

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

Called to order at 6:00 pm by Randy Woods

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

Also Present: John Holland, Wendy Carr, Dan Rowan

Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2025 Meeting: Motion to approve the September 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Rick Sanders

NON-AGENDA:

Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items – There Were None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Kristy asked if the commissioners had anyone in mind for the board position. John Holland said that Kristy had to get hold of Rich Wallace in HR to advertise the position. Kristy said that she would do that right away.

Kristy presented the board with bids for the replacement of the Catwalk from the grandstands to the north bleachers and the bid to replace the boards on the south bleachers. The catwalk bid was \$20,854.88 and the south bleacher bid was \$15,264.11. Kristy filled out a grant application for both of the bids through the Montana Pilot Tourism Grant Program in hopes to get the projects covered under that instead of coming out of her budget. Rick asked if there was a deadline on getting bids in, he had someone that may be able to submit one to us on the catwalk project. Kristy let him know that there was no deadline on it and to have his contact get hold of her. Randy asked Kristy to get him pictures of the bucking chute platform and of the underneath of the grandstands so he can email it to the engineer to look at so he knows what he has to prepare for. Kristy asked Randy if she could get her the contact information of the engineer so she can also have contact with him so that she could be kept in the loop on what is happening. Once Kristy receive the status on the seating areas, she can start looking for bids to get the projects going of repairing the grandstands and redoing the bucking chute seating and announcers stand.

4-H Report: Wendy Carr said that Ag day was a big hit and went well. She thanked the board for the use of the grounds and the buildings for the event. Brian Crain reported that the livestock board said that the paint for the hog and sheep barn cost a lot more than they anticipated. The livestock board is asking if the fair would be willing to cover half of the cost of the paint. Kristy asked if she could get all of the receipts for the paint so that she can look at the costs and then it could be voted on at the next meeting. Randy let Wendy know that the livestock board can contact him if they need paint and he can present it to different companies to see if he can get it donated or at a discounted rate so it will not cost the 4-H nothing or as much. Wendy said that she would be contacting Randy in 2026 for the paint for painting the horse barn.

Fair Managers Report: Kristy reported that the Stock horse show this last weekend was her last event for the year. They had a great turn out and are excited to come back next year.

Kristy let the board know that she looked into the service dog laws a little bit and compared it to therapy or emotional support animal laws. Service dogs have to be allowed at public places and events. We are not allowed to ask them any questions except whether the animal is a service dog and what tasks the animal performs for them. The only time that we can ask the service dog to leave the grounds is if it is aggressively barking, off it leash running around, or if it poses a direct threat to the public or animals. Kristy pointed out that the only time it needs to have a vest on is if the dog is in training. Once they are graduated, they no longer are required to wear the vest. She let the board know that there is a difference between a service dog and therapy or emotional support animals. We do not have to allow emotional support or therapy animals on to the grounds at the fair. We are allowed to ask them to leave. Wendy read the letter that she received from MSU and it said the same thing about service dogs. Wendy did say that the MSU lawyers are looking into the laws about being able to keep all dogs including service dogs out of the barns where the animals are. Once she gets that she will let the board know. As of right now, they are planning to put "NO Dogs Allowed" signs on all of the animal barns.

Kristy mentioned that the fair was in September this year and wanted to make sure the board still wanted to keep it on Labor Day weekend this year. They said yes, that we would not be moving the date at all.

Kristy has the isle letters painted on the north bleachers in hopes to avoid confusion on where people are sitting during the demolition derby. She also has cleaned and stained the 2 decks on the pavilion and is planning on repainting the ramp area and the window trim of the pavilion before winter.

Kristy let the board know that she was able to get everything booked for the PRCA Convention. All of the hotel and airfare is also taken care of. She did let the board know that the South Point Hotel was all booked up so she had to get rooms at the hotel next to it and was not able to get the discount on them. Brian Crain asked Kristy if she remembered to contact the major sponsors to set up appointments to meet with them while she is down there. Kristy said that she was set up with Cinch and when she called a couple of others, they told her to call back towards the end of October because they have not started a list yet for the meetings.

Kristy let the board know what all contracts that are open for the 2026 fair. They are the Cleaning Contract, the EMT & Fire Contract, Usher Contract, and the Demolition Derby Contract if we decide not to bring back the one in 2025.

Kristy presented the final Fair Income/Expense Report to the Board. With the updated amounts on the expense side for Walton Scoreboards, the Hay Purchases, the Sheep, the Hospitality Tent Food, and the bill from UFFDA Montana. Also, the updated amounts on the Income side for the Thursday Rodeo Ticket Sales, and the Food Vendor Sales. The total brought in for the 2025 Fair was \$142,532.62, which is only \$3,960.62 less than brought in in 2024.

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

FINANCIALS: Motion to approve financials made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Rick Sanders – Motion Passed

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman – Motion Passed 6:53 adjourn