

NDWS Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, March 16, 2015 ~ Gold Buckle Pub

Those in attendance at the NDWS March Board Meeting were as follows: Dennis Hoye, Matt Kvien, Kevin Christensen, Brad McKay, Tim Ost, Beth Didier, Dana Didier, Nick Hoffart, Dylan Ripplinger, Doug Muske, Nick Holm, Whitney Vogel, Bill Carlblom, Katie Oakes, Lindsey Peterson, Dawn Riley and Angie Curtis. The meeting was called to order by Board President, Dennis Hoye. The minutes from the February Meeting were then reviewed. A motion was made by Beth, seconded by Whitney, to approve the minutes as written; motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial information was reviewed; with this being February's reports, the Winter Show information is not included. A motion was made by Tim, seconded by Brad, to approve the financials; motion carried.

Winter Show Wrap-Up: Dawn discussed the Winter Show; overall the show was a success. The event numbers were reviewed and all events had attendance that was comparable to previous years, or increased attendance.

With the exception of the Junk Boutique, the "Timeless Traditions" events all had slightly increased attendance from last year. The Junk Boutique was just under last year's 1450+ attendance, though this event changed from a weekend show to Saturday only. In the future, the Country Hoedown and Sr. Dance Day will more than likely be combined and lunch will perhaps be included in the admission price. Other considerations for these events include perhaps changing the Junk Boutique location to the HAC or Eagles, or possibly renting out the armory for the day, to allow for more booths. Considerations for the Antique Show include combining it with the Toy Show or perhaps making it a one-day show.

The show was then reviewed and events of each day discussed as follows:

Monday:

Move-in day - The majority of vendors were all set up. The vendor contract and move-in time however does need to be written in consideration of the Community Olympics going on! The contract read that doors would be open until 6 pm, but that is when the Olympics are taking place, so this may need to be changed.

Chili Cook-Off & Community Olympics - Both went well, with more teams signed up than last year. More people however are needed to sell tickets. The "Winter Show Wranglers" placed in three events in the Community Olympics, so it was a fun night.

Tuesday:

Ag Challenge - We need more ag speakers! There was one seminar per day for the Ag Challenge. Instead of just ag speakers, perhaps motivational speakers or others could be incorporated into the ag related show.

Country Hoedown - As mentioned earlier, this will more than likely be combined with the Sr. Dance Day.

Tractor Pull - The pull went well and attendance was comparable to previous years. The arena was not as dusty, so very good. For next year, the suggestion was made to have a tractor on Thursday as well, to compare to a pulling horse team.

Pickup Pull - Attendance was comparable to previous years for this event as well. The liability insurance form was not received however until an hour before, so this was a problem. A different group, such as Mike's Custom Trucks, out of Northwood, ND, could perhaps be contacted, but the local group does have a following that draws a crowd. If using the SE Pickup Pulling Association again, a date

needs to be set to have the insurance by and the process of entries submitted needs to be more organized, with forms online, or entries submitted earlier than shortly before the pull starts.

Wednesday:

Tasting Bee- More than 300 people were at this event. Changes for next year on this event include the following: Have more tables and more quarters for change and, with the interest in this event, there is the opportunity for this event to grow; more organizations need to be contacted about having a booth. Overall the event went well and it is an easy transition into the Antique Show.

Market Hog Show – Eight hogs were entered in the show and then were all put into the auction sale, due to only eight performance steers entered. Could this show ever be moved to a weekend to possibly increase the number of junior exhibitors and hogs?

Karaoke – This event went well overall, with over 300 people in attendance. It does need to be shortened however. Perhaps for the second round, there could be 10 contestants, instead of 15, or songs limited, instead of hearing the entire song for each contestant.

Other Events – In the future, there needs to be something scheduled in the arena for Wednesday, to draw people that day. The steer show did go into the main arena on Wednesday, instead of the warm-up arena, but that could remain in the warm-up arena if necessary.

Thursday:

Pony Pull/Horse Pull/Team Events- All the horse and pony events went well, with over 14 teams entered into the Draft Horse Pull, the highest in several years. John Petras, a competitor from WI, did suggest that more cones be set up for the log skidding event and also that a shorter chain be between the log and the team. In addition, a matched set of logs could be tied together for the driver to stand on. It was also suggested to have increased penalties for knocked over cones. Again this year, an anonymous donor contributed to the payout for the draft and pony teams, with an envelope of cash dropped off at the announcer stand.

NDWS Luncheon – Attendance was down for this event, approximately 250 total, but the performance was good.

Youth Speaker – Turnout was good, with both the HAC and Eagles packed for both presentations.

Rodeo Queen Contest – Cheryl did continue on as the Queen Chairman, but discussion is still needed on this. Sam Bishop is interested in this position, but she coaches queen contestants and if doing so, cannot be coaching anyone competing for the title. Re-painting the queen trailer is being taken care of.

Ranch Rodeo – This first time event had an excellent turnout, with over 1100 tickets sold! Thank you to Matt Kvien for all his work in organizing this event. Some notes for next year include the following: Have more cattle to switch out, have a “no alcohol” policy for contestants, shorten it up by an hour (possibly eliminate the sorting event or have two teams competing at once in the trailer race), set up rodeo ally to aid in quicker changes and have the PRCA announcer announce both the ranch rodeo and PRCA rodeo. He has already been contacted and can announce for both. Also, the Gold Buckle Pub did close early on Thursday night so, in the future, it should remain open until after the event ends.

Critter Corral – This was supposed to be set up Thursday night, but did not happen. A list of all items needed needs to be received from Sue, or workers meet with her, prior to the set up, so that items needed are in place. Also, the corn pit cannot be next to the critter corral, or if so it needs to be partially enclosed in a tent, due to a problem this year with kids feeding corn to the animals.

Friday:

Hippology – Set up and event went well.

Concert – Thursday night set up of the concert is a problem. The process typically takes 5 hours and, due to a Thursday night event, it is not completed until the early morning hours. Tear down however did go faster this year and the rodeo set up was done by 11 am on Saturday, due to the additional crew

from Suttons that assisted. A stricter alcohol policy also needs to be addressed for the concert, due to alcohol from the pre-party then taken into the arena. Tim will address this. Having porta potties out front for the concert this year worked well and helped keep the bathrooms inside less congested. Arrangements will be made to have them again next year.

Antique Show – This show went well; it was held Thursday and Friday and, as discussed earlier, attendance was up slightly from last year.

Saturday:

Junk Boutique – This show went great; as discussed earlier, the attendance was similar to last years, even though it was on Saturday only, vs. Saturday and Sunday.

ND Ag Hall of Fame – Dennis shared that the NDAHF displays at the NDWS and the Rosebud Visitors Center are now full. Instead of investing in more frames, the older honorees biographies will be removed as new inductees' acrylics are added.

PRCA Rodeo – The rodeo performances went well and Sutton Rodeo has been contracted for the next 3 years. The specialty act, Rider Kiesner, did a great job; he was very professional and interacted with the crowd during the performances. For next year, Matt would like to see a sponsored team roping event taking place, in addition to the PRCA roping. This "businessman roping" would be an additional event where four extra teams per performance would find their own sponsor and pay an entry fee to participate. There would be a 100% payback, so there would be no fees associated with it, but sponsorship would increase. More discussion will take place on this with the rodeo committee.

Sunday:

Bingo – This first-time event had a small turnout and will more than likely not be done next year.

PRCA Rodeo – discussed previously; overall rodeo attendance was up from last year, with Saturday afternoon's performance up nearly 650.

The comments and suggestions that were received during the show were then read and discussed briefly. One suggestion was to have military veterans recognized at the start of the rodeos and that will be implemented in the future. The parking lot was discussed briefly and the parking on sidewalks. In the future, cement barriers need to be put on the sidewalks, to prevent parking there.

The Commissioners' Luncheon was mentioned; Dennis had been asked why there was not one held during the show this year; the NDWS office however has never organized the luncheon. According to Beth, Phil Leitner had arranged that in the past and he was no longer in that position.

In preparation for next year's show, Dawn would like to see the show scheduled from Saturday to Saturday. The concert could be the first Saturday, along with the junior show. This may work better for vendors and aid in getting more acts, since a show could be scheduled for multiple days, instead of one, with typically the same fee charged if an act is traveling to put on one show or several. Getting offices up to the barn was also mentioned. The expense of rent paid every month at the Rosebud could perhaps be put towards offices at the NDWS. Relocation of the offices and the 2016 NDWS schedule will need to be discussed further.

Five Star Bull Event:

The chute arrangement between the NDWS and Five Star Bucking Bulls was discussed. Dan Elston had visited with Dawn and wanted to change their April 18th Bull-o-Rama to May 9th, but a date had not even been set in April. Currently the NDWS uses the chutes for the PRCA and high school rodeo, in exchange for Five Star using the building. For approximately \$30-\$35,000, new chutes could be purchased; a decision needs to be made whether or not to make that investment. This may strain the relationship between the two

organizations, but from a business stand point it may work better instead of the “favor for favor” arrangement. There is still money available from the sale of the NDWS lot, though \$10,000 has gone to the repair of the doors.

Along with the chutes, Five Star’s free standing panels have also been used for horse stalls. The Great Midwest Horse Show would like to sell their red stalls, which are currently used during the high school rodeo, along with the Great Midwest Horse Show in October. The stalls are small however and can only be put up on the cement. It was decided that the stalls are not necessary and a motion was made by Matt, seconded by Kevin, to have Great Midwest pick up their stalls by June 1st, or they will be donated; motion carried. With stalls and chutes needed, there will not be enough funds to purchase both. After much discussion, a motion was made by Matt, seconded by Brad, for the NDWS to buy their own chutes; motion carried. Panels however, will continue to be rented from Five Star. Suggested companies to purchase from included Hi-Hog and Priefert. Perhaps used equipment can be acquired through the National Finals Rodeo, Calgary Stampede or online searches. Contacting Dan Fairfield was also suggested.

With Dan Elston needing an answer about the May Bull-o-Rama, it was decided that the building could be rented at \$2000 per day, plus utilities. This does not include the pub area; it is the arena and back barn only. NDWS labor will also not be included in the contract. The NDWS AQHA Horse Show is scheduled for the weekend prior, but Dylan did not feel this would be a problem, due to minimal clean up after the horse show.

Other: With Mike Kohler resigning, there is a director position to fill. Names suggested included Luke Nelson, Chris Lundy, Casey Stoudt Jr. and Dana Didier. More discussion is needed on this. Also, this Wednesday is the NDWS Employee & Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, 6:30 pm at the VFW. The next BOD meeting is then scheduled for April 13th.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:
Angie Curtis, NDWS Event Coordinator