American Hat Company grant program where they will sponsor \$250 for each night of rodeo if the announcer announces that the prayer and the National Anthem is presented by them.

The Request for bids on the Security, Ticket Usher, Cleaning, and EMS went to the papers on January 28<sup>th</sup> and will be printed every 2 weeks until April 1<sup>st</sup>. All bids that are received will be opened and voted on at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kristy talked to Joel at Studs and he would like to sponsor his concerts again this year during the fair. He would like to start on Wednesday with a Christen band and then book other bands for after the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night rodeos. Joel asked if Kristy had found someone to sing the National Anthem yet, and since she has not, he would like to see if each singer in the band would like to sing it on the night that they are performing. With this, we could have Bob Tallman announce that each band is playing after the rodeo in hopes to have more spectators.

Kristy let the board know that the Glacier Crossroads is no longer a motel so she had to book rooms at the Dew Duck Inn for the rodeo personnel. The Dew Duck only had 5 rooms available, so she booked 2 of them for Powder River and 3 of them for Walton Scoreboards. She had to rent an Airbnb for the 3 rodeo judges, which was cheaper than 1 room at Quinn's for the 3 nights.

Kristy let the board know that she and Lisa were working on the house and have it all primed with Kilz and were going to start on painting this week. She hasn't purchased any of the items for the house yet due to the Dew Duck Inn taking full payment for the rooms needed for the fair. Kristy let the board know that she plans to purchase everything from Lowes and will take her trailer in and pick everything up at once. John Holland asked Kristy if she could source a few things locally at Studs since they are a sponsor and do a lot for the fair and community. Kristy let him know that she would look at what all they could get in for her. Jim Newman asked if Kristy was able to find the flooring for the house. Kristy let him know that the current flooring in the house was purchased at Gambles in Plains and they no longer sell any flooring so it may be hard to find. Randy asked Kristy to try to find out what the name of the flooring is and he would try to source it out and get it in for her. Jim Newman recommended checking with Kim Earhart to see if he would be able to install it for us.

Kristy gave an update on some of the events that are coming in this summer. There will be a Circus on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the High School Rodeo is going to be on May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, there are 3 family reunions scheduled so far, there is a horsemanship clinic in June, the 4-H is doing their Horse Camp, the Treasure State Cutting is scheduled for June, and the Pavilion is rented just about every weekend. Randy and the board let Kristy know that she needed to make sure to not schedule events that interfere with her show and personal life, and she needs to take time for herself and should ask for help from the board.

Dan Rowan asked Kristy if she was going to make sure the electrical for the RV's and the Replay screen will be taken care of before fair. Kristy let him know that she has been in contact with Smith Electric and went over with him what all we need to do first thing this spring. It includes an extra 50 amp on the electrical building next to the Rodeo Secretary office, adding a 50 amp on first post on the stock pens, adding electrical for the hospitality food area, and adding an additional plug in in the beer garden or on the post behind the roping chutes. The money for this is coming from what was left over from federal money given to the county and can only go towards electrical.

**CLAIMS:** Motion to approve claims made by Jim Newman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Crain – Motion Passed

**FINANCIALS:** Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michelle McGuigan – Motion Passed

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Jim Newman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Crain – Motion Passed