

NDWS Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2016 ~ Rosebud Visitor's Center/NDWS Office

Those in attendance at the NDWS Board Meeting were as follows: Dana Didier, Beth Didier, Bill Carlblom, Dawn Riley, Jim Nelson, Matt Kvien, Jacey Shively, Tim Ost, Doug Muske, Whitney Vogel, Brad McKay and Angie Curtis. President, Beth Didier, called the meeting to order.

Review of Minutes: The minutes from the February 8, 2016 meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Doug to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Brad and motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were discussed briefly by Dawn. The tickets sold for the PRCA rodeos were down 1000 tickets total from last year, for the three performances, but was likely due to the above average temps during the show. The concert was similar in sales to last year. After further review, a motion was made by Doug to accept the financials; the motion was seconded by Matt and motion carried.

Concert Recap: Todd Ingstad was invited to the meeting by Tim, to go over the concert and partnership between the NDWS and Ingstad Family Media. Some questions or concerns were addressed, as follows:

- Local people work the gates and thus some attendees are admitted without paying. Workers drinking while they are supposed to be taking tickets or checking wristbands is also a concern. Perhaps security should be at the gates instead.
- The ticket office closing time – typically it is an hour after the start of the event, but the main act would not be on stage yet. In the future, the ticket office will remain open at least 30-45 minutes after the main act has started.
- Concerns on the number of comp tickets handed out – should this not be even between the two entities?
- Pre-concert party – this was originally meant for sponsors, but it has now become more concert workers there and this does not benefit the NDWS at all. The NDWS is also not involved with the decisions made pertaining to the party. Instead the concert workers could be invited to the Volunteer & Employee Banquet, held each year after the Winter Show.

Both entities do not want this partnership to dissolve, and want to keep these communication lines open. The BOD decided that Todd will be invited back to a meeting before next year's planning. Overall the concert on the opening day went well and the show will likely stay with the 8 day schedule.

Winter Show Recap: Discussion took place on various events or portions of the NDWS, as follows:

- Consignment Auction – This did not make much money, approximately \$1000 commission, but it did bring people in the door. It will not be held next year though.
- Extended schedule – positive comments were heard on the 8 days, but some Home, Play & Get-A-Way vendors missed having Sunday. Could the schedule be changed to have that at the beginning of the show?
- Food vendors – a new vendor, Chef Mobile, will likely not be back due to his low sales. Getting propane to vendors and an easier way to do this needs to be addressed.
- NDSU Farm Kids for a Day – general consensus was that this was very disappointing. There were very few animals, no ag education material and no NDSU students, or personnel, with Justin there that day. The ND Soil Conservation District relayed to Brad that they would like to take that over. NDSU could work with them, if desired.

Building Improvements: The additional new stalls have arrived; they were mistakenly sent in green, instead of brown however, but due to this, a minimum of \$6500 will be reimbursed. This will allow for some more new stalls to be purchased; eventually the south side of the barn will be all brown stalls and the north side all green.

Concerning the building construction plans, Dawn and Jim met with Tory and Josh at Bank Forward last week. They will finance the addition, only if the NDWS is able to contribute \$500,000. Dawn is meeting with Bobby Koeplin on Wednesday, to discuss options for raising these funds. The building would hold 400 people and would thus be beneficial to the whole community, as it can be used for a variety of events. Regardless of the addition, the NDWS is moving forward on the loan to upgrade the heating and exhaust systems, and will stay under \$250,000.

North Star Classic Meeting Follow-Up: The livestock committee meeting was held last week on Thursday. Ultimately the NSC needs approximately \$15,000 to continue and no decision was made on where or how that money should be generated. It was discussed briefly about having contests to bring more people in, but this would generate 100's, not 1000's of dollars. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, with a small group from the meeting, to designate some committees to assist more with the events during the show, as well as review the premiums paid out and other expenses, to see what can be cut. Also discussed during the meeting was the NDWS not doing the show anymore and it being moved, or someone renting out the facility. This however, does not account for the months of work surrounding the show. Dawn is meeting with the Chamber tomorrow though, to discuss the possibility of the Chamber Ag Committee taking this over and raising some sponsorship. Previously an ag banquet was hosted by the committee and that is not done anymore, so this may be a new avenue for them.

Roughrider's Association Rodeo: A roughrider rodeo has been scheduled for June 3-4. Posters were sent here by the association, so please take some.

Also concerning rodeo, a letter was received from the ND Rodeo Association, inviting the NDWS to submit a bid to host the finals in 2017. Currently the finals are held in Bismarck in October. Jim will review the letter and the NDWS will plan to submit a bid, prior to the deadline listed of November 1st.

Matt also shared a letter from Bar S Rodeo, stating their desire to put on a rodeo, as part of the East River Circuit. The fee to the NDWS would be \$7900, plus added money. Due to the Roughrider rodeo being a new rodeo added this year and the difficulty in getting sponsors, the general consensus was to put this off for this year and look at again in the future.

Committee Reports:

- A. *Rodeo Queens:* The new queens were at the NDWS Volunteer & Appreciation Banquet; their speeches were very disappointing however and it was apparent the queens were not prepared to speak. Matt and Beth will work with Cheryl to compile a list of what is expected of the queens and what events they should be at to represent the NDWS.
- B. *Arena/Grounds:* The mud bog still needs to be filled in and the south end of the outdoor arena needs to be worked on.
- C. *Commercial/Concession:* Previously covered.
- D. *Concert/Karaoke:* Previously covered.
- E. *Crop Show:* Overall the show went well; the banquet was not held this year, but Brad felt that really it was not missed, due to the small amount of people that had attended in the past.
- F. *Finance:* Dawn will soon be working on the budget for the next fiscal year and will send that out to the finance committee for review.
- G. *Horses:* There are lots of horse shows coming up! The NDWS show is scheduled for April 30-May 1, then shows in June, August, September and October. The new stalls will encourage even more shows to be held.
- H. *Labor:* Dylan is no longer working at the NDWS. Nikki will be here full-time through the summer, but is undecided at this point what she will do after graduation the following year, so a barn supervisor may be needed at that time.
- I. *Livestock:* Previously covered.
- J. *Rodeo:* Dana relayed that, per JD Bubel, who provided the cattle for the PRCA rodeos, the rodeo gates will need to be changed for the high school rodeo. To buy the panels and posts needed, the fee is \$734. Dana made a motion to spend the \$734 to fix the timed-event end of the arena; this was seconded by Matt and motion carried. Also concerning rodeo, Jim offered to pay Sutton Rodeo for half of the specialty act expense, with the total expense being \$6000. A motion was thus made by Jim, to cut a check for \$3000, to Sutton Rodeo. The motion was seconded by Brad and motion carried. Matt then talked briefly about the ranch rodeos; overall the two went very well. The attendance was higher for the Thursday rodeo, but still good for having two rodeos. For the future, he plans to continue the 100% payback to the top teams and would like to sell banner space in the arena, as a sponsor option.

- K. *SEB/Ag Challenge/HPG*: Pertaining to all of the activities during the show, the current insurance policy, through the ND Insurance Reserve, was reviewed by a company that specializes in fair policies. Unfortunately there are numerous areas where the NDWS is lacking in coverage. The company will likely be changed, so that we have the coverage needed. Also concerning insurance, Steve Opatz was injured while working during the rodeo during the Winter Show. Dawn is working with the insurance company to make sure he is taken care of.
- L. *Ag Hall of Fame*: Beth thought that overall this went good; Dawn shared that a letter had been received at the office, stating the disappointment in Ambrose Hoff being inducted; the letter was sent anonymously however.
- M. *Sponsorship*: The Roughrider Rodeo will now need sponsors. Dawn will look at Priefert's website, and contact them for a possible sponsorship.
- N. *Timeless Traditions*: The tasting bee will need to be reevaluated and decided if this will continue. It is hard to get vendors for this event. Also concerning the events, the Armory will not be available for use in 2017, so another location is needed.

Other:

Discussion continued on a replacement for Dylan, if Nikki is not interested in working full-time after she is done with college. The position is a salaried position, paying approximately \$35,000, with 2 weeks health insurance and a stipend for health insurance, to pass on to anyone perhaps interested.

Also in other business, Dawn questioned why, pertaining to the Classic Steer Auction, the NDWS pays for the slaughter charge for the steers. This year for nine head, it was \$765. The history on this was not known however, by those in attendance.

Dawn is on vacation the second week in May, when the next meeting would be held. The meeting date will thus be changed to May 2nd. Once again, board members' not attending meetings was mentioned; no decision made to how many meetings need to be attended in order to remain on the board.

No other business was discussed at this time and meeting was adjourned by Beth.

Respectfully Submitted by: Angie Curtis, NDWS Event Coordinator