

Willow Creek Agricultural Society

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

Minutes of the Willow Creek Ag. Society held January 21st, 2026.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:15 pm at Claresholm Agriplex.

Present: David Hansma, Wally Mandel, Neil Watt, Rick Penner, Logan Gertner, Rodney Jensen, TJ Boles, Miguel Lambert, Dave Elliott, Santanna Thom and Brad Schlossberger.

Absent: Stacie Scheller, Travis Booth, and Tania Smeltzer.

Reading of Minutes: The minutes of the last regular meeting held Nov 19th were read by David Hansma. Santanna Thom adopted the minutes as read. Seconded by Logan Gertner. Motion carried.

Business Arising from Minutes: Calcana overhead heaters arrived today and Jackson along with Gilbert will be hanging and venting with Upper Decker Plumbing to the gas connections. The cost of the heaters and material were mostly covered by a grant that Nadine sourced and applied for. Bergen and Associates Engineering was here today to confirm power consumption and draw for the front addition to what has been installed at the site. We also went over the wash bay confirming the sump bay pit and how it would hook up and its purpose. I showed him the existing one in the East Agriplex to show its purpose and how it works. Neil brought up what we should be doing with the 2026 riding passes. Most of the board has received information from users as well as the information that was talked about at the annual meeting. He suggests that a committee of a couple of board members is made to come back with the final recommendation for the board to discuss and vote on. Riding pass committee to consist of Dave Elliott, TJ Boles, Miguel Lamber, Logan Gertner and Travis Booth.

Treasurers Report: The financial report was read by David Hansma. Dave Elliott moves we accept the financials to the end of December 2025. Rick Penner 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).
- We have started with the engineering drawing (Mechanical, Electrical and Architectural), First draft of preliminary drawing that are more exact to what building standards should be here by the end of January.
- 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. Deposit has been put on this package.
- The board has suggested fees for trainers/equine businesses from around \$500 to \$1000 per month and recreational riding passes of \$200 per horse or maybe also monthly fee instead of a yearly fee. This fee should be set as we have started to have people pay for 2026 passes.
- The redesign of the out gate for rough stock is still progressing with final welding done when bucking chutes are put in for the March college rodeo.

-I have also asked Two W to quote a second sorting alley for behind the roping boxes to handle more cattle being sorted for the finals and used at all rodeos that we host or produce.

-I had a phone call from Ray Lane (for RMR roping's) and Crystal McPeak (for other WCAS sponsored events) regarding setting up a table during these events to collect signatures for the Alberta Prosperity Project, or whatever the political cause is called. Ray has received permission from the RMR for this weekend. They were asking about other events.

- Santanna has been collecting sponsorship for the Alberta High School Rodeo Finals in June and a discussion has been made by or thru the Wrangler rep about Wrangler paying for naming rights to the Agriplex. Santanna will explain further and give more details on what she has.

-The question on whether hot shoeing of horses should be allowed in the Agriplex when it is occupied by others. People have asked over the years and I have always explained because it is an equine service that some people use, I have just left it. Is this something the board wants to discuss and address at the same time of riding passes.

- Progress on the second indoor facility:

- HRV spiral pipe, approx. 900 feet has been installed and vent opening cut. Finishing installation of the HRV units. Final wiring is now being completed on these Units.

-Calcanna heat units were delivered today and installation will start in the next month. We are hanging and installing vents with final gas hookup being done by a local gas fitter. Electrical is just a plug in so this does not require a trade to hook up.

New Business:

The board discussed purchasing a sorting tub for the West Agriplex. David told the board that this will be required in the future anyway when the West Agriplex becomes the primary rental upon completion. He is wanting it now as we hosted a penning in this building last year and when we had to renumber cattle during the event using the rough stock stripping chute from the bucking chute set up did not work. We have at least 2 or 3 this year and this will help in making these events run smoothly. Logan moves we purchase the sorting tub. TJ seconds. Motion carried.

AB Prosperity project has requested that they be allowed to set up a signing table at the RMR roping. David told them as this was a rental they would have to ask the RMR group if this is what they are OK with. Ray has already asked and they are OK with this signing table. The board talked about what we would do in the future or for events hosted by the WCAS. Brad Schlossberger as mayor of the town has said that because we are a public building and if it is legal and causes no issues, we really can't say no to this. They have had meetings at the Town Library and he feels the Agriplex is kind of the same public venue.

Santanna talked about the progress that is being made on the AHSRA Finals for 2026. As of right now they have 4 maybe 5 building sponsors sold. These naming rights are for the AHSRA Finals in June of 2026, not the entire year. That being said there may be some interest in the longer-term naming rights of either the East or West Agriplex. More information on what this could look like in the future.

The question on hot shoeing in the building was brought up and if this is something we want to handle when we are updating the riding passes. This question is to be left to pass committee to decide and then bring it to the board.

Logan brought up the Roping chute and if it should be replaced before the High School finals. It is not necessarily just for the finals but whether we should be replacing it on a bi yearly basis. If we replaced it more often it would be less likely to need repair during a roping. David told Logan that the issue is the length of the cement pad that the chute sits under. This chute was built specifically for the space we had and also has the side door for someone to get inside to push cattle. We did have a priefert chute years ago but it did not have a side door and it was made of lighter material. David was offered and looked at a new 2W chute but it would not fit the space and David thought the closing mechanism was hard to work as well the width was wider if you wanted a side gate. Logan suggested that maybe we need to look at building a side gate in the head box side that was not part of the roping chute.

Miguel asked on stalls and whether we look at building more stalls and what the future for those would look like. David suggested that Barn B is probably what needs to be looked at in the future to be replaced as this was built around 1980. David felt that this barn should be maybe repositioned some but should be kept in the similar spot with maybe a size similar to Barn A. That is around 95 inside stalls.

Miguel also inquired about board members liability insurance. David told the board that we do have board member liability insurance that is part of our overall insurance. This insurance is to cover board members in the event that the WCAS is sued and then if board members are named in that instance as well.

TJ brought up the riding passes and said he has talked to various people and has received many opinions. TJ suggested that if we are not ready to make a final decision on what we are going to do with riding passes, we should at least increase the passes some for 2026. After some further discussion, Wally moves that for 2026 arena passes go up from \$200 to \$300. Miguel seconds. Motion carried.

Election of officers for the 2025-2026 year:

Election of President.

Wally Mandel nominates Neil Watt. Rick Penner seconds. Dave Elliott moves nominations cease. Neil Watt is president.

Election of Vice President.

Rick Penner nominates Dave Elliott. Wally Mandel seconds. Rodney Jensen moves nominations cease. Dave Elliott is Vice President.

Election of Secretary.

Santanna Thom nominates Tania Smeltzer. Wally Mandel seconds. Dave Elliott moves nominations cease. Tania Smeltzer is Secretary.

Election of Treasurer.

Dave Elliott nominates Wally Mandel. Rick Penner seconds. Brad Schlossberger moves nominations cease. Wally Mandel is Treasurer.

Authorized Signatory.

Wally Mandel moves that the board appoint David Hansma as an Authorized Signatory for the 2025-2026 year. Dave Elliott seconds. Motion carried.

These officers and the Authorized Signatory will have signing authority for the Willow Creek Agricultural Society for the following year.

Adjourn: Dave Elliott moves the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Director

Date

Director