

# ***NORTH DAKOTA RODEO ASSOCIATION***

## ***Annual Meeting Agenda***

Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, Buckskin, Killdeer ND  
9 am MT

Attendance: Tate Eck, Shannon Eck (proxy Jessie Pfaff), Kyle Abrahamson, Brandon Padilla, Steve Waagen, Kenzie Pennington, Jim Graven, David Drader, Coleman Entze, Tim Jorgenson, Chuck Christman, Brenden Brinkman, Tanner Wznick, Scott Kleemann, Nate Horner, Sara Bubel, Michelle Rotenberger. Guests: Kelly Abrahamson, Howdy Lawlar (McKenzie Co Ag Expo) Jesse Hicks, Dawn Carson, Whitney Entzel, Dustin Entzel, Kane Gjermundson, Mindy Sigvaldsen, Rick Sigvaldsen

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of Minutes: Tim moved, Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF
- III. Secretary's Report: Nothing to report that won't be discussed during meeting.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Balances were shared. Michelle is encouraging the board to review income & spending for budgeting reasons. Jim moved pending review, Brenden 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- V. Marketing Director Report: Sara explained that more than likely won't be having hospitality room again. Some did not care for the sandwiches & there was a lot of food wasted. It would also require a sponsor in the future as the extra funds she had have been used. Sponsorship collection went well and there was a little extra for saddles & jackets. Buckles and jackets did go up in price. Kelley Slover does sponsor a few buckles. Doing saddles with Connolly is going well. We will continue as is unless someone has other suggestions. Kyle moved, Coleman 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF.
- VI. Old Business
  - a) BEK TV Recap – Laison at BEK was Holly Murphy who no longer will be working on the rodeo side. Nate has been visiting with Jordan Hasler, who has been involved from the beginning. One suggestion was to continue having the committees work on making sure there is no large gaps in the show. Nate did approach the subject of where they are financially moving forward. BEK would like to see that the committees put some of the \$5000 toward increasing their added money. Nate made sure he knew that some of the committees needed the money for operating etc. We are 3 years in. Some of the committees would have received \$15000 at this point. BEK would like to have an idea of where the money is going. The NDRA needs to assume some responsibility in relating how or where the

money is being spent. Nate also approached the subject of more money for broadcasting the finals since it is 3 performances in one place. A suggestion from BEK was taking a percentage of the regular season committee money to contribute to the finals broadcast. That was not the NDRA's intention with the committee money. Feedback from the committees that are getting the money & from the ones that are not would be beneficial.

- b) Finals Wrap Up –Tim: Performances lasted about 3 hours with opening, boot race, sheep riding etc. Contestants were fantastic. Tim agrees that the hospitality room wasn't utilized enough. The Ag Expo was good to work with. Vendors were happy. Finals has been in the Watford for the last 30 years. The McKenzie County Cowboys Association has decided to retire & will not be putting a bid in for 2026-2029. He sees that McKenzie County Ag Expo has a bid in for the next 3 years. He hopes that we will consider their bid to keep the rodeo in Watford City. He wanted to thank the NDRA for the support of the McKenzie County Cowboys Association. Kelly wanted the MCCA to know that the NDRA Finals is where it is because of their people. Dawn concurred. Nate commented that a good final makes for a better regular season.
- c) Any Other Old Business

## VII. New business

- a) Approve WPRA Breakaway Roping & Rope for the Crown: We have done these two options for the last several years. The cost to the association is \$300 to send an NDRA contestant to the Rope for the Crown. For the WPRA co-sanction, the breakaway girls have a designated person that does all the sanctioning paperwork, Michelle just sends the results right away Monday morning. Whitney did ask if anyone has mentioned doing it for barrels. No one has to our knowledge. Nate advised that if they have a plan in the works to co-sanction the barrels with the WPRA to bring it back to the board for discussion. Shannon moved to approve breakaway events, Tim 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF.
- b) Judges Clinic 2026 NDHSRA, 2027 Rough Rider, 2028 NDRA: February 28<sup>th</sup>, Quality Inn, Bismarck. Includes Timers.
- c) CD DCB – Renewed the DCB CD for 3 months on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Revisit this at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- d) Finals Timed Event Concern – Contracting: Rule that states finals rodeo cattle must be by an approved contractor. What clarifies them as a sub-contractor? Example: Vohs cattle. Does he need to be an approved Sub-contractor? Kelly considers him as subbed under Abrahamsons as they were in a need for cattle. Historically, per

Scott, 20 years ago the whole subcontractor designation was going to be wiped out. The reason a sub-contractor card came about was previous contractors wanted to be recognized for it being their cattle, etc. but didn't want to produce rodeos. It also eliminated the sub-contractors from bidding rodeos against the main contractors. By purchasing a sub-contractor's card, the stock is announced as (for example) Eckroth Rodeo or McGee Rodeo. If they do not purchase a sub-card, they are considered under (for example) Abrahamson Rodeo or CN'Stars Rodeo. Brenden suggested that the director continue to be involved in picking the stock with the help of the final's contestants. Discussion was included that a stock contractor should have a card if they have cattle at the finals. Consensus was that it wasn't the NDRA's responsibility to police who had who's stock. Chuck wanted to reiterate the importance of having a meeting before the finals. Tim agreed.

- e) NDRA Finals Bids: McKenzie County Cowboys Association have decided to retire from the production side of the NDRA finals. McKenzie County Ag Expo has put in a bid. Howdy Lawlar is in attendance on behalf of the MCAE. Discussion points: BROADCAST – MCAE would like to not broadcast the finals for a minimum of a week concluding the finals. BEK said then won't do it. MCAE said giving up the \$5000 from BEK would be made up in the gate sales. As an association we need to protect our obligations with BEK. Contestants feel like they need to finish the story from the summer. However, the finals are not in our contract with BEK, it just reads 12 broadcast worthy live events. TIME OF YEAR - MCAE has the date for the third week in October on hold. Issues discussed were weather at that time, potentially no conflict with college rodeos, would horses still be legged up, are they able to secure good stock? Howdy did say that this may be just for 2026 and that we may be able to move back up in following years. EVENT ORDER: It was suggested on the bid to change the event order. The board said this will not change. POINTS: bid suggests doubling all points all rounds. Consensus among the group is to 1 ½ the average points only. Contract negotiation with MCAE will continue. One other option may be USING DICKINSON ARENA: 120 by 230, permanent seating 640 (portable to get to 700 per perf), warm up pens and stock pens in lean-to attached to building. That's adequate. The concession area, lobby, expo area is minimal. Contestant horses could not be kept on sight. Cost \$5000 for all 3 rounds to rent facility. DSU would open the facility for us, college kids would help but we would be responsible for the rest. NDRA would host the event from start to finish. Rough estimate would be the NDRA would need to raise \$25000 above what we already contribute to the finals. DSU would also be thrilled to have us. GOING FORWARD: An executive committee (Nate, Scott, Tate, Michelle) will meet with MCAE for a final negotiation. Brandon moved, Brenden 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF At the end of that meeting, there will be a decision to finalize the contract with MCAE or make the decision to go elsewhere.

f) 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Rule Changes – See attached

g) Any Other New Business:

h) Election of Officers & Board of Directors

- Bareback Riding (currently vacant) Kyle nominated Seth Berg, Tim 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chuck ceased, AIF
- Bull Riding (currently Coleman Entze) Coleman nominated Jesse Hicks, Brandon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kyle ceased, AIF
- Steer Wrestling (currently Colten Herbert) Tim nominated Colten Herbert, Kelly 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brenden ceased, AIF
- Team Roping Header (currently Chris Arnold) Jim nominated Tucker Dale, Shannon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kyle ceased, AIF
- Ladies Breakaway (currently Jessie Pfaff) Shannon nominated Jessie Pfaff, Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brenden ceased, AIF
- Sr Men's Breakaway (currently Brenden Brinkman) Jim nominated Brenden Brinkman, Kyle 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brandon ceased, AIF
- Judges Director (currently Chuck Christman) Chuck nominated Rick Sigvaldsen, Brenden 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kyle ceased, Chuck moved for unanimous decision, AIF
- Contract Acts Rep (currently Marty Heid) Scott nominated Marty Heid, Brenden 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim ceased, AIF
- Area #1 (currently Kyle Abrahamson) Shannon nominated Kyle Abrahamson, Brandon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kyle ceased, AIF
- Area #2 (currently Tim Jorgenson) Tim nominated Wes Leppell, Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brandon ceased, AIF
- Area #3 (currently Steve Waagen) Kyle nominated Steve Waagen, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brandon ceased, AIF
- Area #4 (currently Arlo Erickson) Brandon nominated Coleman Entze, Brenden 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tim ceased, AIF
- President (currently Nate Horner) Jim nominated Nate Horner, David 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brenden ceased, AIF

- Vice President (currently Scott Kleemann) Jim nominated Scott Kleemann, Chuck 2<sup>nd</sup>, Brenden ceased, AIF
- i) Executive Session Review of Executive Secretary, Central Entry & Marketing Director positions

Approved to keep positions filled by current staff

VIII. Adjournment Motion by Tim J; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chuck C