



**Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
February 4, 2024, 11:30 am CST  
Quality Inn, Bismarck**

**Present:** Kami Kling, Russ Homelvig, Ryan Madison, Codi Miller, Craig Maley, Kasey Erickson, Cody Frei, Chet Johnson, Croix Johnson, Brent Earsley, Sam Arndorfer, Stacy McGee, Michelle Rotenberger, Chad Miller, Clancy Hornberger, Kenzi Homelvig, Ryan Riehl, Chesney Gjermundson, Riggs Rotenberger, Dawn Martin, Cooper Martin, Jess Niemitalo, Cori Hilzendeger

**Absent:** CJ Boldt, Nancy Klatt, JB Pauley, Cashin Carson, Camree Kling, Kathy Mavity, Chad Ellingson

**Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting called to order by President Chad Miller.

**Additions to Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Chet and Russ. All in favor; motion passed.

**Approval of November 2023 Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes by Brent and Jess. All in favor; motion passed.

**Reports/Business:**

**National Director Mid-Winter Meeting Update:**

Welcome Craig as new national director. His report:

- Rule changes: Bareback and SB for JH, weight changes on cattle.
- ND requested rule that each state/province allowed to bring their ties but declare who their point earners would be. It was voted as a do not pass; but to be brought back up at summer meeting.
- The photographer was changed for the coming Finals. A new video crew will be coming in and the NHSRA will add \$20.00 to the back number fee if the kid wants their video along with back number. Nationals is paying the company to come and video; Jennings is no longer coming to Finals. It is all or nothing and we must order back number and video or nothing when completing nationals' paperwork.
- Dodge Rodeo and Bloomer are no longer NHSRA sponsors.
- Cow Horse will be pushing toward following the NCRA guidelines and rules. More information to come.
- Rock Springs has not added camping spots. The list for ND, as currently proposed, has 29 spots. Plenty of room for dry camp; but we will be limited to the number of spots for hookup camping.
- ND was the winner of the wild card draw.
- Discussion had about Guthrie and how spots were drawn. This will need to be reviewed as we move forward to the Finals.

### **High School Secretary Report:**

- Activity report finished.
- Update on what will have in place for the new secretary when they take over.
- Update on website.

### **Junior High Secretary Report:**

- Camping refund from Nationals was reissued.
- Some interest in new memberships for the spring season.
- Activity form nearly complete but awaiting Twin Buttes decision.

### **Reminders from Chad Miller:**

- At Twin Buttes the end of April for JH and in New Salem for HS we will need to elect new board members and student officers along with event directors.
- The Judging and Timer clinic to be held in Dickinson this month. Notice sent to FB for both HS and JH.

### **Junior High Officer Report:**

- Picked out buckles, discussed jackets and other prizes.

### **High School Officer Report:**

- Picked out buckles, chose the state shirts, state qualifier and national shirts.
- Chose state finals themes: Mardi Gras, Hawaiian, and Tough Enough to Wear Pink.
- Cowboy prom and BB along with a dance also planned; along with the new facility.

### **Queen Report:**

- Attended ND Queen going away party for Miss Rodeo ND.
- Going to attend the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame board meeting.
- Codi added that she has been sending thank you cards too.
- Codi shared that Randy from Rodeo Rigs will sponsor JH Saddle again.
- There are a couple HS girls reaching out about packets. Packets are due the same as State Finals information, May 15.
- JH will be with HS again for the pageant.

### **Budget and Finance:**

- Reviewed minutes.
- Saddle bids at same cost of last year and committee looking for approval for same as last year.  
Motion by Chet to continue at same saddle cost as last year; seconded by Ryan. All in favor; motion carried.
- Back Number Ceremony for High School, no speaker due to cost and the time constraints for the evening.  
Motion by Kasey and seconded by Russ to have back number ceremony without a speaker. All in favor; motion carried.

### **High School & Junior High Finances:**

- Displayed the December balance sheet to the board.  
Motion by Ryan; seconded by Sam to place fundraising monies into a 6-month CD each fall. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Ryan M and seconded by Chet to put the HS fundraising excess \$14,596 to a CD. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Dawn and seconded by Russ to approve the treasurer report. All in favor; motion carried.

### **Senior Party:**

Discussed options for this year including what committee discussed last week. There is a possibility for two options for Senior Party, Killdeer or Bismarck. The building in Bismarck is available that evening, however the cost for the building is \$700.00. Board compared the two options in cost.

Motion by Sam to move the Senior party to Bismarck with a limit of \$2,000; seconded by Kami. Thank you to Killdeer for last year. Ryan R will secure the building and sign the contract. He will work with rodeo secretary. Board members are welcome to the Senior party and assist with setting up and cleaning up. All in favor; motion carried.

### **High School & Junior High Marketing:**

- Has about 85,000-95,000 collected.
- Sam talked with Kristi and a lot of people verbally committed.
- Chad M and Sam will do check ins.
- State Finals book for High School - Stacy did the book last year and is willing to do it again.

Motion by Brent and seconded by Chet to pay Stacy the \$600.00 from last year. All in favor; motion carried.

Motion by Sam and seconded by Clancy to pay her \$600.00 for this year. All in favor; motion carried.

### **State Finals Judges for Cutting/Reining discussion.**

Motion by Dawn seconded by Jess to pay total mileage up to \$500 for each judge for reining and cutting at the State Finals. All in favor; motion carried.

### **Scheduling and Rodeo Personnel:**

- Valley City chose to no longer host a junior high rodeo in April.
- Sam reached out to Fargo about the possibility of hosting. They were not able to do it.
- Twin Buttes was willing to host but didn't have a committee ready this year.

- This board will host the Junior High rodeo in Twin Buttes on April 27-28 and the West Fargo High School rodeo moved to May 3-5. The board will need to run this rodeo so all members of the board will need to pitch in.
- Sam and Kristi are looking to possibly find one large donor to sponsor rodeo; but all in the works.
- Kami will visit with Killdeer Club to see if they are interested in hosting the rodeo at Twin Buttes. If Killdeer says no; it will be a board hosted rodeo. We will know by Thursday morning.
- Junior High shooting will be in Zap on Friday.

Motion by Dawn and seconded by Ryan R. to add Bailey Pro Rodeo/ Gunderson to timed event cattle and remove Wayne Eckroth as a bull contractor, remove Viann Taylor from goats, remove Buzzard Bait as no longer bucking ponies. All in favor; motion carried.

### **Rules and Safety:**

- Craig will take over moving forward but Chad reported for this meeting.
- Rodeo Livestock guidelines were reviewed again; have been on file for several years.
- Almost all items on the sheet are in the rulebook except the fines and who is responsible for issuing and collecting.
- Discussion regarding if the board wants to go further and impose fines if contractor doesn't meet the requirements.

Motion by Craig and seconded Ryan M. to send out the criteria as listed with the contact person to be Ryan Madison. All in favor; motion carried.

- The sulken animal rule was implemented last year at the ND High School State Finals and brought forward to the 2023-24 season as a ground rule. At November full board meeting, discussed the ground rule from the Badlands Challenge with further discussion. Action died for lack of motion.
- Volunteers needed for the High School and Junior High first rodeos of the spring for rough stock equipment approval. Craig will take charge and make arrangements for both.

### **State Finals:**

- Proposals received for ND HS State Finals and presentations by Bowman Chamber of Commerce and Watford City.

Motion by Ryan and seconded by Ashley to accept the bid from Bowman Chamber for the next three years for the ND High School State Finals. All in favor; motion carried.

- The board discussed the biggest issue being Watford City needing to move the State Finals due to conflict in their schedule. This date change would conflict with the National Jr High Finals happening at the same time as the short go of the ND HS Finals.

Motion by Ryan M. and Jess to shorten the membership paperwork for the fall season 2024-25. All in favor; motion carried.

- High School Scholarship board members are Dawn Martin, Chad Ellingson, and Kathy Mavity. Bud Sperry will be Kami Kling.
- State Finals and Queen:  
Motion by Sam and Cody to approve the schedule as presented. All in favor; motion carried.
- The state and national apparel is black, gold and sage green theme including back numbers.
- The national jacket is blue.
- Junior High Schedule moved the State Finals short go up by one hour; presented to board.  
Motion by Ryan and Jess to approve the schedule as presented. All in favor; motion carried.
- JH will continue to do the 50/50 raffle at State Finals and request donations from the membership for the silent auction basket for Nationals.
- Stacy updated the board on the BEK talk regarding broadcasting rodeos. No further action has been taken prior to today. BEK would like to discuss finals and there could be more of the regular rodeos after the meeting. Craig asked if we are still going to request a bid from cowboy Channel. Stacy shared that Cowboy Channel has turned us down the last three years due to a larger rodeo conflict. Stacy also requested that the executive committee meet with BEK via Zoom and then make State Finals decisions regarding the media.  
Motion by Ryan M. and Chad E. to allow the executive committee to authorize matters concerning the broadcasting/media at the 2024 ND High School State Finals. All in favor; motion carried.
- ND High School State Finals Rodeo Personnel-Ballots passed out for votes on Rodeo Arena judges and timers with further clarification and discussion. Judges Bruce Kautzman, Keith H. and Rick Sigvaldsen with the alternate Reece Berg. The Timers are Mindy Sigvaldsen, Kathy Kautzman, and Rose Hystad with Hannah Kling as alternate.
- ND High School State Finals Stock Bids presented as submitted by deadline. Ballots passed out with further discussion. Horses and bulls are Kling Rodeo, Timed Event Eiker, and goats Chesney Gjermundson.  
Motion by Sam and seconded by Clancy to approve the State Finals personnel for 2024. All in favor; motion carried.
- Chad M would like to form a committee to work on the reining and cutting cattle for the ND High School State Finals.  
Motion by Sam and seconded by Chet to have Chesney, Dawn, Ryan R., Craig, Chad E., and Chad M to be the committee. All in favor; motion carried.

#### **Executive Committee Report:**

- Interviewed two applicants for the High School and Junior High Rodeo Secretary positions. Tammy Backhaus for High School and Cassidy Marschner for High School/Junior High. The committee approached Cassidy and asked if she was interested in Junior High and she stated yes. Both interviews went well. The Executive committee recommends hiring both for the positions applied for.

Motion by Sam and seconded by Ryan M. to approve the hiring of Tammy Backhaus and Kassidy Marschner. All in favor; motion carried.

- The Executive Committee suggested that Michelle and Cori keep track of hours that they are working and will be compensated for work after March 1.  
A motion by Craig and seconded by Chad E. that Michelle and Cori contracts end effective February 29 with the new secretary contracts beginning March 1, 2024 through July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 with renewal to begin with the concurring season. All in favor; motion carried.  
**My contract is dated March 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025. Which document should be corrected, my contract or these minutes?**

Motion by Sam and seconded by Ashley to hire Tammy Backhaus as High School secretary and Kassidy Marschner as Junior High secretary. All in favor; motion carried.

**Future Committee Work Requests:**

- Twin Buttes Rodeo and reining and cutting cattle/judges.
- Replacements for board members.
- Craig added some more updates about the mid-winter meeting.
  - Kids will not be allowed to drive any golf carts. Subject that came up - someone from ND called and shared that ND is not following their by-laws. Craig reminded the board of the chain of command.

Motion to adjourn Ryan R. and Croix motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor; motion carried.