

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 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, Jolene Burke, Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: Tracy Scott, Ed Moreth, John Holland, Lisa Kinser

**Approval of Minutes from February 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting:**

Motion to approve the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes made by Brian Crain, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Burke. Motion Passed

**NON-AGENDA:**

Randy Woods called for public comments on Non-agenda items. Lisa Kinser asked if the fair could have signs made up for the Culinary Arts station. She needs a large one that says Culinary Arts and then a couple of smaller ones for Dried Foods and Best of Show. Kristy said that she would look at the other sections and get them printed up to match what was in the building.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Montana High School Rodeo Association asked if the Sanders County Fair would like to be a Go-Round Buckle Sponsor for \$250. Kristy explained to the board that she thought that it was important for us to sponsor them because the association has brought a rodeo to our fairgrounds before and they are continuing to do so. They are also going to plan on having the State Finals at our fairgrounds once the agreement term is up at their current location. There was a motion made to sponsor the rodeo by Brian Crain, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jolene Burke. Motion Passed

Kristy asked if she could contact HR to have the Administrative Assistant Position opened up. The board asked when she would like to have someone hired by. Kristy let the board know that she would like to have someone in the office by Mid-April to the beginning of May. Kristy also stated that she would need time to do interviews also, so she would like the position to be opened up right away. The board agreed and let Kristy know to go ahead and let HR know to get the job opened up.

Kristy asked if the board could open up the bidding for the Security during the fair. A couple of people asking if they could put in a bid for it has contacted her. Randy went over what all days and hours that we needed security at the fair. This is something that Kristy will need to put in the announcement or give people this information when they call to get information. Kristy is going to get the announcement wrote up and into the paper right away. It will be ran for 2 weeks, and then the bids will be opened at the next Fair board meeting on March 12, 2025.

Kristy went over what she and Lori Franzen discussed about the Breakaway Roping being added to the rodeo. Lori let us know that the calves that we use need to be PRCA approved calves. She said that we would need to make room in the chute area to hold an extra 10 calves each night of the rodeo. The board said that we might need to extend both of the current holding pens in order to make more room for the extra calves. Lori explained that if Powder River Rodeo hauls the calves that it would cost around \$7,000 then we would have an extra \$4,500 in payouts for that event. In addition, if we add breakaway roping we would have to change our slack time and days to accommodate everyone. Lori mentioned maybe adding more money to the bull riding to try to get more bull riders in. The question is, if we add more money to our bull-riding purse, would we have to raise the purse of the other events and go into a large rodeo category instead of a medium rodeo category. The board asked Kristy to call PRCA and find out how that works before we decide anything. Jolene is going to contact other stock contractors to see if they would have any PRCA approved calves that we can use for our rodeo and if they are able to haul them down themselves instead of having Powder River haul them. The

decision to add Breakaway Roping to our Rodeo be tabled until the meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup> so we can find out more information. Kristy stated that we would have to decide for sure at that time so that she can get the fees into PRCA and WPRA in time to avoid a higher fee.

Joel, the owner of Studs, contacted Kristy about him and a couple other businesses sponsoring smaller concerts to be held after the rodeos during the fair. Joel stated that he could do one night or three nights of live music after each night of rodeo. He would like to bring in a larger band, then have a local bands night, then possibly do a Christian music night. Joel has his own stage set up with a sound system that he could pull it right in to the arena and plug it in and be ready to go. It would not cost the fair anything to do and it would be free to the public to come in and watch. Joel thought that it would benefit the fair by keeping people on the grounds longer to do carnival rides, purchase more food, and possibly get more people to attend our rodeos. There was a motion made by Brian Crain to allow Joel to proceed with his plans on putting on the concerts after the 3 nights of rodeo during the fair, the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman. Motion passed

#### **4-H REPORT:**

Juli Thurston called Kristy to let her know that she would not be at this meeting and did not have anything to present for the 4-H Report. Juli did say that she was going to get another bid besides Smith Electric on the 4-H camping area, so she could put in for another grant to try and have the electrical upgraded in that area.

#### **FAIR MANAGERS REPORT:**

Kristy has put in a sponsorship request with American Hat Company, but has not heard anything from them yet. She stated that Resistol was on the PRCA list of sponsors, but they are not accepting any applications for sponsorships.

At a previous meeting, we talked about looking into a government lease or rental on a larger tractor. Kristy has contacted RDO and Kubota and they have not heard of anything like it before. RDO said that they would be willing to do a 6-month rental agreement with a minimum of 150 hours of use for \$65 an hour. They did say that if the tractor sold they would have to come and pick it up from us. We would be without a tractor until they had another one that would work for us. Kristy said that she did not think that would work for us. In contacting Kubota, they said that they would be willing to do a 2-year lease on a tractor for us, but that was all that they could do.

Kristy received a conformation from Ken Saner that FORD approved our sponsorship request. Therefore, FORD is now our main sponsor instead of RAM. The contract will be a total amount of \$5300 and will be a 3-year contract. The total going to the Fair for sponsorship is \$4500 and then they give \$800 to split between the stock contractor, announcer, pick up men, and the rodeo secretary.

Kristy has received one bid in so far for the Pavilion remodel. She needs to get more bids in in order to put in for the T-Mobile grant. She needs the grant in order to be able to afford the work that needs to be done on the pavilion.

Kristy asked the board if they would like to have Miss Rodeo Montana here during the Rodeo. She has a fee of \$150 for the first day that she is here and \$100 a day for every day after. She was at our Rodeo for one night last year and we did not pay her anything. The board said that we would not ask her to come to the rodeo this year. Kristy then asked if they would like Miss Teen Rodeo Montana to come to the rodeo this year. She does not have a fee, but asks for a donation to help support her trip. The board said that we would have her come to the rodeo this year.

Kristy let the board know that we will need to get eight rooms booked for the rodeo judges, and other rodeo help. The board said that they were fine with her going ahead and doing it.

Ray Brown from the CDC called and asked if we wanted to put in for a grant to have a master plan done. Ray states that it is easier to get grants if you have a master plan in place. He said that it normally costs anywhere from \$35,000 to \$50,000 to have a master plan done up. The board opted not to do the grant to have one done.

Kristy spoke with Neil, the owner of the Black Widow Groomer Company, and asked if there was a water system that could be purchased to go on it. Neil said that they built them at the company and we could purchase one for around \$1600 plus shipping. He said that he would forward the plans and steps to build one if we had someone who could do it. It would save us approximately \$500 plus the shipping fees if we could build it ourselves. Kristy will have Derek look at the plans to see if he is able to build a water system, and if he can't then Kristy will order one from the company.

Kristy said that she is starting to plan the Plains Day Event. She has the Treasure State Cutting Association going to be here competing on those days during Plains Day. She has talked to the Highlead in Thompson Falls to run the beer garden during the event. Blondeez food truck will be serving food that afternoon into the evening for the event. Kristy stated that Jacquie Roar would be interested in playing during the event, but her fee was \$4500 plus five meals and two motel rooms. She would only be interested in playing music for 1 ½ hours. The board did not like that idea and asked if I could find someone else to come in and do the music for a longer period. Kristy is going to check with the Kelly Hughes Band and Jolene had mentioned calling the 406 Band to see if they were open that day and would like to do it.

Kristy said that she was going to be out the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup>, but she will be available by phone and will bring the computer with her. The board asked who would be getting the mail just in case we receive bids for the Demo Derby in the mail. Kristy said that McNeil's check the mail and someone could stop by and check with them when they come to the meeting to see if there were any bids that came in. Kristy is going to attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting over the phone to take the minutes.

**CLAIMS:**

Motion to approve the claims made by Brian Crain, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman. Motion Passed

**FINANCIALS:**

Motion to approve financials made by Jolene Burke, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Crain. Motion Passed

**ADJOURNMENT: 7:05 Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman. Motion Passed