

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
March 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, John Holland

Approval of Minutes from the February 11, 2026 Meeting – Motion to approve the February 11, 2026 meeting made by Brian Crain, 2nd 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: Kristy let the board know that she has a fair food vendor, The Country Snack Shack, that is interested in doing the meals for the hospitality tent food for us. Kristy asked the board if they would like her to have them do the meals. The board is very interested in them doing the meals, but would like to get the pricing from them first then they will decide.

Rick presented a quote on what the speaker set up will cost to do the upgrade to the sound system speakers around the arena. The quote came in at \$10,865.75. and Dan Miles offered his time to come down and install everything for us. Randy checked prices really quick online of just the speakers, and the quote that we received beats the online pricing. The board then looked at the financial report to make sure they had enough in the budget to purchase the speaker equipment. Then then asked commissioner John Holland what account he thought it would come out of. John Holland then relayed a message from commissioner Dan Rowan that there was a problem with our budget and that there was not enough to purchase the equipment. The board let Rick know that they would like to hold off on purchasing the equipment until they review the budget.

The board relooked at the MOU that the fair has with the 4-H that was discussed in the February 11th meeting. Randy asked the board if they had time to review the changed to the MOU and what their thoughts were. The board was good with all of the changes to the MOU except for the increase of the premium that the fair gives the 4-h for their premium payouts during the fair. There was a motion made to approve the changes to the MOU made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion Passed.

4-H Report: Wendy Carr gave the 4-H report to the board. She let the board know that the goat show is going to be moved to Thursday morning. The horse show will still be on Thursday as normal. The open class will also be judged on Thursday. The 4-H kitchen has a hog and a half beef donated for the dinning hall for this year's fair. The kitchen is looking for ways to save money since the kitchen loses money every year. They have some ideas and will try having the kitchen open for one more year during the fair to see if the ideas work. Randy mentioned to Wendy to let them know to promote and sell only breakfast instead of lunch and dinner so they don't have to compete with the food trucks in the morning because there are no breakfast vendors during the fair.

Fair Managers Report: Kristy presented the board with a thank you card from the Golden Circle of Champions. Kristy let the board know that all of the painting is done in the house except for a small area, the appliances will arrive on Thursday the 12th, and the carpet is scheduled to be installed on March 24th. There is a move in date of April 1st for the new caretaker. Kristy gave the board the up-to-date cost that has been spent on the remodel of the house. The cost as of right now is \$10,360.16, so it went over budget by \$2,360.16. She let the board know that the carnival and the demo derby contracts are all done and signed for this year. The contractor started on the south bleachers and will continue to work on them depending on weather. The other contractor for the stair cross over has installed the steel beams for the platform and should be here to complete it on Friday the 13th depending on the weather. Kristy asked Wendy if she could ask the 4-H leaders to have their kids come up with some more fair themes and give them to her so the board can decide on one. Kristy reported that the fair has brought in \$19,375 since the February 11th meeting. Also, she reported that the fair has received a total of \$19,800 in rodeo sponsorships so far this year. Michelle McGuigan asked if there were any new arena events on the schedule for this year. Kristy let her know that there was nothing new for this year in the arena and that there would not be an event happening at the fairgrounds during Plains Day since the fair has lost money on it the last 2 years.

CLAIMS: Motion to approve claims made by Jim Newman, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion Passed

FINANCIALS: Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion Passed
Adjournment at 7:13 PM