

Sanders County Fair Board  
Meeting Minutes  
November 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, Kristy Sheehan

Also Present: John Holland, Ed Moreth, Tracy Scott, Rich Wallace

Approval of Minutes from the October 8, 2025 Meeting: Motion to approve the October 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman

**NON-AGENDA:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Kristy introduced Michelle McGuigan as the newest board member. Kristy said that the board is not responsible for choosing or hiring the board members, that the commissioners are the ones who do the hiring. When John Holland was asked how many applicants they received for the position, he said one (1), and that was Michelle's. Randy stated that Michelle is a good addition to the fair board because of her knowledge of what goes on during the fair and how things should be done. Kristy added that it is nice to have Michelle on the board because of her experience with the 4-H and Rodeo aspects of the fair.

Kristy let the board know that Kim McNeil had given his resignation letter and that they will be done and out of the house by December 21, 2025. Kristy asked the board if she could open up the position to be advertised for hiring for it. The position would be advertised right now as 25 hours a week during the summer and 15 hours a week during the winter. The position would include the house as well. The job description would be to maintain the grounds, be security, and park campers. Rich Wallace stated that He and Kristy added that the applicant needed to have carpentry skills in order to be considered for the position due to all of the work that needs to be done on the grounds. Kristy let the board know that if she did not receive any interest in the part time position that her and Rich will look at a different option for opening it up to a full time position. The first review of applicants will be mid-December and the position will be open until filled.

Kristy gave the news to the board that our ground has won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Justin Boots Best Footing for the WPRA. The award will be given during the PRCA Convention in Las Vegas at the Star Celebration Luncheon. Kristy asked if the board would be ok with her taking Jolene Burke to Las Vegas with her so she could be there with her to receive the award. Jolene has been a big part of helping Kristy clean up the arena and getting it safe for everyone. She was also the one who was running the tractor the whole week of fair prepping the grounds for the 3 nights of rodeo. Kristy had planned to take her assistant to Las Vegas so she could learn more about the sport and get a better understanding of what goes on, but her assistant gave up her opportunity to go for Jolene so she could go. Kristy asked that if the board approved Jolene to go, what all would they pay for such as Flights, Hotel, and NFR tickets? There was a motion to allow Jolene to go to Las Vegas with Kristy and the fair will pay for the flight, hotel, and rodeo ticket made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Sanders – Motion Passed

Kristy let the board know that she received the information on the sponsorship of the Hospitality room at the MT Circuit Finals in January. The sponsorship is \$300 and we send them our banner to put up in the room so they can recognize the sponsors of the hospitality room. Kristy asked the board if they would like to sponsor the room again this year. There was a motion to approve the sponsorship of the Hospitality room at the MT Circuit Finals by Jim Newman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Crain – Motion passed

Kristy had filled out and submitted the grant applications for both of the Catwalk bid and the south bleacher bid through the Montana Pilot Tourism Grant Program in hopes to get the projects covered under that instead of coming out of her budget. Taylor from the Montana Tourism got back to Kristy and asked if she could ask the board if they would be willing to cover the remaining balance if the grant did not cover all of the bid amounts on the projects. The board said that they would be willing to look at the difference owed and vote on them at that time, but they were positive that they would be able to cover the difference if needed.

Rick Sanders presented the board with a new contract proposal from Hit Hard or Go Home Motorsports. It is the same as last year's contract except they are asking for the whole end section of the West bleachers in the contract and they lowered the contract amount from \$71,000 to \$70,000 to reflect the additional seats asked for. Rick had mentioned that they would not be using the logs anymore because of the mess that they left in the arena for cleanup. He received a price for ecology blocks from TCI to replace the logs. TCI would donate a portion of the blocks and then we could purchase the rest of them at half price. It is a safer and cleaner way to block off the derby area for the cars. There was a motion to approve the contract and ecology blocks made by Brian Crain and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Sanders – Motion Passed

**4-H Report:** There was no one present to give a report.

**Fair Managers Report:** Kristy let the board know that she gave them all of the updated A/R reports since fair because she has not had time to do them until now.

Kristy has redone all of the vendor spots and moved all of the nonprofit vendors to a different area. There were multiple complaints this last fair to where a couple of kids almost got ran over because the nonprofit groups were driving on the grounds trying to load up their booths on Sunday. Kristy is trying to avoid this, so she moved them to a different spot that will be more convenient for them to cart their things out. Doing this resulted in the spaces having to be re-numbered.

Kristy had John Marrinan come down to look at the chain link gate areas to see if he could add walk thru gates so we can close off the drive thru gates to help prevent driving on the grounds during the fair.

Kristy has gotten the rodeo contracts completed and ready to be sent out. She let the board know that she will be putting breakaway roping on the next meeting agenda in hopes to get it added to our rodeo. Plains is one of the only rodeos in the state that does not have breakaway roping at their rodeo. Kristy let the board know that there is a way to make the pens bigger to where we can accommodate the extra calves.

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn made by Brian Crain, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Newman – Motion Passed 6:45 adjourn