

Sanders County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 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, Tracy Scott

Approval of Minutes from the December 10, 2025 Meeting – Motion to approve the December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes made by Michelle McGuigan, 2nd by Brian Crain – Motion Passed

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

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Kristy asked the board to open up the bidding on the Security, Cleaning, EMT, and the Ticket Usher Contracts. She explained to the board that she made the needed changes to the Security contract that they asked for. Those changes were to have 2 officers at all times come in 9am in the mornings through 7am the Monday following the fair. She also upped the amount of officers on the Sunday of the Demo Derby from 5 officers to 8 officers for extra security. Kristy is in hopes that these changes prevents anything from happening at this years fair.
2. Kristy presented an option to the board that we can install instead of the walk thru gates that were agreed upon at the last meeting. John at Fencing Unlimited presented Kristy with an option of putting in removable Bollards in the gate entrances instead of locking the gates and having a walk thru gate. These Bollards would be put at the main gate entrance at the caretakers' house and they would be at the gate next to the beer garden that leads to the back. The Bollards at the beer garden gate will allow a spot to get through with a side by side, but not a vehicle. We will still need a walk thru gate on the roadside where the demo derby cars enter the grounds. The Bollards would insert into sleeve that is mounted flush with the ground and will be easily removed when they are not in use. There was a motion to approve the Bollards made by Brian Crain and 2nd by Rick Sanders. – Motion passed to have 2 of them install and have 1 walk thru gate installed.
3. Kristy only received 1 bid in for the production of the Demolition Derby. That bid was from Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports. The proposal bid reads as follows:

Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports Proposal for the 2026 Sanders County Fair Demolition Derby:

The Sanders County Fair Commission (SCFS) agrees to:

1. Furnish advertising, spectator ticket sales, ticket takers, ushers, arena lighting, jersey barriers, and other support mechanisms, as negotiated and agreed upon, for the event.
2. Furnish tickets and seating for drivers and pit crew for each car entered into the demolition derby with the total amount of seating available not to exceed one section with the section being closest to the pit area. See attached image
3. Furnish Porta-johns or other acceptable bathroom facilities at an agreed upon location.
4. Furnish a water truck to be operated by a fair employee or board member only.
5. Provide an adequate sound system.
6. Provide jersey barriers/ecology blocks for the arena.
7. Allow free camping and admission to the field for all derby participants.
8. The Sanders County Fair Commission reserves the right to have input on the rules for each class and the classes that will be ran.

Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports agrees to:

1. Furnish enough entries for the derby to produce good entertainment for the spectators.
2. Handle all business and pay concerned with the promotion, driver entries, pit passes, judges, referees, timers, announcer, music director, crowd entertainment, raffle and prizes, and driver's shirts. Provide all equipment associated with teching: to include lifts, pit lighting, technicians, air horns/sirens, fire extinguishers. Provide trophies, payouts, and personnel required for the arena and pit area. Perform all set up and teardown of the arena for the event.
3. Furnish insurance releases for all entrants and personnel employed or volunteering during the event to absolve the Sanders County Fair Commission of any responsibility and liability for personal injury or property damage during the event.
4. Complete the tear down and cleanup of the arena within 48 hours after the conclusion of the event to include removal of all cars, parts and equipment for the Sanders County Fairgrounds.
5. Pay all expenses incurred by the Contractor related to the production of the event.
6. Make every good faith effort to eliminate the draining of any and all oil-based fluids within the confines of the fairgrounds property.
7. Agree to pay a minimum of \$30,000 in prize money with no single class to pay more than \$10,000 for the winner.

For consideration of the aforementioned, the Sanders County Fair Commission agrees:

1. To pay Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports \$70,000 before the start of the event.
2. After ten (10) days following the event, if Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports fails to complete clean up as stipulated in the contract, a penalty of \$500 per day will be assessed until the requirements are met.

A motion to approve the Demolition Derby Proposal by Hit Hard or Go Home made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Rick Sanders. – Motion Approved

4. Kristy asked the board if she could bring Breakaway Roping to our rodeo this year. As of right now, we are one of the only rodeos in Montana that does not have Breakaway Roping in our rodeo. The extra costs would be \$4,500 for the prize money and the extra price to have the calves and trucking for them. It would be around \$7,000 total to add the breakaway roping to the rodeo. Kristy said the problem in the past was a place to put the extra calves, but she has come up with a plan to extend the current holding pens to make room for them. Michelle McGuigan and Kristy both let the board know that it could bring more contestants to our rodeo because the wives of most contestants are not only barrel racers, but also are also breakaway ropers. There was a motion to approve adding Breakaway Roping to our rodeo made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan. – Motion approved
5. Kristy let the board know that she has to put a lot of work into the caretaker's house before the new employee moves in. The walls need to be tape and mudded and painted, new flooring needs to be installed, and a cook stove, refrigerator, and a washer and dryer also need to be put in the house. Kristy gave the board an estimate of approximately \$7-7,500 for what it would cost to do everything. She is asking the board what dollar amount she has to spend on the improvements. The board let her know that she can spend up to \$8,000. There was a motion to approve Kristy to spend up to \$8,000 on the house improvements made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Jim Newman. - Motion approved
6. Wendy Carr gave the 4-H report. Wendy let the board know that she had decided to go to a part time status in the Ag Department. They now have a new agent, Jamie Schmidt from Plains, in the office that will be handling the majority of work, but Wendy will still be handling the Livestock part and the large acre projects.

Wendy let us know that the 4-H is still working on getting a grant for the electrical upgrade where the 4-H campers park during the fair. They would like to visit with Josh Smith to see if he would allow them to do some work in order to save them some money. They will keep Kristy updated on the project.

7. Kristy gave the board her managers' report. She has been in contact with Michelle at Carnival and she is going to be sending over an updated contract for Kristy to look at and get approved. One of the changes that Kristy asked Michelle to make was to see if she could open the Carnival at Noon on Friday instead of 4pm.

Kristy let the board know that she received a proposal from the engineer that was contacted to come out and inspect the bucking chute seating platform and the underneath of the grandstands. The proposal said that they will do the inspection for the amount of \$3,500, which Randy said was very reasonable. Kristy will let the board know what she finds out from them after they inspect everything.

Leslie with the Golden Circle of Champions contacted Kristy to see if they would be able to come back to our fair again this year. Everyone on the board would like to see them back, but she will need to be a lot more organized than before. Our board is too busy to be helping her with things that should have already been taken care of.

CLAIMS: Motion to approve claims made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Michelle McGuigan – Motion Passed

FINANCIALS-

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

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, 2nd by Rick Sanders – Motion passed
Adjourn at 6:47 p.m.