

**BIG HORN COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

121 3rd St W
Room 301
Hardin, MT 59034



**BIG HORN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
March 19, 2026
9:30 AM**

Members
George Real Bird III, Presiding Officer
Larry Vandersloot, Member
Lawrence Big Hair, Member

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Real Bird, Presiding Officer calls meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Presiding Officer District 1 Real Bird III, and Commissioner District 3 Vandersloot were both in attendance. Deputy County Attorney, Heather Ready, was also in attendance.

3. Claim Approvals

Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve claims 1241 and 1242. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

4. Approve Minutes and Supporting Documents

Commissioner Vandersloot entertained a motion to approve minutes from March 12, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Real Bird and passed unanimously.

5. Personnel/Legal

6. Old Business

7. New Business

Indian Relay RFP

They received one proposal for the Indian relay. They will take it under advisement for review.

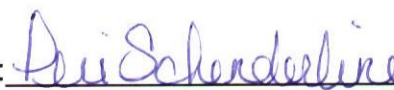
8. Public Comments

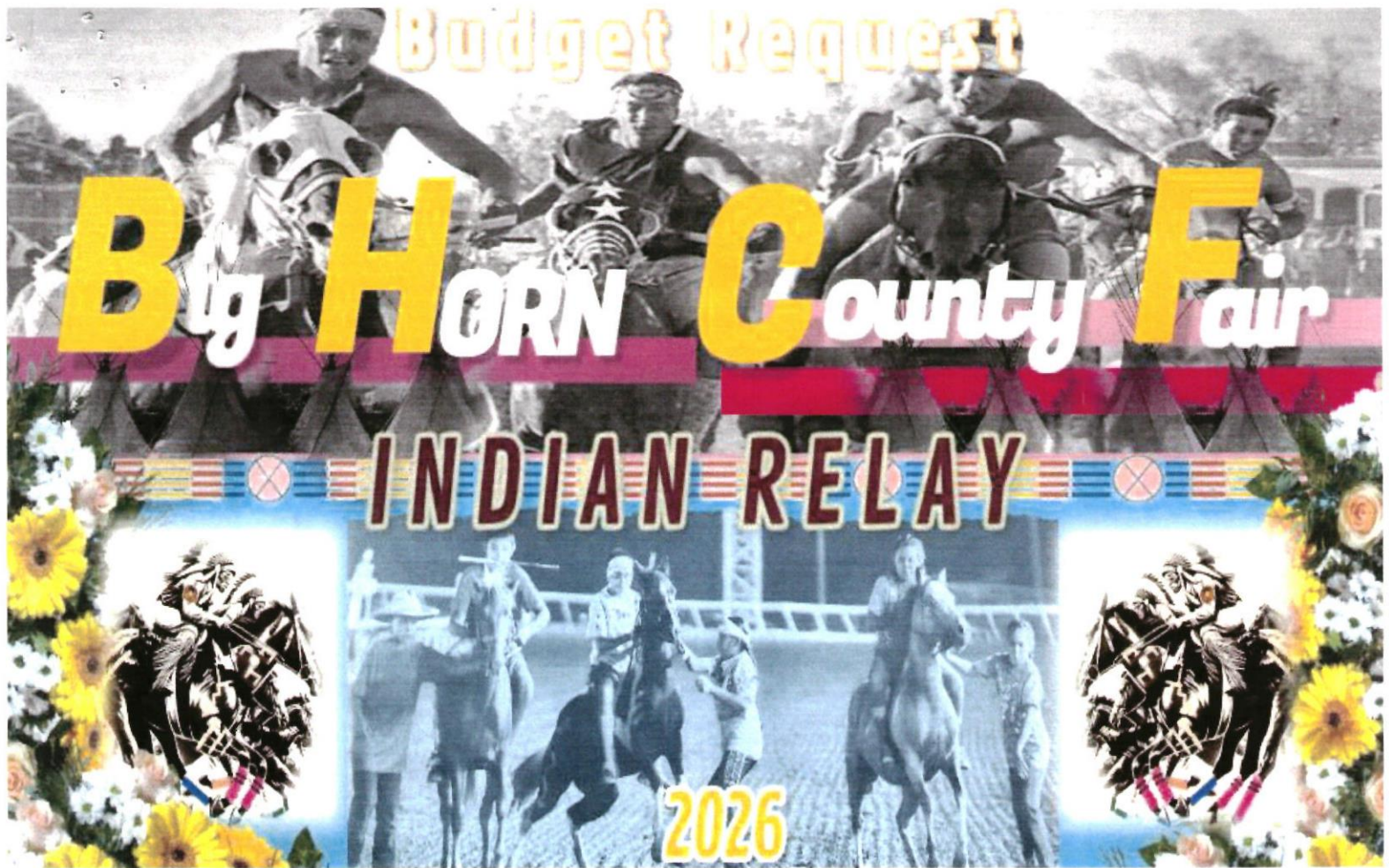
9. Discussion

10. Adjourn

There being no other business, the board adjourned.

Approved: 
George Real Bird III, Presiding Officer

Attest: 
Peri Schenderline, Deputy Clerk & Recorder



Submitted by: Ashton Old Elk
406-699-9262

BHCF Indian Relay 26'

Categories	Details	\$ Estimated
Expenses: Prizes/Awards		
	Hooey Jackets	Champion Jackets \$320
	Mosaic Threads	Jacket Design \$240
	Horse Nations Indian Relay Council	Accredited Fee \$750
	Sheridan Buckle Co.	Champion Saddles \$3,960
		Trophy Halters \$1,040
	Big Dee's Tack	Trophy Horse Coolers \$180
	Sheridan Buckle Co.	Champion Buckles \$340
Subtotal		\$6,878.00
Expenses: Purse Money		
	Day 1: Heats	\$4,000
	Day 2: Consolation Heats	\$6,000
	Day 2: Championship Heat	\$10,000
Subtotal		\$20,000
Expenses: Staff		
	Announcer	x1 \$200/Day \$400
	Judges	x6 x\$200 Flat Fee \$1,200
	Out Riders	x2 x \$100/Day \$400
	Secretaries	x2 x \$150 Flat Fee \$300
	Racing Office Extra Help	x4 x \$50/Day \$400
Subtotal		\$3,000
Expenses: Miscellaneous		
	Staff T-Shirts	20 x \$20/Shirt \$400
	Photographer	
	Stationary	
	Other	
Subtotal		\$600
Total Requested		\$30,000

Big Horn County Fair Indian Relay Rules

July 24th-25th 2026

I. Team Members

1. There will be five members in a team.
 - A. 2 holders
 - B. 1 mugger
 - C. 1 rider
 - D. 1 alternate (rider, mugger or holder)
2. Team members must be Federally recognized Indians.
3. All team members must wear matching shirts that clearly identify them as a team. No tshirts or shirts depicting any gang affiliation.

II. Rider

1. *Mounted Start* -Team holders will be required to assist on all starts.
2. No other team member may touch or assist the rider in mounting the horses during starts and exchanges.
3. Rider must dismount having both feet on the ground before mounting the next horse.
4. Riders must ride all three horses. No changing of riders after the race has started.
5. Riders must ride all three horses bareback, neck ropes are allowable.

III. Horses

1. Horses must be Indian owned.
 2. Limit of four (4) horses for the relay races.
 3. No replacement for horses.
 4. In the case of extreme emergencies, a team may borrow extra horses only with the consensus of the race officials and the Indian Relay teams that paid the relay entry fees for the current relay races.
- The team asking for the exceptions must comply with all other rules in this section (Section III Horses).

IV. Disqualification

(Disqualification will occur in the following cases.)

1. Entry fee is not paid before the race starts or by the designated deadline!

2. If the team is not on the starting line when starting the race.
3. No team will be allowed more than one false start.
 Holders, riders and horses must enter the track on the west end,
 All starting horses must be behind the white chalk line when the gun goes off. THE
 RACE IS STARTED WHEN THE GUN IS SHOT OR FLAG, if you start before the gun is
 shot or flag is dropped; this is considered a false start.
4. If the team loses any horse or the horses leave the track.
5. If any team member is intoxicated or under the influence of intoxicating
substances on the racetrack.
6. Rider does not dismount in his own team area. (That is, the rider must
dismount in his own team area.)
7. Any team not completing a race.
8. Striking another team's horse or rider.
9. Using your horse to shield another rider from entering his exchange area.
10. Running through another team's exchange area.
11. If a rider does not dismount in his own team area. Rider must dismount in
his lined off team area. *For instance, if a rider runs through another team
intentionally in the process of changing, either coming or going out, that is grounds
for disqualifications.*

V. Non Disqualification

1. a rider falls from their horse, but does not release the horse and is able to
remount the horse and complete the race,

VI. Judges Decisions

1. ALL JUDGES DECISIONS WILL BE FINAL.
2. \$200 Fee, before judges will review initial complaint. Bringing video recording to be viewed
by the judges

VII. Conflicts

1. Harassing, fighting, intimidating or arguing with the judges, the starters,
timers, association members or other participating team members will not be
allowed.
2. No intoxicated team members

VIII. Penalty

1. If the rules are not strictly adhered to, teams may be disqualified from
remaining races.

VIII. Accidents and Injuries

All team members will be required to sign a waiver form.

Bighorn County Fair Indian Relay

Expense Summary

2023				2024			
Men's Relay Purse			+\$15,000	Men's Relay Purse			+\$20,000
Jackets	x 4	\$100 / Jacket	+\$400	Jackets	x 4	\$100 / Jacket	+\$400
Buckles	x 4	\$85-\$110 / Buckle	+\$400	Buckles	x 4	\$85-\$110 / Buckle	+\$400
Staff:				Staff:			
Head Judge / Starter	x 1	\$200	+\$200	Head Judge / Starter	x 1	\$200	+\$200
Box Judge(s)	x 5	\$150/Judge	+\$750	Box Judge(s)	x 5	\$150/Judge	+\$750
Secretarie(s)	x 2	\$100 / Secretary	+\$200	Secretarie(s)	x 2	\$100 / Secretary	+\$200
Sound / Announcer		\$500	+\$500	Sound / Announcer		\$500	+\$500
Track Security	x 2	\$100 / Person	+\$200	Track Security	x 2	\$100 / Person	+\$200
Coordinator(s)	x 2	\$500 / Person	+\$1,000	Coordinator(s)	x 2	\$500 / Person	+\$1,000
			+\$18,650				+\$23,650

2025			2026
Expenses: Purse Money		\$20,000	
Expenses: Staff		\$6,175	
Added Races:			
Maidens Race	Added Purse	+\$500	
Warriors Race	Added Purse	+\$500	
Pony Relay	Added Purse	+\$600	
Horse Nations Indian Relay Council ACCREDITED FEE		+\$750	
Added Prizes / Awards:			
Jackets	6 Total (4 / Pony Relay & 1 ea. / 2 Races)	+\$350	
Embroidery Supplies		+\$100	
Staff:			
Singers	\$50 / Singer / Day	+\$350	
Timers	\$100 / Timer / Day	+\$400	
Stock Supplies:			
Stock Panels	\$30 / Panel / 1 Weekend	+\$2,760	
Equipment	Hauling & Laborer	+\$370	
Given:\$28,000		OVERALL: +\$32,855	

2025 BHCF INDIAN RELAY

Overall Expenses

Categories	Details		\$ TOTAL
Expenses: Prizes/Awards			
	Hoey Jackets	Champion Jackets	\$320
	Mosaic Threads	Jacket Design	\$100
	Horse Nations Indian Relay Council	Accredited Fee	\$750
	Sheridan Buckle Co.	Champion Saddles	\$4,080
	Kelly Slover	Trophy Halters	\$1,040
	Big Dee's Tack	Trophy Horse Coolers	\$340
	Sheridan Buckle Co.	Champion Buckles	\$340
Subtotal			6,970
Expenses: Purse Money			
	Men's Indian Relay Purse		\$20,000
	Maidens Race Purse		\$500
	Warriors Race Purse		\$500
	Pony Relay Purse		\$600
Subtotal			21,600
Expenses: Staff			
	Announcer	\$500 Flat Fee x 1	\$500
	Judges	\$150 / Day x 5 Judges * 2 Days	\$1,500
	Out Riders	\$150 / Day x 2 Outriders * 2 Days	\$600
	Secretaries	\$100 / Day x 4 Secretaries * 2 Days	\$400
	Timers	\$100 / Day x 2 Timers * 2 Days	\$200
	Marshaller	\$225 Flat Fee x 1	\$225
	Racing Office Extra Help	\$50 / Day x 6 Helpers * * 2 Days	\$600
	Singers	\$50 / Day x 6 Singers * 2 Days	\$350
	Event Manager	\$1,000 Flat Fee x 1	NP \$1,000
	Event Coordinator	\$500 Flat Fee x 1	NP \$500
Subtotal			6,175
Expenses: Miscellaneous			
	Office Supplies		\$233
	Stock Supplies : Panels \$30 / Panel / Weekend	\$30 / Panel / Weekend	NP \$2,760
	Equipment: Hauling	Gas 2 Days	\$170
Subtotal			3,163

Total Request: \$30,000	Total Recieved On-Hand: \$25,000	Total Prizes/Awards: \$6,970	Total Granted: \$31,970	OVERALL TOTAL: \$37,908	OWE: \$3,935
			ACTUAL GRAND TOTAL: \$37,908 + \$3,935 = \$41,843		