

Willow Creek Agricultural Society

P.O. Box 1401
Claresholm, Alberta, Canada T0L 0T0

Minutes of the Willow Creek Ag. Society held November 19th, 2025.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm at Claresholm Agriplex.

Present: David Hansma, Lorraine Norgard, Wally Mandel, Neil Watt, Rick Penner, Arnold Koehler, Rod Jensen, Allan Minor, Dave Elliott, Travis Booth, Tania Smeltzer, and Santanna Thom.

Absent: Stacie Scheller and Seth Wagner.

Reading of Minutes: The minutes of the last regular meeting held Oct 22nd were read by David Hansma. Dave Elliott adopted the minutes as read. Seconded by Travis Booth. Motion carried.

Business Arising from Minutes: Santanna talked about the High School Rodeo Finals that is being hosted at the Agriplex in June of 2026 and 2027. They are in the process of finding sponsorship and have talked about selling the naming of the buildings as a way of raising sponsor dollars instead of just hanging a banner. They have around 12 people who have come to the organizational meeting to help with the running of this event. She said that planning is well under way and they are having monthly meeting at this time. The riding pass fee was discussed and who this annual fee is supposed to be charged too and what type of activity does this cover. David suggested that he thought that it probably was only to cover the recreational rider who had maybe one or two horses and would mainly use it over the late fall and winter months. He told the board that this used to be a six-month charge and he believes it was changed to cover the Calander year to make administration easier. Most pass holders ride from mid Oct to mid to end April with pass roping activity happening from November to end of March. This time in the calendar year was usually the time daily roping could start inside. This I because weekend events had wrapped up in the fall and would end in March before bigger multi day events started. Also, daily inside roping was done before sand was changed in the spring. Fees were discussed at this time but no decisions have been made as to what this increase or changed fee would look like. The increase fee is to have the expanded arena riding time and availability of the second building as well as the possible loss of hourly rental of the West Agriplex.

Treasurers Report: The financial report was read by David Hansma. Tanya Smeltzer moves we accept the financials to the end of Oct 2025. Wally seconds. Motion Carried.

Managers Report: David read the Managers report with the upcoming events at the Agriplex and the following items for discussion:

- We applied to the CFEP Large before the June 15, 2023 deadline. We requested \$607,000 matching for the front end. We were notified of results at the end of December. We were approved for \$533,572 matching. Deposited March 2024. Also have the Town's commitment of \$200,000 (possibly will be \$50,000 over 4 years).
- Engineered blueprints are being worked on by Bergen and associates of Lethbridge for the front-end addition on the West Agriplex. David told the board that the design of the front end is now progressing with a delivery for early spring of the building package and construction.
- Roughneck steel builders have been contacted to get both the engineered foundation drawing as well as the Behlen structural drawing in order to proceed with building permit.
- Applied for FCC AgriSpirit grant funding of \$25,000 for Calcana heaters in West Agriplex. This funding has been successful. This funding was sourced and application was submitted by Nadine.
- TeeJay asked if there could be a better utilization of the West Agriplex so that there could be extended riding period times in the East Agriplex over the current 2-hour time slot. The following is a suggestion of what this could look like if this was something the Agriplex would consider:

East Agriplex:

Mon/Wed/Fri Open roping/Trainer pass 8am-2or3pm/Open riding 3pm-7pm or later
Tues/Thurs Open riding-Trainer pass 8am-12pm/Open roping 12pm-3pm/Open ride 3pm-7pm

West Agriplex

Mon/Fri Barrel and Open Riding 8am-2pm/Arena closed at 2pm for arena work

Tues/Wed/Thurs Barrel and Open Barrel Riding 8am-3pm.

-Scholarships Cheques have been mailed and journaled to clear the 2025 Ag Society year end.

- East Agriplex Rental Nights as Follows:

Mon - Dallas Cornfeld 7-9pm

Tues – Logan Gertner 7-9pm

Wed – Scheller 7-9pm

Thurs - Penner 7-9pm

Friday - tiny mites with allan bell (mcleod)

-West Agriplex

-2 weekly 2-hour time slots along with a number to several individual rental spots.

-The out gate for the rough stock on the east Agriplex has been redesigned at the request for the High School Rodeo Finals to help with the increased number of bucking stock coming in and out thru this door. This is being constructed by WCAS staff with design help from Logan Gertner. Also, a second sorting alley has been ordered from Two W to handle the ability to sorting more timed event cattle during this rodeo and other rodeos.

-A second sorting tub, like the one by the loading chute, is required by the west Agriplex. We used that building last year for a penning and I have a couple there this year. This is required in order to renumber cattle during the event. This Tub will be needed anyway in the future when the west outside return alley is developed.

- Election of directors whose term is up and for potential new directors for the annual meeting in December are:

DIRECTORS WHO HAVE ONE YEAR REMAINING ARE:

Neil Watt

Dave Elliott

Rodney Jensen

Tania Smeltzer

Wally Mandel

Santanna Thom

DIRECTORS WHOSE TERM IS UP:

Allan Minor

Arnold Koehler

Travis Booth

Lorraine Norgard

Rick Penner

Stacie Scheller

- New Business:**
- The board talked about the FCC AgriSpirit Award the Nadine applied for and was successful for the Calcana heaters in the West Building. Allan moves we go ahead and order these heaters. Wally Seconds. Motion Carried
 - The board talked about the deposit required in order to front end addition on the West Agriplex. Wally moves we go ahead and put this deposit on the order to ready the project for erection in the spring of 2026. Ric Seconds. Motion Carried.
 - The board talked about the crowding tub for the West Agriplex. Lorraine moves we go ahead with this project at the West Agriplex. Tanya Seconds. Motion Carried.
 - Trent, Montana, TJ and Jackson came to the meeting to talked about proposed riding pass and the fees that could be charged to allow for this expanded riding/roping time in both buildings. They all gave their concerns over what they have heard these fees could be and what they felt they could or would want to pay. After they left the meeting, the board talked about what the solution could be. Travis suggested that maybe we need to increase these riding fees over the 2026 and 2027 years instead of all at once. Neil felt that this change was more driven by trainers ask and not so much from recreational users. After further discussion this change was tabled till the annual meeting to see what concerns are brought up.

Adjourn:

Lorraine moves the meeting be adjourned at 9:26 pm.