

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

February 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by acting Chairman Bruce Icenogge. Fair Commission directors present included John Gallaher and Jim Newman. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioner Glen Magera, County Extension Agent John Halpop, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Malcolm McDonald and Carrie Guenzler representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Rick Sanders, Wade Rehbein and Dorothea Gallaher.

The agenda was modified to include the Concessions Group Contract Negotiations, Auction fairground usage fees and spring Plains High School Drama performance fees.

Minutes of the January 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Jim Newman, seconded by John Gallaher and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the February 21st booklet for further information.

Election of officers for the Fair Commission was rescheduled for the March meeting when all directors should be in attendance.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the spring demolition derby, stating he and Rick Sanders had reached an agreement whereby the fair would keep 70% of the gate receipts and the producer (Rick Sanders) would keep all entry fees and receive 30% of the gate receipts. The producer is solely responsible for paying all the prize monies as well as other specifics delineated in the contract. The fair is responsible for placing and removing the barriers within the arena prior to, and immediately following the demo derby as well as selling the tickets, etc. Please refer to the spring derby contract for specifics. Rick signed the contract as presented.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the new rules and regulations governing the fair's demolition derby. The rules and entry form have been posted on the fair's website. Additionally, the spring demolition derby will be using the same rules.

The Sanders County Fair's PRCA rodeo committee's large screen display project was briefed to the fair commission members. So far, Triple W has returned the signed paperwork to participate as a major sponsor. Mike stated Zip Beverage had the paperwork and would be returning it shortly as an additional corporate sponsor. Summit

Beverage, Coca Cola Distributing and Pepsi Cola Distributing have been contacted through voice mail, and Mike and they are playing phone tag. Bruce stated he's contacted Rocky Mountain Bank which has forwarded the proposal to corporate headquarters. He's also contacted Ronan Dodge and will contact the owner of Valley Banks. Glen will contact Revette Minerals, Hot Springs Telephone and Ronan Telephone this week. Wade has contacted Riverside Construction who will provide the payment for Rehbein Ford. Additionally, he's talked with Clark Fork Valley Hospital, S&S motorsports in Thompson Falls, Western Cat in Missoula and First Security Bank. An employee of his has emailed Avista Corporation. Glen asked that the rodeo committee meet again on March 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion to further pursue corporate sponsors.

Mike stated he will be meeting with the County Commissioners on March 1st to discuss the current status of this year's fair budget. Additionally, he asked the Fair Commission if they had any further input on the proposed budget for next fiscal year. No one did so Mike stated he'd present the 2011 proposed budget to the county commissioners at the same time on March 1st.

Bruce assigned himself and Chris to work as a team in the negotiations for a new Fair Concessions Group contract.

Mike told the Fair Commission there would be two auctions on the fairgrounds in April, the first on April 2nd and the second on April 23rd. He asked what they should be charged for using the grounds and the Fair Commission agreed that a flat fee of \$250.00 should be charged for using the grounds for each auction.

Mike then stated he'd received a request for the fair to donate the use of the pavilion for the Plains High School drama class spring play. The class has been selected to attend a national competition and must raise around \$12,000.00 to attend and thought the donation from the fair could be used to reach that goal. After reviewing the financial status of the fair, where it's some \$35,000 in the red at this time, the Fair Commission declined to provide the use of the facility at no charge.

Public comment addressed the large screen display for the fair.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the claims for February. Jim made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by John and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

March 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by acting Chairman Bruce Icenogge. Fair Commission directors present included Roberta Smith, John Gallaher and Jim Newman. Director Chris McGuigan arrived later. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioner Carol Brooker, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Art Teacher Kristen Cole from the Plains School system, Larry Revinius representing the Sanders County Fair Concession Group and Dorothea Gallaher.

The agenda was modified so that election of officers was placed last on the business agenda.

Minutes of the February 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Roberta Smith, seconded by John Gallaher and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the March 21st booklet for further information.

Mike presented the Fair Commission with an update regarding the large video screen project. Since Revette Minerals is slated as one of the corporate sponsors, Roberta asked if that would have an impact on the lighting project in the Open Class Beef Barn. Mike stated he didn't know until he got a cost estimate on the project. When Mike finished, John Gallaher briefed everyone on the proposed "challenge coin" commemorating the fair's 100th birthday. Kristen Cole participated in the discussion as she's been asked to have her art students provide various options for what should appear on the obverse side of the coin. On the main side, it will have Sanders County Fair printed in the middle of the coin with the years 1911 and 2011 above and below the fair line. Around the edge of the coin will be the phrase "100 years of great family memories." And behind everything on the front of the coin will be a flag watermark. Kristen's art students will provide options for the obverse side of the coin. Kristen asked if the name of the art student whose drawing was selected could have his/her name on the coin. The Fair Commission agreed to allow the initial of their first name followed by their last name to be etched on the coin. 500 of the 1 ½ inch commemorative coins will be ordered for sale.

Roberta was assigned the duties of promoting the "Chicknchaps" program during Friday of the fair. The program will educate up to 50 women on all aspect of PRCA rodeo. Funds raised through the Chicksnchaps program will be provided to the Cancer Network of Sanders County. Carol Brooker offered to assist Roberta in developing the

program for this year's fair. A question was asked about the August Relay for Life event, and Mike stated he's been working with Jim Watts and Deb Warren about the event which will occur on the fairgrounds the first weekend in August. That a route has been laid out exactly the same as two years ago, but additional protection will be provided along the portion which skirts River Road. The jersey barriers will be placed such that they will separate the Relay for Life walkers from any traffic on River Road.

Mike and John updated everyone on the Wounded Warrior Project for this year's fair. We've invited 12 wounded warriors and their spouses/companions to be our guests at the fair. 12 rooms have been obtained at the Glacier Crossroads motel at a 50% discount. Additionally, Quinn's Hot Springs Resort – the owners of the Crossroads – will provide two free pool/hot tub passes at the resort to each wounded warrior. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have volunteered to provide to 17 passenger busses, each with a chair lift. The fair will need to hire/pay for drivers and cover the cost of fuel for the busses. On Friday of the fair, the wounded warriors group will be driven to Moiese for a tour of the National Bison Range, then they'll tour the Mission at St. Ignatius and the Ninepipes Museum as well as the People's Center in Pablo. Then they'll meet with members of the Tribe's Warrior society. Mike and John are looking for donations from local fraternal and service organizations to help offset the cost of this project.

The Fair Commission then selected "100 years of building great family memories, one fair at a time" as this year's fair theme.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the mid-year budget presentation made to the Board of County Commissioners, then briefed them on a quotation from NorthWestern Energy for the burial of the final overhead power line located on the fairgrounds, stating the line will be buried in July after the new fiscal year starts. He then provided everyone with a list of the independent food vendors who are contracted to provide additional food during this year's fair.

The Fair Commission was informed there are 4001 seats available in the arena for sale and Vendini is mapping those seats for on-line tickets sales prior to this year's fair.

The Fair Commission then asked for public comment.

Larry Rivinius stated he would be available in the afternoons but that a lot of his spare time would be devoted to coaching girl's softball. Additionally, he asked if something could be done to increase the power in the new concessions stands. Mike stated the power for each booth was two, thirty amp circuits but they were protected by two 20 amp circuit breakers. Mike will check with Barry Gilpin to see if the wiring he installed will handle 30 amps of 110 volt power, and if so, will have 30 amp breakers installed.

Mike asked Chris if Michele was going to do the Open Class Ranch Horse Show again this year and he stated yes. Mike will forward last year's documentation to Michele and ask her to update it for this year's fair website.

Mike and the Fair Commission discussed ways to add entertainment to the Thursday night PRCA bull riding event. Mutton Busting was suggested along with stick horse races – barrel racing for the young girls and horse racing for the young boys.

Following the public comment, the Fair Commission proceeded to elect officers who will serve the next two years. Bruce Icenogge was elected Chairman and Chris McGuigan was elected Vice Chairman.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the claims for March. Jim made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by John and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

April 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenogge. Fair Commission directors present included Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan, Roberta Smith, John Gallaher and Jim Newman. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioner Glen Magera, County Extension Agent John Halpop, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Art Teacher Kristen Cole from the Plains School system, Wade Rehbein of the Sanders County PRCA Rodeo Committee, Larry Revinius, Don Burrell, Debbie Heckman, Jim Gillibrand, Teresa Garrison and Dawn Lynch representing the Sanders County Fair Concession Group and Mark French, Katy French, Dorothea Gallaher, Mary Halling, Polly Icenogge, George Stone and Ron Warren.

The agenda was modified to include Tough Enough to Wear Pink with the ChicksnChaps agenda item and Challenge Coin with the Wounded Warrior agenda item.

Minutes of the March 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Roberta Smith, seconded by Jim Newman and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the April 18th booklet for further information.

Mike presented the Fair Commission with the information of the income the fair received from the West-Mont Motocross Races held on March 27th and April 10th.

The Fair Commission received an update regarding the large video screen project.

Roberta reviewed the progress of the "ChicknChaps" program and the Tough Enough To Wear Pink PRCA rodeo scheduled for Friday of the fair. There is a \$250 sponsorship fee for each program.

John updated the Fair Commission on the Wounded Warrior Project for this year's fair. And Kristen Cole, the art instructor in the Plains School System, finalized the design of the "commemorative" coin the Fair Commission will have minted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sanders County Fair. Tara Mathers design was chosen by the Fair Commission for the coin. Franky Winebrenner's design was second and Angel Crawford's design was picked as the third place entrant. All will receive a

complimentary commemorative coin and a ride-all-day for-one-price carnival pass from the fair.

Bruce and Chris then informed the Fair Commission concerning their progress in reaching an agreement with the Fair Concessions Group for a new contract.

Bruce then opened the meeting to public comment. Comments primarily focused on the concession's contract, possible upgrades to the facility and the fair's expense budget.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the claims for April. Roberta made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by Chris and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

May 16, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenogge. Fair Commission directors present included Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan, Roberta Smith, John Gallaher and Jim Newman. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioners Carol Brooker and Glen Magera, County Extension Agent John Halpop, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Malcolm McDonald representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Louise Lulack and Dorothea Gallaher.

The agenda was modified to include Tough Enough to Wear Pink with the ChicksnChaps agenda item, Mutton Busting was added as was Plastic Recycling.

Minutes of the April 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by John Gallaher, seconded by Chris McGuigan and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Snowy Owl Aviation has asked the Fair Commission to allow helicopter rides during the fair. Mike was instructed to contact the firm and finalize a contract with the company. The Fair Commission was informed the Plains-Paradise Chamber of Commerce sponsored farmer's market would start the season on Saturday, May 21st and run each Saturday through September 24th with the only Saturday not scheduled for a farmer's market being September 3rd, during the fair. The 100th Birthday Commemorative Coin has been ordered, 500 total, and will be available for sale to the public starting on July 1st. Please refer to the May 16th booklet for further information about the correspondence.

The Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs Northwest District's Fair Manager's meeting was held at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton, Montana, on Friday, May 6th. Information from the meeting was shared with the Fair Commission including the idea of training judges, superintendents, clerks and runners via video conferencing.

The large screen display corporate sponsorship data was presented to the Fair Commission. 8 firms have committed to sponsoring the screen, with 12 firms contacted and trying to determine if they'll participate.

Roberta presented an update of the ChicksnChaps program scheduled for Friday of the fair and asked that a claim form be approved for payment of \$250.00 to ChicksnChaps for sponsorship of the event. All event proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Network of Sanders County.

John briefed the Fair Commission on the status of the Wounded Warrior Project. Costs associated with the bus drivers and fuel will be covered by the national Wounded Warrior Project. Participants are being recruited and we will have a list of Wounded Warriors shortly.

Bruce and Chris discussed the contract negotiations with the Fair Concessions Group stating they had provided three options for the Concessions Group, the Group had countered with 20% of gross sales and an increase of facility use fees from \$1400 to \$2000, whereupon Bruce and Chris countered with 20% and \$3000 for the facility use fee. The contract must be signed by June 1st according to the Fair Commission's Policy Manual.

The 2011-2012 Fair Budget was reviewed by the Fair Commission. Because of the financial condition of the fair, no major activities will be undertaken between July 1st and the fair. After the fair concludes, an evaluation of the fair finances will be conducted and projects undertaken if appropriate. However, no fireworks, Christmas lights or other type activities will be undertaken this year. Mike stated that if, after the conclusion of the fair, the fair's finances prove adequate, the Fair Commission should repay the county for any funds they may expend to assist the fair regarding this year's budget. After discussion, John Gallaher moved to accept the budget and present the information to the county for approval. The motion was seconded by Jim Newman and passed.

Chris McGuigan stated that Western Ranch Supply had a "bucking chute" which would be available for the Mutton Busting event which will be held during the Thursday night PRCA bull riding event. Glen Magera stated he would contact Shane Carr to arrange for the sheep.

Louise Lulack talked to the Fair Commission about recycling plastic bottles, and asked if the fair was willing to help her in her efforts. Carol Brooker suggested Louise talk with Andre at the transfer station and make arrangements with the county refuse district to assist her in her efforts.

Bruce opened the meeting to public comment. 4-H discussed upgrading the pig pens in the pig/sheep barn as well as who was responsible for the bathrooms in the pavilion during the fair. The Home Economics building needs, within two years, stabilization since the building is spreading outward and needs a new foundation, replacement of wall studs, a new floor and an upgrade to the electrical service.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the claims for May. Jim made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by Roberta and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

June 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan. Fair Commission directors present included Roberta Smith and John Gallaher. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioner Carol Brooker, County Extension Agent John Halpop, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Larry Rivinius, Debbie Heckman, Louise Lulack and Kay Nygaard representing the Fair Concessions Group, Pat and Kathy Legard, Bobby Mayes and Dorothea Gallaher.

The agenda was modified to include Beach Access and Fireworks.

Minutes of the May 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Roberta, seconded by John and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the June 20th booklet for further information about the correspondence.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the financial results of the Plains Day Demolition Derby. Next year the demo should be moved to a different date so people are not under the misconception that the fair is attempting to effect the crowd at the Plains Day event.

The Large Screen Video Display project was cancelled because of the lack of support from corporate sponsors.

Roberta presented an update on the ChicknChaps program which is progressing nicely.

John presented an update on the Wounded Warrior event, stating the national Wounded Warrior group will pay for the expenses relative to the bus drivers and fuel. The local contact may want to speak at the Saturday Night PRCA Rodeo. Additionally, John mentioned the commemorative coin the Fair Foundation has had minted for celebrating the fair's 100th anniversary. The coins go on-sale on July 1st along with all arena event tickets, parking and RV passes and carnival passes.

The contract with the Fair Concessions Group has been signed. It is for a two year period, with the fair assessing the group a fee of 20% of their gross sales based on the

previous five year average. Additionally, the fair assesses the group \$2000.00 as a facility use fee.

Mike stated the fair has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the 4-H Council concerning the use of the pavilion as the 4-H dining hall during the fair. That MOU was signed in 1999. Mike has modified the document to adapt it to changes which have occurred over the years. The document has been provided to 4-H to begin the negotiating process to finalize the document so that it is agreeable to both parties.

Due to the high water, beach access and access to the fairgrounds have been severely curtailed. No fireworks will be permitted on the fairground's this Independence Day and the fair will not be hosting the annual Independence Day public fireworks display due to budgetary constraints.

Chris opened the meeting to public comment. Items discussed included the Fair Concessions Group contract (they need a signed copy), 4-H cleaning the bathrooms in the pavilion, access to fair minutes (they're on the internet from September 2007 and on; older minutes are in the booklets kept in the fair office), and the proposed fair expense budget for 2011-2012.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the claims for June. John made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by Roberta and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

July 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenogge with Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan and Fair Commission directors John Gallaher, Jim Newman and Roberta Smith present. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioners Carol Brooker and Tony Cox, County Attorney Bob Zimmerman, County Extension Agent Meghan Phillippi, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Malcolm McDonald and Carrie Guenzler representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Michele McGuigan representing ChicknChaps, Larry Rivinius and Don Burrell representing the Fair Concessions Group, Jim Huygens, Howard Martin, Ken Jones, Margaret McNeil, Kim McNeil, Dorothea Gallaher, Taloni DuBois, Sydne Connolly, and Ed Moreth of the Sanders County Ledger.

The agenda was modified to include the Fair Concessions Group.

Minutes of the June 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Roberta and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the July 18th booklet for further information about the correspondence.

Bruce opened the business section of the meeting by stating he and the Fair Commission wanted to address an email, subject "IMPORTANT Sanders Co Fair budget info" with a date time group of Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 10:07 a.m. He pointedly rebutted the statements made in the email, countering each with the facts to disprove the email's credibility. He also explained the fair manager's salary presenting a history of how the salary was decreased when the manager went on social security at age 62 and that now, with the manager reaching full retirement age, the fair commission was honoring its commitment to return the manager to his full salary since he was no longer restricted in the amount of money he could earn. Comments from the audience following Bruce's and the Fair Commission's statements ranged from the majority of the improvements to the grounds were made for safety and health reasons to the comments about the economic impact the fair has on the county and residents should be happy for each outside dollar brought into the community and spent.

Michele McGuigan and Roberta Smith gave an update on the ChicknChaps program which is progressing nicely. John Gallaher followed with an update on the Wounded

Warrior project, stating the email was sent to all Montana Wounded Warriors telling them about the fair's program and soliciting attendees.

Meghan presented the Fair Commission with a counter-proposal on the MOU between the fair and the 4-H regarding use of the pavilion during the fair. All the changes were agreed to except for the bathroom cleaning proposal. Mike stated he would contact the fair's Grounds Cleaning Crew to see if they would, once again, accept cleaning the pavilion restrooms. Once he had an answer, he would let Meghan and Karen know.

The moneyless fair proposal was tabled until the August Fair Commission meeting.

Larry Revinius stated that the Concessions Group, at their last meeting, decided they wanted total control of the beer booth. Bruce and Chris responded that in the negotiations, the Concessions Group was told that control of the beer and wine tickets in the beer booth would be maintained by the fair and that item was non-negotiable. Larry countered by stating there was nothing in the contract which allowed the Fair Commission to do that. Mike then read the fourth paragraph of the signed contract which states "The Sanders County Fair Commission reserves the right to implement a 'moneyless' fair at its discretion for any and all food and beverage booths" stating that sentence allows the Fair Commission to maintain the moneyless fair aspect of the beer booth's operation. Larry disagreed stating the Concessions Group wanted to manage the beer booth. The Fair Commission did not agree to Larry's request. Don Burrell then requested permission to install, at the Fair Concessions expense, gas stoves in one of the new long concessions stand booths. The Commission concurred in Don's request and asked that he contact Energy Partners to ensure the installation met LP gas codes.

Bruce opened the floor to public comment.

Malcolm asked about the showers being restricted and only for 4-H use. Mike stated that couldn't be done because the showers are for all fair patrons. But since there was concern about the carnival employees, Mike would contact the carnival and ask that the carnival restrict their use of the shower facility from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily. Mike also stated he'd ask Davis Amusement to bring a shower wagon with them if it was available.

Further comment was made concerning the fair's management of funds and improvements to the facility; all comments were complementary of the actions undertaken by the Fair Commission and Fair Management.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the financial status of the fair. He stated that, as the Commission recalled, the fair was approximately \$47,000 in the red in April, but that the fair had ended the fiscal year on June 30 \$445.16 in the red. Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the July claims and payroll. On a motion by Roberta, seconded by Chris, the claims were approved for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

August 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenogge with Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan and Fair Commission directors John Gallaher, Jim Newman and Roberta Smith present. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included State Representative Pat Ingraham, County Commissioners Carol Brooker and Glen Magera, County Extension Agents John Halpop and Meghan Phillippi, Carrie Guenzler and Cindy Benson representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Michele McGuigan representing ChicknChaps, Larry Rivinius representing the Fair Concessions Group, Greg Davos Representing the Plains VFW Post, Tim Newman, Kathy Legard and Dorothea Gallaher.

The agenda was modified to include the Fair Concessions Group.

Minutes of the July 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Roberta, seconded by John and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the August 15th booklet for further information about the correspondence.

Michele McGuigan and Roberta Smith gave an update on the ChicknChaps program which is progressing nicely. John Gallaher followed with an update on the Wounded Warrior project, stating the email was sent to all Montana Wounded Warriors telling them about the fair's program and soliciting attendees. To date, 3 Wounded Warriors from Great Falls have responded as have six Warriors from the Spokane area. We have rooms for 3 more Warriors. John then explained what we have planned for our guests.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the proposal for going moneyless at the 2012 fair, stating that he wanted the Commission's permission to alert the food and beverage vendors to the fact we may go moneyless in 2012. Roberta commented the Commission should approve going moneyless so Mike could easily get everything in place for the 2012 fair. Bruce opted to discuss the concept further at a future meeting.

Assignments were made concerning fair duties for the Fair Commission members during the upcoming fair. Since Bruce will be unavailable on Fair Readiness Day, Glen Magera was asked to act as the Fair Commission's representative that day since Chris also was unavailable.

Mike gave the Commission an update on the rodeo entrants as provided by Lori Franzen. So far, 55 bull riders have signed up, 30 on Thursday night, 14 for Friday night's rodeo and 6 for Saturday's rodeo. There's also 18 bareback riders signed up which is very unusual. Timed events are so full that slack will run between four and six hours starting Friday morning at 9 a.m. Bruce asked that a press release be prepared to let everyone know how many contestants will be available for the bull riding and two rodeo events. Chris commented that he wasn't surprised with the amount of contestants coming to Plains now. Barrel racers like the grounds and we've won the Justin Award once for first place and twice for second place for the best prepared rodeo grounds.

Larry Revinius then addressed the Commission stating the Concessions Group was concerned that the ticket outlet in the beer booth was not going to be manned until midnight each day of the fair. Mike assured Larry the ticket booth would be open until midnight unless the beer booth closed early due to lack of patronage. Chris then addressed a problem he had last year with members of the VFW parking where "no parking" signs had been posted. And that when asked to move so he could perform tasks he needed to do to prepare the two arenas, was ignored. Larry stated he didn't know anything about that problem and asked that in the future he be informed so that corrective action could be taken.

John Halpop commented on the free television ad being aired promoting 4-H's Market Animal sale and thanked the Fair Commission and Fair Management for the ad. Cindy commented about the showers being available, stating when she was involved with 4-H, the showers were locked and were only used by 4-H. Mike stated the showers are available for all fair patrons and were placed in the new bathroom on the 4-H midway for convenience of the 4-H youth. And regarding carnival employees, access to the showers by carnival employees will be limited to 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. daily.

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the financial status of the fair and then proceeded to brief them on each claim. John Gallaher made a motion to approve the claims for payment, seconded by Chris McGuigan and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission

Minutes

September 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenogge with Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan and Fair Commission directors John Gallaher, Jim Newman and Roberta Smith present. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included County Commissioners Carol Brooker and Glen Magera, County Sheriff Tom Rummel and Undersheriff Rube Wrightsman, County Extension Agents John Halpop and Meghan Phillippi, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Carrie Guenzler and Malcolm McDonald representing the 4-H Livestock Committee, Zachary Epperson representing Sanders County Search and Rescue, Larry Rivinius representing the Fair Concessions Group, Michele McGuigan and Dorothea Gallaher.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes of the August 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Roberta, seconded by John and passed.

Mike reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the September 19th booklet for further information about the correspondence.

Bruce opened the business portion of the meeting, stating all comments would be directed as a critique of the recently completed fair. All comments were to be constructive in nature with suggestions for improvements as appropriate.

Pat Bursell and Mike gave the Fair Commission a comprehensive financial report of the 2011 fair. No questions were asked.

The 4-H Livestock Committee was first to provide feedback on the 2011 fair stating the fair needed more poultry pens and that there needed to be better coordination between the open class and 4-H concerning poultry and rabbits. It was suggested an outdoor aviary be constructed which would provide housing to larger birds (i.e., pheasants, quail, turkeys, geese, etc.) with the aviary perhaps constructed immediately to the right of the door entering the 4-H beef barn on the west side. Malcolm stated the 4-H needed to discuss options to keep people from approaching, touching and slapping the 4-H steers and stated maybe gates on each stall, like in the open class beef barn would solve the problem. There was a drainage issue with the wash rack again this year and it's because the rack drains into the septic system and drain field of the 4-H

bathroom/shower facility. Fair management will investigate the option of running the wash rack drain to a dry well located away from the drain field associated with the 4-H bathrooms. The issue of early campers was discussed with the 4-H livestock committee agreeing to fix the problem. Finally, the issue of a proper fire lane within the 4-H camping area was discussed, stating the fire lane must go from one end of the camping area to the other for access for fire suppression equipments.

The County Extension Agents and Karen Dwyer reported they thought the fair was successful with few problems. They appreciated the fact the kitchen and pavilion were so clean and Mike stated the pavilion was cleaned properly following the fair. Meghan announced that Kathy had resigned as chief cook so 4-H was looking for someone to take her place in 2012.

Larry stated the Concessions Group didn't have any major problems and noted the numbers were up for Saturday but were trending down on Sunday. The issue of the local Republican party manning the milkshake booth was discussed and Larry stated they didn't ask for the job but was solicited to assist when the organization in charge of the booth couldn't get enough people to man the booth all four days of the fair. Mike told Larry that next year, the Concessions Group, which controls beer, wine cooler, coke and pepsi sales on the grounds, needs to sell those products in the arena during arena events. And food should be offered for sale as well. Larry agreed to bring the issue up with the Concessions Group.

Search and Rescue had no major problems and Zach asked about their office being located adjacent to the 1st Aid Station manned by the Hot Springs Fire Department. That request will be investigated to determine the feasibility of moving the Search and Rescue office.

The Sheriff stated there were the common people problems associated with the fair, but nothing major. He asked about the people openly carrying weapons on the fairgrounds. Mike stated the fair policy allows weapons on the grounds, the only restriction is that those weapons may not be discharged. It was mentioned both Kalispell and Missoula fairs have gone to a "no guns" policy. This is an issue for the Fair Commission to resolve after studying all sides of the issue.

Roberta suggested that we needed more arena events such as a draft horse pull, lawn mower races, tractor pulls, that kind of stuff. Mike stated whatever we do in the arena needs to pay for itself because at present, every arena event is currently subsidized by the receipts from the demolition derby – and without the derby, the fair could not survive financially.

Regarding the demolition derby, the Plains Lions Club is going to re-write the demolition derby rules with two classes of vehicles allowed, running in separate competition. The two classes are 80s and newer vehicles and a built class. Once the rules are approved, they will be posted on the fair's website with notice issued to all drivers on the fair's facebook page.

The Commission then discussed the buildings and grounds and associated events. Mike stated that it would help Kim a great deal if the fair had a leaf/lawn vacuum which could be towed behind the John Deere mover. He stated DR had a "large volume" unit available now and it was on sale at 25% off with free shipping. John made a motion to purchase the unit, seconded by Jim and passed. Please note: the DR unit was not compatible with the John Deere mower so fair management decided not to purchase the unit.

Mike stated that next year, the Fair Commission needs to budget to begin repairs to the Home Economics Building. Additionally, money will be inserted into the fair's expense budget to lease a man-lift so that the horn speakers currently attached to each grandstand could be removed and placed on the outside of the grandstands and used as a public address system. The controls for the system would, most likely, be placed in the Search and Rescue office. Mike also asked the Fair Commission to start their deliberations on going to a moneyless fair. The decision needs to be made so that budget decisions can be made to accommodate the concept. Finally, the water pressure problem which has occurred the last few fairs has been solved. By utilizing the Hermiston well with its 5 horsepower pump, enough additional water is added to the system to ensure all bathrooms work properly. So Mike will ask the Plains High School shop class to build a six foot by six foot pump house next to the well which will house a pressure tank and UV sanitizer unit. The labor will be free with the fair paying for the material. This will be in-place prior to the 2012 fair.

Commissioner Magera, as Chairman of the Sanders County Fair PRCA Rodeo Committee, stated it his intention for the members of the rodeo committee to find commercial sponsors for the Thursday night PRCA bull riding special section. Those sponsorships will be used to pay for the event. Glen stated that they'll continue to sponsor mutton busting during the bull riding as well since it is a crowd pleaser. Glen asked Mike to work on finding a large screen video display system for next year's rodeo as well.

That ended the fair critique. Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the September claims. Roberta made a motion to approve the claims for payment. Her motion was seconded by Chris and approved.

Because of the lack of a quorum on the date the October Fair Commission is scheduled, the October Fair Commission meeting is cancelled. Mike will post the notice at the County Court House and at the Plains Post Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Approved: _____ Date: _____

Sanders County Fair Commission
Minutes
November 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion by Chairman Bruce Icenoggle with Vice Chairman Chris McGuigan and Fair Commission directors John Gallaher and Jim Newman present. Fair Manager Mike Hashisaki and Fair Secretary Ruth Hamilton also were present. Guests included State Representative Pat Ingraham, County Commissioner Carol Brooker, County Extension Agent Meghan Phillippi, Karen Dwyer representing the 4-H Council, Glen Cummings representing the Sanders County Fair PRCA Rodeo Committee and Dorothea Gallaher.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes of the September 2011 Fair Commission meeting were approved on a motion by John, seconded by Chris and passed. There were no minutes for October 2011 as there was no quorum present for the meeting to be conducted.

Pastor Randy Nielson of the Plains Alliance Church read a letter from the Pastoral Committee thanking the fair for allowing the all-church service on Sunday of the fair and requested that they be allowed to continue with the Sunday service on the main midway. The Fair Commission thanked Randy for his letter and voiced their approval of the continuation of the church services during the fair. Mike then reviewed the correspondence with the Fair Commission. Please refer to the November 21st booklet for further information about the correspondence.

The Fair Commission received the annual PRCA Rodeo Officials report and reviewed proposed PRCA rule changes.

Mike presented the Fair Commission with a proposed solution to the wash rack flooding problem.

The Fair Commission then addressed the modification of their policy manual. Specifically, the Fair Commission is restricting political party activity on the fairgrounds by prohibiting political parties to receive any payment for operating a food or beverage concession. On a motion by John, seconded by Jim, the policy manual will be modified to read "Only county civic, church, fraternal and service organizations which have charitable non-profit status approved by the IRS and the State of Montana may operate food and beverage concessions during the fair. These organizations may sponsor commercial food vendors onto the fairgrounds and receive a stipend from the commercial vendor in lieu of directly operating the food concession. Political parties (i.e., Sanders County Democrats, Sanders County Republicans, etc.) are not charitable non-profit entities (as defined by the IRS) and may not operate or receive payment for the operations of any food or beverage concession during the fair. Requests for other concessions will be reviewed by the Fair Commission. Space preference consideration will be given to those who participated in last year's fair." The motion carried unanimously. Additionally, by consensus of the Fair Commission, a sign will be placed at both entrances to the beer garden stating "No firearms are allowed in the beer garden."

Mike briefed the Fair Commission on the Christmas Lighting Ceremony and the upcoming New Years Eve Sky Lantern event. He then discussed proposed upgrades which will occur next year based on available finances. Those projects are renovation of the Ag bathroom, installation of a dry well for handling the wash rack run-off, and the construction of a pump house with pressure tank and UV sanitizer at the Hermiston well to alleviate the low water pressure problem experienced during the last three county fairs. Modification to the Home Economics building will begin depending upon the success of the 2012 fair.

Mike then briefed the Fair Commission on the fair's financial status and the November and December claims. John made a motion to approve the claims for payment. His motion was seconded by Jim and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.