

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 8th, 2022

*Best Western Grand Tree Inn
1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT*

President Cindy Garoutte called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Directors Present: President Cindy Garoutte, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Tanya Dvarishkis, and Doug Pearce

Directors Present Via Zoom: Will Nuttall

Others Present Via Zoom: Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert

The minutes of the November 12th, 2021, Board of Directors' meeting had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Will Nuttall Resignation

Wylie Fraser asked to open the floor to discussion regarding Will Nuttall's resignation at the General Membership meeting in September 2021. Will expressed interest in staying on the Board but understood if the Board voted for his removal. The Board voted and tied. President Cindy Garoutte told the Board that she would like this discussion tabled for now. She felt that until Will resigns, he should remain on the Board. She said she would like to see this new Board get along and have a productive year.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Show Schedule

Vice President Peri Suenram had previously provided the Board with the shows and dates that were under consideration for approval. New shows for 2022 would include a Deer Lodge show. Darrel has been working on logistics of the show including stall, cattle and show set-up. The board spoke regarding contracts for each MCHA produced show, and that Darrel, Peri and Kelsie would work together to complete such contracts. President Cindy Garoutte proposed a possible show at the Cottonwood arena in Selisia, she is still digging into details about this. She also would like to see a combined MCHA/USCHA show at Miller's Horse Palace with dates TBD. The board spoke of two back-to-back shows with a clinician in the middle at Miller's. Vice President Peri Suenram is working on a show at the 406 Arena in Vaughan, MT. The Board talked about the growth of Dillon and the second show that is scheduled, there may be a cattle availability question that will need to be addressed. Big Piney was thoroughly looked through,

regarding finances and where we can have fewer risks with cost. It was also spoke about what exactly was in the show management contract and how we can be more professional with the details.

The following shows were unanimously approved by the MCHA Board of Directors:

January 17-19: Rapid City, SD (Black Hills Stock Show)

March 23-27: Nampa, Idaho

April 15-17: Laurel, MT

May 6-8: Deer Lodge, MT (MCHA Produced)

May 19-28: Western Nationals Reno, NV (NCHA show listed for information only)

June 9-12: Dillon, MT (MCHA Produced)

June 23-26: NCHA Weekend (NCHA Show listed for information only)

July 15-17: Torrington, WY

July 22-24: Dillon, MT (MCHA Produced)

August 16-22: Big Piney, WY (MCHA Produced)

September 16-18: Laurel, MT

September 30 – October 2: Vaughn, MT (MCHA Produced)

Circuit Finals Date TBD

Never Won A Buckle Class (NWAB)

Vice President Peri Suenram has been in communication with Danielle Pace of the UtahCHA to promote a joint shootout class. The specifics regarding these qualifiers, how much added to each class, and finalized details are being researched by Peri, Kelsey, Danielle and Westin Sampson. The MCHA BOD approved Miller's Horse Palace (April), Deer Lodge, and Dillon (June) to be the three venues where NWAB classes will be scheduled. It was moved, seconded, unanimously approved to provide \$1000.00 to the joint shootout from MCHA.

2021 Approved Classes

President Cindy Garoutte asked the Board if they felt there was a need to change the list of approved classes for the 2022 show year. The Board felt there was no need to change the class list for 2022, except for adding the Unlimited Amateur class. Our MCHA 2022 Approved Classes will be as follows:

Open

Non-Pro

\$50,000 Amateur

Unlimited Amateur – Can be run as a class within a class in the \$50,000 Amateur
\$25,000 Novice Horse
\$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
Junior Youth
Senior Youth
\$35,000 Non-Pro
\$15,000 Amateur
\$5,000 Novice Horse
\$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
\$2,000 Limit Rider
**Open Derby
**Non-Pro Derby
**Open Classic
**Non-Pro Classic

**It will be up to the show producer whether to offer these classes. All other approved classes must be offered in order for a show to receive MCHA approval.

**1,500 Novice Horse may be offered by the show producer; however, it is not an approved MCHA class and will not be eligible for year-end awards.

**The Board discussed the possibility of a 2-handed or Rancher class to be offered. They decided that if a show producer feels there would be interest it would be up to them to offer the class/classes.

2022 Year End Awards

Minimum Participation

President Cindy Garoutte discussed the 50% rule that was put in place for 2021. She explained that it was not beneficial to again put this in place, as the board had to do a rule change mid-year to compensate for the lack of members who qualified for the 50% attendance. Rob Fraser voiced his desire to have the Montana membership be the louder voice than that of other states. Doug Pearce expressed his opinion that if you pay your Montana membership, your money should count regardless. Rob Fraser discussed having the minimum participation be for the member to attend three in-state venues. The Board decided since saddles will be given in the Amateur/Non-Pro classes this year, it would support our Montana produced shows by requiring year end award winners to participate at three Montana in State shows. Motion was made and passed by voice vote to require a minimum participation at three in State venues of Montana approved or produced shows in order to qualify for year-end awards.

Membership Deadline

Membership deadline will remain May 1st per Article II, Section 4 of the MCHA bylaws. Members must buy their membership by this date for any earnings prior to May 1st to count towards year end standings.

Re-Run Cattle Shootout

The Board decided to focus on class awards and work with Utah to do a Shoot-Out in Big Piney for 2022.

Placing to Give Awards To

The Board decided the Awards Committee would be in charge of deciding how many places to give awards based on the budget. In addition, it was decided to give a saddle voucher to Amateur and Non-Pro classes (nine in total). Vice President Peri Suenram was tasked with researching saddle makers to determine where we could purchase vouchers. In addition, the remaining classes will receive some sort of nicer award for the Champion, such as boots, etc.

Special Awards

President Cindy Garoutte asked the Board if there needed to be any changes to the Special Awards offered, the Board felt the special awards were good except deciding the recipient needed to be changed on the Open and Non-Pro horse of the year. The Board made the following decisions for Special Awards.

The Special Awards for 2022 will be as follows:

- MCHA Open Horse of the Year – Most money won including both weekend and LAE classes.
- MCHA Non-Pro / Amateur Horse of the Year – Top horse in each Non-Pro or Amateur class excluding LAE classes, to be voted on by the membership.
- Adult Rookie of the Year (Voted on by the Board of Directors). Eligible candidates include adult MCHA members in good standing, having \$0 NCHA lifetime earnings at the beginning of the show year.
- Kim Asay/Most Inspirational (Voted on by the Board of Directors). The award goes to someone thought to be a fierce competitor, showing great sportsmanship both in and out of the arena, while continuing to place a high value on family, friends, and faith.

MCHA Approval Fees

The Board felt that at this time it is not in the best interest of MCHA or its associated show producers to ask for approval fees in 2022.

2022 Operating Budget

Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert had provided to the Board several financial documents including the 2021 final P & L as well as a proposed 2022 budget. The Board agreed to continue

offering sponsors of \$400 or higher a free MCHA membership. The Board approved awarding saddle vouchers to the nine Amateur/Non-Pro classes offered. They further approved providing matching funds of \$1000.00, along with UCHA, to fund a Never Won A Buckle Shootout at the Big Piney show. Details of the shootout are: 1) MCHA and UCHA will each offer three NWAB classes during the year, 2) Anyone who wins a buckle OR participates in at least two NWAB contests is eligible to compete at Big Piney “for the big prizes”. Kelsey Fraser and Peri Suenram will work with Danielle Pace and Westin Sampson to firm up the details. The Board agreed that the awards budget would remain at \$15,000.00 for 2022. The Board agreed to get out as a group and make a huge effort to get sponsorships for 2022. Kelsie Harbert agreed to provide a sponsorship spreadsheet to the Board

Annual Review of Secretary/Treasurer Compensation – Closed Session

Following discussion by the Board, it was decided that the 2022 compensation for the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position would remain at \$1000.00/Month.

2022 Committee Assignments

President Cindy Garoutte assigned the following committees:

Show Committee: Peri Suenram (per Constitution, Vice President is Chairman), Darrell Lee, Rob Fraser & Wylie Fraser

Year End Awards: Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser & Sarah Bauer (per her request)

Year End Banquet: Not Yet Assigned

Sponsorship: All Board Members

Nominating: Doug Pearce, Tanya Dvarishkis & Rob Fraser

Rules Committee: All Board Members

Encouragement of New Membership

Rob Fraser would like to see a clinic or multiple clinics held that would be open to diverse organizations and people. He will be digging into more details and will present the Board with ideas.

Signatory on MCHA Wells Fargo Checking Account

President Cindy Garoutte and Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert have equal access to the Wells Fargo checking account.

Angela Bauer Scholarship

Jessica Lee reported on her findings during a thorough review of the finances, past winners, and payouts. She reported on the amount of money in both the checking and savings accounts for the

scholarship fund, as well as how many outstanding checks were written. Jessica Lee said she would like to see MCHA put together a youth clinic again. Board was in agreement and will discuss further.

Other New Business

None.

President Cindy Garoutte adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 24, 2022

Via Zoom

President Cindy Garoutte called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors Present: President Cindy Garoutte, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, Tanya Dvarishkis, and Doug Pearce

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the January 8th and January 16th Board of Directors' meetings had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. After discussion it was decided the minutes needed further revision and approval will be tabled until the next meeting.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update on Financials – Executive Session

Approval of Ogden, UT Show

President Cindy Garoutte opened the floor to discussion regarding the April 20-24 show. She noted that MCHA has a large Utah presence within the membership and that it is important to reciprocate the support they show us. They have approved Big Piney and Dillon with the idea reciprocal approval will be given to a Utah show. The Board noted that the Ogden venue is convenient for members to attend. Wylie Fraser voiced concern regarding the dates being so close to Millers show, with only 3 days in between shows. Tanya Dvarishkis also noted that it is very important we support our in-state producers and with the dates being so close she was concerned that people may opt out of attending Millers. She asked if there was another Utah show the Board could look at approving. Vice President Peri Suenram said that there really wasn't another show opportunity to approve around that time or that would be convenient for the Montana membership. Darrell Lee thought that the membership would attend both and both shows would be well attended. He noted that the Utah membership has been very supportive of Montana shows and he wants the Board to send a positive message by approving a Utah show.

Darrell Lee made the motion to approve the April 20-24 Utah CHA Ogden show. Seconded by Doug Pearce. Motion was opposed by three votes and as such did not pass per MCHA bylaws regarding out of state shows. It was noted by Rob Fraser that it is very important for the Board to support the in-state shows. He feels Millers need as much support as we can give them, and the April show is just too close in dates. Millers are by far the longest running in-state producers, they are working to improve the facility and the shows. Rob wants them to know they are appreciated and supported by MCHA. Tanya Dvarishkis thanked Rob and agreed with him.

Tanya Dvarishkis asked the Board what their thoughts were regarding the October Utah CHA Ogden show. President Cindy Garoutte said that in the past that show was not looked at because it is after our year end show and awards. However, if it had been approved the results would fall into the next year standings. Vice President Peri Suenram expressed concern with the Ogden show possibly being during the Big Sky Circuit Finals. There was discussion regarding the members who may declare the Pioneer their circuit and attend Ogden regardless of the Big Sky Circuit Finals dates, as they would not qualify for the Finals.

Wylie Fraser moved to approve the October Utah CHA Ogden show (estimating the dates will be 19-22) with the understanding that the results will count towards the 2023 standings, the approval will only be for the weekend portion of the show not the extended aged event but will include the Derby and Classic that is held within the weekend portion of the show. Seconded by Darrell Lee. Approved on a voice vote.

Update on NCHA Weekend and the Circuit Finals

Vice President Peri Suenram informed the Board that there was a NCHA executive meeting deciding the NCHA Weekend will be held in Owatonna, MN June 23-26. She noted that Idaho CHA, for their NCHA Weekend, is looking at a show in Pocatello or Redmond, OR. Peri said the Circuit Finals will be in Rapid City, SD. She said they are still working on dates to be finalized, it will either be October 21-23 or 28-30.

Youth Scholarship Cuttings

Darrell Lee brought to the attention of the Board that shows holding a youth scholarship cutting have not been decided. He said that in the past there have been two scholarship cuttings a year. Vice President Peri Suenram suggested there should be one held in the western part of the state, and another held in the eastern part of the state. President Cindy Garoutte suggested Millers Horse Palace April show for one and either Dillon or Deer Lodge for a second.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser noted to the Board the dates of the High School Rodeo schedule. After consideration Peri suggested Deer Lodge may be the best location. Wylie Fraser said he had been approached about holding a High School cutting during one of our NCHA cuttings so the High School contestants could compete with better help in the pen and more coaching opportunities as well. Darrell said that has been done before and worked well and may encourage more youth participation. President Cindy Garoutte suggested a High School Cutting during the Friday evening of the Deer Lodge show.

Wylie Fraser made the motion to approve Millers Horse Palace April show and Deer Lodge May show for the Angela Bauer Youth Scholarship Cuttings. Darrell Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of Will Nuttall

President Cindy Garoutte said she had spoken to Will Nuttall on the phone, and he wished to resign his position on the MCHA BOD. She said he did not wish to send in a letter, so she accepted his verbal resignation over the phone. Doug Pearce moved to accept Will Nuttall's resignation from the MCHA BOD. Seconded by Wylie Fraser. Motion approved on a voice vote.

Appointment of New Board Member

President Cindy Garoutte noted that per MCHA bylaws, the vacant position on the Board is to be filled by appointment approved by the Board. She suggested Rick Anderson, who ran for a Board position in the fall, she felt he would be a great asset to the MCHA Board. Wylie Fraser asked who received the next largest vote number from the fall elections. Cindy said it was indeed Rick. No other nominees were made. Doug Pearce nominated and moved Rick Anderson be appointed to the vacant Board position left by the resignation of Will Nuttall. Seconded by Wylie Fraser, passed unanimously on a voice vote. Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser noted that at the end of the one-year term, if Rick Anderson desired to run again for the Board, he would be able to do so.

Big Piney Show Days

Vice President Peri Suenram said that she would like to table the discussion regarding extended dates for Big Piney, until after the Show Committee met. She said they are looking at Monday January 31st to meet and then they would bring to the Board recommendations.

Proposed Operation Guidelines

President Cindy Garoutte said that Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser had drafted some proposed guidelines in lite of the current situation, to aid in the transparence of the books. Tanya Dvarishkis wants to make sure any guidelines do not restrict the function of MCHA. Vice President Peri Suenram would like the Board to consider dual signature checks going forward. She understands it may be logistically difficult and may not totally protect the association but should be discussed. Kelsey Fraser asked the Board to consider the association not having a debit card but having a credit card instead. The Board discussed members who, in the past, have paid for items, such as air travel, out of pocket and asked for reimbursement. Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said there have been instances that the reimbursement request has not been timely and felt that was an issue the Board needed to address going forward. The Board discussed any receipts presented for reimbursement must be done within 7 days after the conclusion of the show.

Darrell Lee said he would like the Board to have a procedure in place for cash received at a show. President Cindy Garoutte said in the past, she and the Show Secretary have sat together, counted the cash, and both signed a sheet agreeing on the amount to be deposited. She feels, at a show, a MCHA Board member or Show Manager could sign off on this process. Vice President Peri Suenram asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser her feelings, as a show secretary, about

simply not allowing cash to be used. Kelly said as a secretary it would be no problem and quite ease, however there are members who prefer to pay in part or fully in cash. Wylie Fraser and Darrell Lee did not feel the association could tell a client cash would not be accepted. Darrell said the association may be able to encourage the use of checks as opposed to cash but would not be able to say no to a cash payment.

President Cindy Garoutte said this is going to be a work in progress. Rob Fraser asked if there could be an appointment of a committee to go over the proposed operating procedures. Cindy appointed Kelly Fraser, Tanya Dvarishkis, and Rob Fraser. Tanya said there may be some policy manuals that would be useful to pull information from. Kelly Fraser noted that this committee will need to touch on the “net out” option currently being used in FasterCuts and how it relates to our accounting and year end 1099’s.

Additional Show Dates

President Cindy Garoutte asked if there were any other shows that needed to be looked at for MCHA approval. Wylie Fraser said Wyoming CHA is going to try to do a show in Rock Springs, WY in May. He also said there may be an additional Torrington, WY show tentatively scheduled for September 9-11. He will get back to the Board once the dates are set. Rob Fraser asked that Medora, ND be considered once they have confirmed dates, it more than likely will be around the first weekend of September. Cindy said we can look at this at a later date as long as it is within 60 days prior to the show. Rob will get back to the Board once the dates are set

Circuit Boundary Survey

Vice President Peri Suenram said she had been contacted by our National Director John Seymour, regarding putting a survey out to our membership on the possible change in Circuit boundaries. Peri said she has also been in contact with Kristen York who is concerned with what would happen to Wyoming if the boundaries were relocated. Wylie Fraser said he didn’t understand why the boundary would be an issue for membership since you are able to designate your Circuit. Doug Pearce said he understood that but would be more concerned with a show producers’ ability to gain dual circuit approval. Rob Fraser cautioned the Board to follow the mission statement of MCHA which is promoting cutting in Montana. He noted membership in Central and Eastern Montana perceive there is more energy and money spent in Utah, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, than is spent in Montana. He said one of his goals is to try and correct that perception, he understands that it may be difficult, and it isn’t perfect, but the in-state membership is dwindling, and the Board needs to come together and correct that. Tanya Dvarishkis said she was concerned with moving boarders on the Circuit because it could possibly result in the MCHA no longer existing. We would instead have a Western MT association and an Eastern MT association. She feels that the current situation MCHA finds itself in will be exacerbated if the Circuit cuts the state in half. Nothing was decided regarding a survey to the membership.

Possible Investment Account

Kelsey Fraser again expressed her desire to see MCHA utilize a credit card instead of a debit card. She said she would also like to see MCHA have a savings account and/or an investment

account. She is working with Joe Kalt on some ideas that may best fit the association and will present them to the Board. President Cindy Garoutte said she had spoken with Wells Fargo regarding opening a savings account and will go forward with the savings as soon as the account hold has been lifted.

President Cindy Garoutte adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 19th, 2022
Via Zoom

President Cindy Garoutte called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Directors Present: President Cindy Garoutte, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, Tanya Dvarishkis, Rick Anderson, and Doug Pearce

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the January 8th, January 16th, and January 24th Board of Directors' meetings had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. The January 8th meeting minutes were approved with the understanding that the language regarding the year end award participation would be corrected to note eligibility shall be determined by contestants attending three Montana IN STATE shows. The minutes of the January 16th meeting are approved but would be held as an executive session due to the nature of the discussions. The January 24th meeting minutes were approved as written.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Update on MCHA Shows

President Cindy Garoutte asked Vice President Peri Suenram to update the Board on the MCHA produced shows. Peri said that after the postponement of Miller's April show she had been in contact with Clayton to get a date rescheduled. The best option for Miller's was May 14-15, and it would be limited to a Saturday – Sunday show. The Board agreed that to fit the current schedule this would be the best option for the membership and for Miller's. Rob Fraser made the motion to approve the May 14-15 dates for the rescheduled Miller's show, seconded by Darrell Lee, passed unanimously on a voice vote. Peri reminded everyone that there would be a NWAB class at Miller's and it would count towards the Shoot-Out in Big Piney.

Vice President Peri Suenram said that the Deer Lodge show is looking very promising and has been very well organized by Darrell Lee. She said that stalls are about 70% to 80% full as of now. Peri said as well as Deer Lodge has come together, conversely there are struggles with Big Piney. Andi James still has not found portable stalls for the show, as the vendor that was used last year is not available for 2022. Peri said both she and Theresa Nelson had given Andi several options of vendors or individuals to contact. She said there is a possibility to get stalls from Miller's, Nampa, or Kristen York and truck them in. Peri has told Andi that there needs to be a definitive answer in the next two weeks on the stalling so the Board can move forward accordingly. Rob Fraser cautioned the Board on getting too hung up on the stalls. With fuel prices high and some of the shows across the country having lower entries he feels it may be in the best interest of MCHA to not commit to a large number of stalls that we may not be able to fill. Peri did note that there are already 120 stalls spoken for and there are around 171 stalls

available on site. Cindy wanted to reiterate the importance of people booking their stalls and paying for them in advance. Peri said that Kelly Fraser and Theresa Nelson have been working on stall forms and they will be required for all MCHA produced shows. This should provide a safety net for MCHA if people attempt to back out of their commitment under short notice.

Vice President Peri Suenram said that the Vaughn show is looking like may indeed come together. The only concern there is of course stalls. The 406 Arena is supposed to get back to Peri in the next two weeks to confirm they will be building additional stalls and what that count may be. Darrell Lee said there may be a possibility of using stalls at the Fairgrounds in Great Falls. It was noted that it is a bit of a drive but could work if needed. Peri and Darrell both noted that the 406 Arena is looking forward to working with MCHA and possibly doing multiple shows in the future. They are working on major remodels to the barn and the Board feels that there are a lot of cattle options in that area.

Kelly Fraser asked the Board if they had set up a photographer for Deer Lodge or either of the two Dillon shows. Peri said they had not yet spoke to a photographer. The Board discussed the feasibility of providing a hotel room at shows. They decided it would depend on the bottom line and of each show and at this time did not want to commit to a room. Darrell Lee said that Ashley Lee would be coming to the Deer Lodge show and would be willing to photograph. This would not cost MCHA and would be a great option for that show. Peri said she would be seeing Laurie Errington in Ogden and would talk with her about the two Dillon shows.

Vice President Peri Suenram gave an update on the Never Won A Buckle Shoot-Out. She said there were some significant sponsorships given for awards. Peri said that at the Utah show there were 8 people entered in the class. This is very encouraging for our upcoming shows. She wanted the Board to remember that they must show at two qualifiers in order to be eligible for the Shoot-Out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Year To Date Profit & Loss

President Cindy Garoutte asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to go over the profit and loss that she had provided the Board. Kelly said that she ran a simple profit and loss as it was the year-to-date quarter. She noted that there had not been much activity so far in the year. She pointed out that there has been sponsorship money coming in which is about \$8350 with more to be expected. Kelly shared there has been some pre-payment on show expenses such as judge's travel and some circuit awards for Dillon. She asked the Board if there were any questions on the accounting so far. Kelsey Fraser asked why the tax preparation was high this year. Kelly said that it was a lump sum of not only the taxes and 1099's but the meeting in January with the accountant and going through each transaction for the year and correcting mistakes.

Back Fence

Darrel Lee asked the Board if there had been any luck in finding a trailer to haul the back fence with. He would like to have the fence available in Deer Lodge. President Cindy Garoutte said she had not yet found a trailer; however, she is planning on hauling the fence herself to Deer Lodge. The fence will then have to be taken to Dillon. Cindy said the Board needs to have a discussion on what to do with the back fence as this is something MCHA will have to deal with every year if we are to find a trailer and find someone to haul it to all the shows. Cindy said she would like to see it used at Big Piney since that is the largest show for MCHA and perhaps that means it should stay in Big Piney. She said that MCHA still has all the arena wraps that were used in the past and those can be used at the other MCHA produced shows. Cindy said she has looked at possible trailers and it would run the association around \$2200.00. Rob Fraser said he has some concerns of purchasing a trailer and then having someone haul the back fence to shows. He feels it is a nuisance to haul around and may be a liability as well. Rob said it may be best to find the fence a permanent home so this doesn't become a problem. Tanya Dvarishkis asked if it would be a problem to leave them in Big Piney. Kelsey Fraser said she would be in favor of finding a permanent home for the fence, she reiterated Rob's concern about liability for whomever would be tasked with hauling it around and the hassle of coordinating pick up and drop off of the fence. Darrell suggested we move them around from Deer Lodge to Dillon and then to Big Piney. Once there we can make a final decision on what to do with the fence. The Board was in agreement that at this time it was best to table the discussion until Big Piney this fall.

Two-Handed Class

Vice President Peri Suenram told the Board that Darrell and she had made the decision to offer the Two-Handed class at both Deer Lodge and a Dillon show. The hope would be to bring in some of the Cowhorse competitors as well as some new interest in MCHA. Peri said with this, the Board would need to discuss some rules to impose on the class. Peri thought the only rule may be to not allow 3-year-old horses in the class. Wylie Fraser said many of the Cowhorse trainers may like the idea of taking their 3-year-old snaffle horse to a show and as a trainer it is your responsibility to know eligibility requirements later in the futurity year. Kelly Fraser asked if there were going to be limits on earnings for horses or riders. The Board discussed having an Open and Non-Pro/Amateur class to allow for some of the Cowhorse trainers as well as accommodate some of the new Amateurs. Kelly would like to make sure the first-time Amateurs do not get intimidated and have their own class to compete in. Peri suggested having the two classes as a "class within a class", with one large herd. Darrell and Rob agreed that the goal is to encourage new membership and with that any new person showing at a MCHA show should receive a free MCHA membership. Cindy noted that NCHA offers free membership for first time members as well. Darrel suggested Peri reach out to Jessica Lee to advertise this class with the Treasure State Cutting Horse Association. Peri said she, Kelly and Darrell would work on some defining rules for the class to have on hand for the Judge and contestants.

Year End Awards

President Cindy Garoutte opened the floor to discussion on the year end awards and the possibility of giving saddles in the Non-Pro and Amateur classes (11 classes in total). Vice President Peri Suenram told the Board that she and John Seymour researched possible vendors to get the best value, and they decided on Stray Star Saddles. The basic saddle would cost \$2100.00 to the association and whomever won would be able to add on options if they desired. Peri did note that as of right now, the saddles that may be given away in 2022 would not be finished/delivered until fall of 2023. Kelsey Fraser expressed concern in people being unhappy with the saddle and not being able to choose a maker of their choice.

Kelsey was also concerned with the \$15,000.00 the Board discussed being earmarked for year end awards. She wanted the Board to revisit how the \$15,000.00 was supposed to be used and if it was over and above what was to be spent on saddles. She asked the Board if it was their intention to give saddles in every class or should MCHA go back to a raffle drawing of perhaps 4 saddles, for a chance to win a saddle voucher to the maker of their choice. Darrel Lee thought the raffle option worked well in the past and added excitement to the banquet.

President Cindy Garoutte said it was her understanding that the \$15,000.00 was to be used for the awards normally given each year and additional sponsorship money would be needed for the saddles. She said the Board, as a whole, was tasked with obtaining additional sponsors so the goal of giving saddles as awards could be reached. Doug Pearce would like the Board to consider doing five saddles and give them out via raffle. Peri expressed her desire to see MCHA go forward with giving away saddles for every class champion, she feels like the raffle is fun in the moment but there is disappointment for those class champions who lose out. She would like to inspire contestants in our sport and encourage members to keep coming to MCHA produced shows. Cindy said giving out championship buckles to all the class winners may help with that. Rob Fraser said he does not feel we have a large enough organization to have the ability to give saddles out in every class. He understands we have a healthy check book but at the same time we should be cautious before we spend upwards of \$30,000.00 on saddles. He would like to see MCHA have 4-5 saddles to give out for a raffle and then spend more money on nicer buckles and more awards for more individuals.

Rick Anderson suggested having three groups of contestants: The Open Riders, The Non-Pro Riders and the Amateur Riders, and then drawing out of those three groups. Tanya Dvarishkis clarified that it would be the first-place contestant in each of those groups that would have their name in the drawing. Kelsey agreed with those ideas and further suggested that MCHA offer two more saddles to the other contestants that did not win in the first round. Wylie Fraser would like to see vouchers give and not actual saddles. He expressed concern with the quality of trophy saddles and felt the winner would be better off to order the saddle they desired. Peri made the motion to give out five (5) vouchers, written to the saddle maker of the winners choice, in the amount of \$2100.00, the total amount being \$10,500.00. She further moved that the additional awards budget would be \$9,500.00 for a total of \$20,000.00 for the 2022 year end awards budget. (For clarification there will be three saddles given via drawing to class winners in the above mentioned categories; the other two saddles will be for a "Last Chance" drawing out of the remaining class champions. All class champions will also receive Championship Buckles) Rob

Fraser seconded the motion, motion passed on a voice vote. Darrell Lee asked if we could have a saddle to take to the shows to advertise the year end awards, Kelsey Fraser offered her Stray Star saddle for a display.

Kelly Fraser asked for some clarification on how the Board would like to see the three groups broke down. The Board decided as follows:

<u>Group 1:</u>	<u>Group 2:</u>	<u>Group 3:</u>
Derby Open	Derby Non Pro	50 Amateur
Classic Open	Classic Non Pro	Unlimited Amateur
Open	Non Pro	35 Non Pro
5 Novice Horse	5 Novice Horse Non Pro	15 Amateur
25 Novice Horse	25 Novice Horse Non Pro	2000 Limit Rider

Kelsey Fraser would like to see the Youth spotlighted with their own individual awards, she liked the idea of a scooter or something similar for their awards. The Board agreed.

Kelsey Fraser said she had asked Esther Peterson to help her and Peri on the awards committee, and they have been looking at options for second and third place awards. Peri noted that with the budget discussed there may be options for additional awards to fourth place. She feels that the awards committee should be able to make that decision, the Board agreed.

Year End Banquet

President Cindy Garoutte would like a committee for the year end banquet. Kelsey Fraser was nominated by Darrell Lee to be on the committee and Tanya Dvarishkis said she would also like to help with the banquet. Kelly Fraser said she would help as much as needed. Cindy said she would like to see the Vaughn show be the year end show but that will be dependent on the show coming together. Peri will get back to the Board in a couple weeks so this committee can plan the banquet.

President Cindy Garoutte adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 1st, 2022

Via Zoom

President Cindy Garoutte called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Directors Present: President Cindy Garoutte, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Darrell Lee, Doug Pearce, and Rick Anderson

Directors Present Via Proxy: Rob Fraser (Kelsey Fraser)

Directors Absent: Tanya Dvarishkis

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the April 19th Board of Directors' meetings had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting, the meeting minutes were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Carbon County Proceedings

Executive Session

NEW BUSINESS:

Cattle King Cutting – Deer Lodge Final P & L

President Cindy Garoutte asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to go over the Profit and Loss report that had been provided to the Board. Kelly said that the last invoice had come through, with that there was a loss for the show of just over \$3500. She noted that considering the entries and it being a new location for a MCHA show the loss was tolerable. Kelly said the feedback on the show was positive, there were some things that MCHA can improve upon and look forward to next year. Darrell Lee reiterated the positive response the show generated. He said the facility was pleased with MCHA, its participants and how the arena was left. Darrell would like to see the 2023 show be a three-day show, he said the cattle will be available next year at the same price and the cattle suppliers were happy with how the stock was handled. Vice President Peri Suenram thanked Darrell for the great job he did with producing the show. She noted the fairgrounds were pleased enough to offer a discount on fees for MCHA. Peri said there has already been sponsorship opportunities for 2023 and she is looking forward to next year.

MCHA Secretary/Treasurer

President Cindy Garoutte said she had spoke with most of the Board regarding an additional 6-month period for Kelly Fraser to remain the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer. She proposed to the Board to offer Kelly an additional 6 months, getting MCHA through the show season and allow

more time to search for a replacement if needed. Vice President Peri Suenram made the motion to extend Kelly Fraser's contract for an additional 6 months, seconded by Darrell Lee and passed on a voice vote. Doug Pearce would like the Board to look for a replacement shortly after the year end show so there is ample time for training. President Cindy Garoutte said she would like to have a BOD meeting after the year end show/general membership meeting to discuss 2023 shows and at that time would like to discuss the Secretary/Treasurer position.

MCHA Operating Procedures and Secretary/Treasurer Job Description

President Cindy Garoutte had formed a committee consisting of Rob Fraser, Rick Anderson, Kelly Fraser, and Tanya Dvarishkis to form a set of Operating Procedures for MCHA. Kelly told the Board that in the past MCHA had no operating procedures and in light of the issue faced by MCHA at the end of 2021 and first part of 2022, it would be in the best interests of MCHA to have a set of proper business guidelines. Rick Anderson said that what is being proposed has had input from all four committee members and is a solid procedure that should be adopted by the Board.

Vice President Peri Suenram asked that there be an addition made to the Secretary/Treasurer job description: The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for sending "Thank You" notes to the sponsors. This will ensure that thank you notes will not fall through the cracks and will for sure get sent out once a sponsorship has been received.

Vice President Peri Suenram moved that both the Operating Procedures and the Job Description be adopted and implemented immediately. Kelsey Fraser seconded, and motion passed on a voice vote.

Year End Show

Vice President Peri Suenram said that the Year End Show in Vaughn at the 406 Arena is coming together. She has spoken with the 406 Arena, and they have started building the additional 60 stalls. They will also set up the other barn for panel stalls. Peri asked Wylie Fraser to update the Board on cattle availability. Wylie said he has spoken with Todd Banner and right now cattle around Great Falls may be questionable because of the lack of moisture the area has received. Wylie said that he does have some other cattle options around Conrad that he is pursuing. He is unsure of the cost but will keep the Board updated. Peri is working on sponsorships for the show. Peri noted that Kelsey and Tanya are working on the Banquet. She suggested they touch base with Jessica at the 406, they are currently building a conference room that could possibly be used for the banquet. Kelly Fraser said that Diane Anderson has offered her help with contacting area hotels for a host hotel and if the banquet needed to be held at the host hotel, she would help with that as well.

Kelsey Fraser said the awards committee has been working on orders and she is planning on ordering the buckles within the next two days. The Board decided to not order buckles for the Unlimited Am class as it may not make at any shows in Montana.

Beaverhead Cutting - Dillon

Vice President Peri Suenram said she had around 100 stalls reserved. John Seymour went to Deer Lodge to get the back fence and sand will be delivered at the end of this week. Peri said she wanted the Board to understand that for the stalls, she is going to keep those that are in the show pen all day on site at the arena and the remaining people are going to have to stall at the fairgrounds. Currently she does not have a count of available stalls at the arena, the manager will be getting that to her later in the week and then she can work on her stall chart. Cindy asked if she could make a chart available for the website and Facebook page. Darrell Lee asked about the youth scholarship cutting. Peri said one was scheduled however she cautioned the Board regarding the attendance of any youths. The Montana youths will be at the state finals. Peri suggested to the Board that the scholarship cutting be moved to Millers in September, the Board agreed.

Peri updated the Board on Big Piney, she said they currently have around 170 stalls reserved, and they have not found portable stalls to bring in. She said there are some panel stalls that they will be utilizing. Peri said that after July 1st they will look at the stall numbers and may adjust the show dates accordingly.

President Cindy Garoutte adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 16th, 2022

Via Zoom

Vice President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Directors Present: Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Doug Pearce, Tanya Dvarishkis and Rob Fraser

Directors Absent: President Cindy Garoutte, Darrell Lee, and Rick Anderson

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the previous BOD meeting were not addressed as this was a special meeting.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Carbon County Proceedings

Vice President Peri Suenram told the Board that several Board members including Rob, Darrell and herself, had been approached during the Dillon show by several MCHA members to acknowledge, via an official letter to the Court, that the funds had been repaid to MCHA and all the historical documents had been returned. Peri drafted a letter and sent it to the Board for comment, there were a total of five (5) responses from the Board, sent via email, all in agreement with the language of the letter. Peri sent the proposed letter to President Cindy Garoutte and spoke with her on the phone. Cindy said she approved the letter and would sign if a majority of the Board approved, which with the responses received the majority did agree. Peri then submitted it to the Carbon County Attorney's office. The letter was brief and only contained factual information regarding MCHA. Rob Fraser said the object of the letter was to have on record a statement from the MCHA Board which had not been done previously.

Vice President Peri Suenram acknowledged a position statement sent by Rick Anderson, since he was not able to attend this meeting, which was read to the Board as follows:

"Unfortunately, I'm out of town and not in a position to participate in the Zoom Board meeting tonight. I would request the following correspondence be read into the minutes:

As part of our June 1st meeting, during the Executive session, the President updated the Board with regards to the status of the Carbon County proceedings. Not one Board member asked a question or raised any issues during this time. Yet, over the course of the next 10 days it appears individual Board members collectively acted in this regard; thereby circumvented the Board as a whole and prevented collaborative discussions that would have taken place during a Board meeting.

Please make no mistake, an email, "polling" board members regarding whether, or not, to send a letter that states a Board position, is not a substitution for a Motion, a First and Second, and

discussion that would have taken place in order to pass a Board resolution that establishes a “Board position”.

This was nothing more than “an end around”, and significantly undermines the creditability of the Board going forward.

In regard to Cindy Garoutte’s resignation, please have the minutes reflect that I am against accepting it. It is my understanding, that in lieu of board members backing the MCHA President and raising concerns as part of a board meeting, during the Dillon show Board members allowed a MCHA member to verbally attack our President in regards to the Carbon County proceedings. This Board owes Cindy a sincere apology, should thank Cindy for handling one of the most difficult issues this membership has ever faced, and ask her to reconsider her resignation.

The bottom line is Cindy caught the misappropriation of funds, and in the end was blamed her for taking the action necessary that resulted in the Association being repaid for the absconded funds. We should be ashamed of ourselves.

Rick Anderson”

Everyone agreed that the MCHA Board of Directors did everything correctly and handled the situation professionally, properly, and in the best interest of MCHA. Rob Fraser said he did attend the arraignment and wanted everyone on the Board to understand that the Court issued a no contact order prohibiting any discussion regarding the case by the Board with the defendant, or vice versa. Tanya Dvarishkis reiterated that the current charges have been out of the hands of MCHA as everything had been turned over to the County attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cindy Garoutte Resignation

Vice President Peri Suenram acknowledged that the Board received the resignation letter from Cindy Garoutte. The Board was sorry to see the letter come and even though they did not want to accept the resignation, felt that they had no choice but to respect Cindy’s wish. The Board discussed the proper procedure with which to fill the vacancy left on the Board, since it is now up to the Board to appoint a person to fill the position. Wylie Fraser noted that he would like to see Peri Suenram remain in the Vice Presidency because he felt it would be important for her to be President next year. The Board all felt it would be important to have someone currently on the Board become the President to fill out the remainder of 2022. Wylie Fraser made the motion for Doug Pearce to be appointed President for the remainder of 2022, seconded by Kelsey Fraser and passed unanimously on a voice vote. This will allow Doug to fill out his complete term on the Board as well.

Newly elected President Doug Pearce said he would like to see the Board come up with some names to be presented at the next meeting and be voted on at that time to then fill the open officer position on the Board. He would like to see that meeting be within the next two weeks.

Wylie and Kelly said they would write a letter to Cindy, thanking her for her service to MCHA, and will get her a thank you gift.

Beaverhead Cutting – Dillon #1

Vice President Peri Suenram wanted to give the Board a quick overview of the Dillon show. She said all bills had been paid except one, which is for sand. Peri said after all is said and done, we may be in the hole around \$1000. She said the feedback was all good and in looking forward to the second Dillon show, she is already receiving stall reservations. Wylie Fraser said there was one thing he would like addressed; he reminded the Board that they all voted and approved “Business Procedures” going forward and those procedures were not followed. Wylie told the Board that there were several checks that were blank and signed left after the show, 22 in total. Peri said she did not know about 18 of those checks but she did know about 4. Kelly said in light of the things that have transpired she is not comfortable with blank signed checks, with her signature on them being out. Peri suggested that Theresa, Kelly and herself get together and go over the handling of checks.

Rob Fraser asked the Board about the hiring of the Judges for shows. He asked if the show committee could get together to discuss the Big Piney judges. Wylie said he would like to have a call soon to go over judges so Kelly could start calling on them. Peri said she would look at her calendar and get back to the show committee for a call, possibly next week.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 29th, 2022
Via Zoom

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Darrell Lee, Rick Anderson, and Rob Fraser

Directors Absent: Tanya Dvarishkis

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the June 1st BOD meeting had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and were approved on a voice vote. The Minutes of the June 16th BOD meeting were discussed and shall be modified and reviewed for approval at the next BOD meeting.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Beaverhead Cutting #1 – Dillon, MT

President Doug Pearce noted that the profit and loss for the Dillon #1 show had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and opened the floor to discussion and questions regarding the financials. Rick Anderson questioned the cattle handling cost of this year's show in comparison to last year's show as it was higher this year. Doug said the cost increase was due to the extra show day for the 2022 show (four show days), 2021 was only a three-day show. Rick also questioned the outstanding balance that one competitor still had not yet paid and wanted to know how we go about collecting it. Kelly Fraser said she had contacted Theresa Nelson, and Theresa was going to work on collecting the funds. Vice President Peri Suenram said she was surprised at the balance due and said she does not want to have any unpaid balances left at the end of a show. Peri acknowledged that there was a loss for this show but hopes that with the second Dillon show we will average out a positive balance. In retrospect the Board agreed that this show should have been a three-day show and will be in 2023. Darrell Lee congratulated Peri on putting on a great show and said there was positive feedback from the competitors on all aspects of the show. Peri said neither John Seymour nor herself received any complaints.

NEW BUSINESS:

Beaverhead Cutting #2 – Dillon, MT

Vice President Peri Suenram said at this time she had around 90 stall reservations for the second Dillon show. She noted that it will only be a three-day show and that they are working on some sand adjustments that should help with the bottom line. She said they will be offering priority

three-year-old practices during the show to help draw some interest. She said the cattle cost is going to remain at \$30/head which is a fantastic deal especially with no trucking cost.

Business Procedures

The MCHA Business Procedures had been approved by the Board previously but had not been tested until the Dillon show. Vice President Peri Suenram said John Seymour, Theresa Nelson and herself worked with the procedures as best they could but some things, especially for the Dillon show, did not work as well as they were intended. She and Kelly Fraser worked on some adjustments that may be more user friendly for the show management but still respect what the Board wants in place as business procedures.

Peri asked the Board to discuss the “no signed blank checks” to be left after the show. She suggested that IF a check is left after the conclusion of a show, that it must be filled in on the payable to line. She said that she and Doug spoke of possibly having two signatures on the checks as well. Peri reiterated that the Board does not want checks left after a show, especially several blank signed checks. The Dillon show may have to be an exception to the rule as there are certain vendors such as the Fairground stalls, the arena and the cattle that may not be cleared at the conclusion of the show. However, those are the only checks she feels would need to be left after a Dillon show, to be processed the following day. Peri said these checks would be endorsed and she or John could fill out the amount once the final payment was negotiated.

Rick Anderson said he understands there may be a need for a couple checks left after the end of a show but does not feel those checks should be signed without the “pay to” filled in. He also suggested having more signers on the checking account such as the President, Vice President and the show secretaries and did not feel two signature checks were necessary. Kelly Fraser noted that she does not have a problem with her signature being used on the checks during the show, it is only that at the completion there are blank signed checks, and in previous years a large number, being left for others to distribute and fill out. Rick said it is putting individuals and the association at risk if there are any checks that are not endorsed to a person, left after the show.

The final comment on the procedures was regarding obtaining the host hotels. The Board felt that the show management should oversee negotiating with area hotels to reserve room blocks. The Board agreed that Kelly and Peri should work on the revised procedures to be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Year End Show – Vaughn, MT

Wylie Fraser asked the Board how much we would be able to spend on cattle. He said right now with trucking included, the quotes Todd Banner had received were around \$50/head. If there are not cattle in the feedlot close to the arena, the cattle will have to be trucked from Conrad and that is the added expense. Wylie said the cattle will be costing \$30/head but the trucking cost will be \$15-\$20 per head to get them there. Peri said the Board will have to continue to monitor the cattle situation, but it may be that in order for the show to go on, MCHA will have to pay to truck the cattle in. In general, MCHA is comfortable paying \$30-\$35 per head for cattle and

ideally would like to keep the all-in cost no more than \$38/head. Doug said if we can get the cattle the Board needs to go on with the show. Darrell cautioned the Board in keeping the actual cattle cost per head to a minimum so there is precedent set for the following years cattle cost.

Big Piney Management

President Doug Pearce informed the Board that there has not yet been an agreement entered into with Andi James for the management of the Big Piney Show. He said we had a signed contract in 2021 with Andi however, it was not followed, and what was paid to Andi was not what the contract was written for. In 2021, there was a management payment of \$10,000.00 and in addition to that there were payments of just over \$4,600.00 made to set-up and tear-down help. Doug noted the contract from last year called for Andi to be paid for less than half the amount she received. Peri said that she can foresee the cost to set up and tear down be much more this year because of the situation we are in with the portable stalls coming from various vendors instead of one main supplier. She wants to have a handle on what MCHA is willing to pay out before we get farther into this show. Rob Fraser felt that if the total cattle handling fee was included in the \$10,000.00 paid to Andi, that amount may not be out of line. Rob suggested Doug present to Andi the total payment of \$10,000.00 and what that amount will cover shall include show management, the cattle handling, and the stall set-up and tear-down labor; he also wants it made clear that the show concessions would come out of that amount as well (i.e. the James family and whatever help Andi has would have their own concession tab). Darrell Lee agreed with Rob that \$10,000.00 is a realistic figure of what MCHA would be willing to pay, not \$15,000.00. He suggested Doug approach Andi and say that \$10,000.00 is what the MCHA Board can pay, if they can get labor for less that is more money for Andi. Darrell suggested leaving it at that and allow Andi to figure out the details. Rob added that Andi will also need to know what is expected of her for the \$10,000.00. Peri also likes the approach of a flat rate proposal that is all inclusive and wants this done as soon as possible so the Board can move forward and figure out the small details of the show. Doug will call Andi and discuss the proposal.

Big Piney Judge

Vice President Peri Suenram apologized for not getting a show committee call together last week. She told the Board that Cindy Garoutte, as 2021 Vice President and in charge of shows, had given her a list of judges in January; Peri assumed that it was the procedure to choose and contact Judges on that list. She said she had already identified four possibilities and had given those names to Andi James to contact, Andi in turn gave that list to Kelly Fraser once the Business Procedures came out. In reviewing the list Andi had given to Kelly, it was determined that other Judges needed to be considered. Kelly asked Rob if there were some names he would like to see contacted. Rob said he would like to make sure we have a AAAA Judge for the show. Peri suggested all the Board members who would like to present names please email her a list.

New Board Member

President Doug Pearce said he had spoken to three people that were willing to step into the Board position to fill out the term of 2022 to 2023: Tami Allen, Michelle Van Dyke, and Roy

Oliver. Wylie Fraser said he had asked Todd Banner however Todd had not given the for sure that he would be able to consider the position. Wylie Fraser made the motion to approve Roy Oliver as Board member for the remainder of 2022 to 2023, motion seconded by Rick Anderson seconded, motion carried on a voice vote.

2021 Financials

President Doug Pearce asked if all the Board members had a chance to look at the 2021 financials that Kelly Fraser had sent out and asked that Kelly discuss them. Kelly said that she had started with Big Piney, and went through all three shows MCHA produced in 2021. Kelly said that the revised 2021 financials are as correct as she can get with the documents provided. She stressed that the 2021 figures need to be re-presented to the membership at the annual GM meeting as this is a more complete picture of 2021 than was given out at the previous GM meeting. Peri made the motion for the 2021 financials to be presented to the General Membership at the Annual Meeting held during the Year End show, seconded by Darrell Lee and passed on a voice vote.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

August 2nd, 2022
Via Zoom

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Roy Oliver, Darrell Lee, Rick Anderson, and Tanya Dvarishkis

Directors Present Via Proxy: Rob Fraser (Kelsey Fraser)

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the June 16th and June 29th BOD meetings had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Beaverhead Cutting #2 – Dillon, MT

President Doug Pearce asked Peri to give the Board a recap on the show. She said that in looking at the numbers there will be a profit somewhere between \$10,000 and \$12,000, which will offset the loss on the previous Dillon show as well as the Deer Lodge show. She said it was a huge success. Peri said she had spoke with John Seymour and he was not in favor of having two shows in Dillon for 2023 and she wanted the Board to be aware of that going forward. Peri said she had been approached by several people regarding hosting the NCHA weekend in Dillon, for the June 2023 show. She has concerns about the facility supporting that size of show. She said we need to realize what the facility can hold and not expect more. There is a possibility that the Fairgrounds may put in some additional stalls, she and John will talk with the Fair Board and encourage that avenue. Doug asked if there was possibility to bring in portable stalls to the Arena, Peri said there just isn't the infrastructure to handle portable stalls, like water availability. She said there was a total of 140 stalls used at this show and hypothesized that the show could still be profitable at 120 stalls sold if we set that goal for 2023. Doug asked about the fresh cattle practice; Peri said there wasn't the turnout that was expected, and trainers did not practice their three-year-old's like what was anticipated. Peri appreciated all the support the show had and was very happy with the success of the show and the profit.

Big Piney

President Doug Pearce asked the Board if they had all had a chance to review the management contract he had agreed to with Andi James. He said this contract spells out exactly what is expected of both Andi and MCHA. Doug asked Peri if there was a cattle contract signed yet. Peri said they are still working through some things, but they did agree to a price of \$40/head. They are trying to work on a deal for the cattle supplier to give a discounted price of \$30/head on the re-run cattle classes. Peri said they did get the contract signed on the portable stalls and we

will be getting 160 stalls. She has asked Andi to manage those stalls very closely. She, Andi, and Theresa are working on language for an eblast that should be ready to go out in the next couple days. The Fairgrounds are already working on setting up the pen and will be ready for final set up next week. Kelly Fraser said she has spoken to Andi regarding the set-up help and Andi would like a cash advance so she can pay those workers cash instead of writing several checks to everyone. She said Andi asked for \$2700 to be sent to her. Peri agreed that this was the easiest way to handle paying those individuals helping to set-up. The Board agreed to send Andi \$2700 for the set-up help; for the tear down help Andi could get a check from Theresa to pay those helpers.

Vaughn, MT – Year End Show

Vice President Peri Suenram said the show is still planned and she has spoken to Jessica at the 406 Arena, they are currently building stalls and are hoping to have all 60 stalls ready in Sept. Roy Oliver said he wants to make sure the arena and the flag area have sufficient sand, the Board agreed. Peri noted the challenge is the cattle. Wylie said the cattle found so far will cost \$35/head but with the trucking it may add up to \$50/head. He said this year the trucking is simply going to hurt but they are having to go further away from Great Falls to find the cattle. The best estimate the Board has on cattle numbers will be around 500 head needed.

Business Procedures

Peri asked the Board their thoughts on the Procedures being more of a “guideline” instead of actual Business Procedures. Wylie Fraser said Rick Anderson was adamant that they should be Procedures and Wylie agreed with Rick. He felt that these Procedures should be set and adhered to. Peri said she agreed to a point but wanted the show management to have some flexibility. Kelly Fraser said that Peri had added language to the Business Procedures that would allow for that. Peri would like to get through Big Piney with these Procedures and perhaps revisit and adjust as may be needed. Wylie said he still wants to leave them as Procedures, he made the motion to adopt Peri’s revised Business Procedures, motion was seconded by Peri and passed on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary/Treasurer Position

President Doug Pearce said the Board needs to start thinking about the qualifications required to fill the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position. Kelly Fraser noted that after the last hiring process, it is imperative that the Sec./Tres. have a bookkeeping background and not simply someone who is willing to learn. Peri asked Kelly if she was indeed leaving the position, Kelly said she may be willing to stay on, but it would be dependent on certain factors. Darrel asked if Kelly would be willing to consider waiting on a decision until after the fall election. She said she would as long as the Board was ok with that time frame. Kelly said she would stay on as Sec./Tres. no matter what, until a qualified person was hired for the job. Darrel said the job requires someone to be very detail oriented and able keep on top of the paperwork. Roy and Kelsey both said the

person to fill the position will need to have the drive to stay on track, must want the job, and be proud of their work. Peri noted there has already been an outline of duties described in the Business Procedures for the Sec./Tres. that can be used for the hiring process. Rick Anderson said that there was also job description drawn up that states QuickBooks knowledge is a must. Doug wants the Board to keep all of this in the back of their minds, so they are prepared when the time comes to hire.

Elections 2022

President Doug Pearce said that at the 2021 GM meeting the by-laws were changed to require a third party to oversee the elections, and 2022 will be the first time this will be in place. Kelly said she reached out to Tom with Big Sky Internet Designs to get his suggest for conducting the election. Tom said the easiest would be to provide them with the email list of the current membership, which is available through Constant Contact. We would also supply him with our election ballot and then he would email the ballot out and receive the results. Once the voting was finished (30 days allowed) he would furnish the election committee (or whomever the Board whished) with the final spread sheet of the results. The email addresses would not be shown so all votes would be anonymous. Darrel said he felt confident in Big Sky handling the ballots and doing a professional job for MCHA. Peri said in order for everyone to be protected, the email list should be shared with the President and Vice President before being sent to Big Sky. The Board all agreed this was the best and simplest process for our 2022 elections.

Membership Survey

President Doug Pearce said there was a survey sent out to the membership in the fall of 2021. That survey limited the responses, and some members were not able to give their feedback to the Board. Doug feels that every year there should be a survey sent out to the membership, he would like the Board to think about questions that should be asked of the membership. Darrel asked if Kelly could send to the Board the questions and responses on the 2021 survey. He said if some of the questions could be worded different, perhaps it would encourage some more participation and better responses. Kelly said she would work on getting it out to the Board.

Wells Fargo Bank Account

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the Board Cindy Garoutte had removed herself from the MCHA bank account, currently Kelly is the only person on the account which needs to be updated as soon as possible. Kelly said she would like to see Peri added to the account since that would then carry over to 2023, and Doug could be added as well for the remainder of 2022. Darrel made the motion to add both Doug and Peri to the account, seconded by Rick Anderson, and carried on a voice vote. Kelly said she would contact the banker at the Billings Wells Fargo branch and get the paperwork started in adding both Doug and Peri.

MCHA Banner

President Doug Pearce told the Board that our current MCHA banner needs to be replaced. Roy Oliver suggested updating the banner and changing the color scheme as well. Darrell nominated Kelsey Fraser to create a new banner for MCHA. She said she would get some options together and submit to the Board via email for approvals.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 9th, 2022

Via Zoom

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, Rick Anderson, and Tanya Dvarishkis

Directors Present Via Proxy: Roy Oliver (Wylie Fraser)

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the August 2nd BOD meeting had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Big Piney - Recap

President Doug Pearce asked Vice President Peri Suenram to give a recap on the Big Piney, WY show. Peri said the show went very well and the preliminary profit looks to be between \$10,000 to \$12,000. She said the success of the NWAB Shootout was fantastic and because of the NWAB we have new cutters in the state of Montana and Utah. She said everyone had a great time during the shootout and there were requests for the same to happen again in 2023. Peri noted that Weston Sampson and Danielle Pace from UT were instrumental in putting everything together. The stalls this year were difficult up until the very end, but everything worked out. Rob asked for the Board to be updated on the number of entries this year as opposed to years prior. Peri said she would get numbers from Theresa Nelson and send it out to the Board. Rob also asked if the schedule this year was beneficial for everyone. Peri thought that yes, it worked out better for the majority of the competitors. Darrell said he did not hear a single person complain about the schedule this year and in years prior there had been several complaints. Peri said that with some of the Aged Event competitors leaving, it opened additional stalls for the weekend. She said Andi did a good job of managing the stalls and the show collected around \$2000 in canceled stall fees. The main issue Peri would like to see the Board take from this show is to not have one Judge hired for the full 7 days.

Peri said the other issue for next year is the popularity of vendors attending the show. She said this is an exciting problem to have but MCHA must be fair to sponsors that would like to attend as a vendor. She said the Board may consider every vendor who would like to come and set up, ask them to be a show sponsor. Peri has done this with a couple people, and it has worked out very well. Peri also suggested charging a "vendor fee" to those that wished to set up at our shows. Doug agreed that this is a good problem to have and would like this topic to be discussed at the planning meeting in January 2023. Darrell said he would like to see the banquet return for

2023. He understands why it was not done this year, but he believes people enjoyed it and if it is managed properly, it could be a benefit to the show.

MCHA Bank Account

President Doug Pearce said he had received paperwork from Wells Fargo and had signed it and returned it. Vice President Peri Suenram has also received and returned the paperwork. Wells Fargo will process the signatures and add both Doug and Peri to the account.

Secretary/Treasurer Position

President Doug Pearce would like to send out a notice regarding the position, asking for resumes to be submitted. He felt this would allow us to see who may be interested in the position. Kelsey Fraser asked Kelly Fraser what her thoughts were, Kelly said that she felt it is better for the Board members to talk to individuals who they think would fit the position. Kelly said that when she was hired, the Board at that time did not advertise an open position, but they did reach out to her to see if she was interested in the job. She said that had there been a notice sent to apply she would not have done so, but since there was a personal call to her it was an easy decision to accept the position. Rob Fraser agreed, he felt it may be in the best interest of MCHA for Board members to put some feelers out and see if there may be some interest in the position. He felt this way the Board would have more control on the applicants. Peri agreed however she felt that it may be better accepted by the membership if there was a notice sent out at some point. Doug said it would be possible to do both, he would like for the Board members to start visiting with some people that may fit the position and after the General Membership meeting the Board will get together and decide the wording of the email to be sent out. Kelsey Fraser wants to make sure there is no deadline on applicants and wants to state in the email "seeking the right fit". Kelsey and Peri noted that there is a comprehensive job description that had been done, Kelly will send that to all the Board members, so they can easily discuss the job with individuals who may be interested.

NEW BUSINESS:

Banquet and Awards

President Doug Pearce told the Board the youth this year is very slim. He said at this point we have not had a youth at our IN STATE shows. Doug asked the Board if they wanted to waive the three in State shows for the youth. Kelsey Fraser said she did not put years on any of the buckles so they may be used next year. Wylie Fraser did not want to waive the three in State rule, he said if you waive it on one class you must for all classes, the Board agreed.

President Doug Pearce asked the Board if they would like to bring forth nominations for the Kim Asay award. The Board had several people in mind that would fit the award parameters. Rob Fraser suggested that the Board think over their nominees and discuss it further at Miller's upcoming show.

Special Awards 2022

President Doug Pearce asked the Board to discuss the Non-Pro/Amateur horse of the Year. Kelly Fraser said this is voted on by the membership via email. She asked the Board if they would like to wait until after Miller's show to send the vote out. She also asked the Board to clarify if the horses eligible must have been at three in State shows. The Board said, yes, the horses must have the same standards to be eligible. Kelly noted there may be an issue with two horses having very close earnings going into the year-end show and asked how the Board would like this handled. Peri felt the horses would be determined after Miller's show and meet the criteria of three in State shows. Kelsey Fraser understood that there are some horses that are close in earnings, so she suggested opening it up to the top two horses in each Non-Pro and Amateur class. The motion was made by Darrell Lee to pick the top two horses in each class, that have attended three in State shows and based on their earnings after Miller's to be voted on by the membership for Non-Pro/Amateur Horse of the Year. Seconded by Rick Anderson and carried by a voice vote.

Kelly Fraser said she had gone through the eligible Adult Rookies and there were two candidates this year that had no NCHA earnings at the start of the year and currently do have earnings and have attended at least two instate shows and after Miller's that will give them the third in State show. Tanya Dvarishkis said she feels the award should go to the competitor that finishes the year with the most earnings. Peri said she would like to see who competes at Miller's and the Year End show and then determine it based on year-end earnings. The Board agreed.

Show Management Appreciation

President Doug Pearce said he would like to make sure the show managers are shown appreciation in the form of some gift. Darrell Lee said he was very pleased with the gas card that Peri gave at the Deer Lodge show. Rob Fraser said the fuel card was very nice and to give thank you gifts to management is part of Peri's job and she has done a great job making sure those people helping are appreciated. Peri did say she would like to do something for John Seymour. The Board asked Peri to please do what she felt was best for her show managers and some of the help she had at the shows. Rob cautioned the Board in paying people to help put on a show. He does not want MCHA to be obligated and in a situation where payment is expected. Peri agreed, she thinks a thank you note with a gas card is the best way to handle the situation. Rob also wanted to make sure Roy was included in the thank you.

Treasurers Report

Rob Fraser would like for a bank balance and P & L to be presented to the Board at every meeting. Kelly said that it would be easy to do and would be sure to do it going forward.

Board Nominees

Darrell Lee would like for each individual running for a Board position to submit a Bio, so the membership has a better understanding of what that person is about and what their history is.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 29th, 2022
Via Zoom

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Roy Oliver and Darrell Lee

Directors Present Via Proxy: Vice President Peri Suenram (Doug Pearce)

Directors Absent: Tanya Dvarishkis and Rick Anderson

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

No minutes were approved or discusses as this was a special meeting.

New Business:

MCHA Year End Banquet

President Doug Pearce read a statement to document the approval by the Board to move the Year End show from the 406 Arena in Vaughn, MT to Miller's Horse Palace, Billings, MT:

"Pursuant to MCHA by-laws Article IV Section 6.2, on September 21, 2022, President Doug Pearce phone all the Board members to vote to approve the Year End show October 6, 7, & 8 at Miller's Horse Palace. The vote was a unanimous "yes"."

President Doug Pearce asked Darrell Lee to discuss with the Board his proposal regarding the Year End Banquet. Darrel said one of the reasons he ran for the MCHA Board was to see the Year End Awards and Banquet be a more high class and formal event. He wants to recognize the effort those running for Year End awards put into their show year. Darrell wants more members to attend the Year End Banquet. He would like to see someone who is good at public speaking, to get up and introduce the award recipient. Darrel would also like to see some kind of incentive for members to attend the awards ceremony that may not necessarily be receiving an award. He had an idea to consider paying for meals and having a drawing or drawings during the banquet. Roy Oliver said he agreed with trying to make the Banquet more exciting for all the MCHA members. Wylie Fraser said he did not agree with paying for the meals, he said if the Board really wants to help the membership the money should go to fresh cattle in the jackpot classes. He said another option is to save the money and put it to the spring show at the 406 Arena. Kelsey Fraser said a happy medium would be to give away door prizes with some of the excess awards and perhaps have a drawing for one of the five saddles that have already been budgeted for the Banquet. She felt it could be an exciting giveaway for all the members. Rob Fraser said that giving the meals for free is not the way to make the Banquet better and could be an added expense of up to \$2400 just for the dinner. He did feel that there needed to be some

way to make the Banquet more exciting. Rob noted that there are classes that we are not giving awards out to so those awards could be used as Kelsey said for door prizes, making the Banquet exciting and fun for everyone. Kelsey said she did feel it would be fun to give away a saddle as well, Darrel and Rob agreed. Rob Fraser made the motion to award one saddle to a current MCHA adult member in attendance at the Banquet, as well as the excess awards during the Banquet via raffle drawings throughout the night. Roy Oliver seconded, and the motion passed on voice vote. Kelly Fraser said she has raffle tickets that can be given out at the door as members arrive. Kelly asked President Doug Pearce if he would like to greet everyone as they arrive and give tickets out, he agreed.

Kelsey Fraser updated the Board on the Banquet venue and meal. She said because of the short notice finding a venue was difficult, however the Big Horn Resort had a cancelation, and we were able to book with them. With that cancelation they had a meal set and wanted to use that same meal for MCHA. She said that there will be some other side dish options, but the main course will be beef and a dessert will be served. Kelsey said she would find out when the Big Horn would allow us into the banquet room to set up the awards.

Darrel Lee asked how the class winners would be determined at the conclusion of the show and how the award presenters would read off the recipients. Kelly Fraser said she and Cindy Fraser will be compiling the money earned at the show throughout the weekend however would not know the winners until the conclusion of the show on Saturday afternoon. At that point she can print off each class, top four – awards recipients, and have those sheets available to the presenters. President Doug Pearce said Justin Johnson has agreed to speak about Kim Asay herself before the presentation of the Kim Asay award. Darrel suggested the Board network once everyone arrives at the Banquet so choose the best people to present the awards for each class.

Kelly Fraser noted to the Board that Teresa Miller will be doing a social and appetizers for the General Membership meeting and it will be sponsored by Miller's Horse Palace. The Board recognized how great that was and how wonderful the Miller family has been.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 30th, 2022

Via Zoom

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Darrell Lee, and Rick Anderson

Directors Absent: Roy Oliver, Tanya Dvarishkis and Rob Fraser

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser, Vice President Elect Michelle Van Dyke, Board Members Elect: John Seymour, Clayton Miller, and Josh Keimig

The minutes of the September 9th and September 29th BOD meetings had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and were approved on a voice vote. The October 7th GM meeting minutes were also distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and approved to be posted on the website for the membership to view, approval of these minutes will be considered at the GM meeting 2023.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Year End Financials

President Doug Pearce asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to go over the financial reports that she provided to the Board. Kelly said that there were no significant changes to the financials since they were provided to the membership at the GM meeting. She said she has earmarked funds in QuickBooks for the saddles that were awarded even though that money had not yet been paid out, and that is reflected in the award totals as well as the QB check book. Kelly said the current account balance in QB is \$36,232.50, she said there was a purchase of a 6 month CD in the amount of \$130,000.00, and that is why those funds are not shown in the bank balance. John Seymour asked her what the interest rate was at the time of purchase. Kelly said that it was at 4.25% APR, so MCHA will receive roughly half that amount at the 6 month period. She said the income would be around \$2700.00, which is better for MCHA than to have the money sit in the account during our inactive period and until show season starts. Vice President Peri Suenram said that at the end of the 6 month period the Board will look at the possibility of another CD, perhaps not at that large an amount, but to invest a smaller portion and have some income generated. She said the return on the 6 month investment will pay for awards or a saddle in 2023.

President Doug Pearce asked the Board members to discuss the Year End Banquet. Kelly said that the banquet cost MCHA \$3550.00; dinner tickets brought in \$1280.00, and the auction items brought in \$330.00. Doug noted that there were roughly 32 tickets purchased for the banquet. Vice President Peri Suenram said that the Big Horn Resort did a very nice, professional job and

Kelsey Fraser did fantastic pulling everything together at the last minute. She noted that in 2023, Millers Fall show is looking like it will be the Year End Show; she asked the Board what their feelings were regarding the banquet and location. Darrell Lee said he was disappointed in the attendance and would like the membership to understand the expense that goes into putting on the banquet. Michelle Van Dyke said more advertising may have helped, however Doug noted that with the change of venue and short notice it was not the best set up for people to attend. John Seymour agreed, he said for the situation MCHA was in, the cutting and banquet came together very well. Peri said she enjoyed the banquet venue and enjoyed the awards and how they were presented and those who attended felt the same. Clayton Miller said with the show getting over early it may have given people an opportunity to drive home instead of making the effort to attend. The Board decided this would need to be discussed at the January Planning meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

January 2023 Planning Meeting

President Doug Pearce asked the Board what their thought were regarding the Planning Meeting date. It was suggested January 14th may work and that Bozeman would be the most central location for everyone to attend. Peri said she and Kelly would work on securing a venue and time and provide that to the Board. She noted some members may be in Arizona or absent and there would be a Zoom option for them. Kelly cautioned all members that the Planning Meeting may take up to 4 hours-plus, and to please plan accordingly. Doug asked the Board to start thinking about area shows (out of state shows) they would like to bring to the table to be approved at the Planning Meeting. Peri has started a schedule of Montana shows and will have dates to be discussed in January, she is working on Vaughn dates to be incorporated. Darrell Lee said the Deer Lodge show is already coming together. He has reserved May 5th to 7th at the fairgrounds and has spoke with cattle producers to secure no less than 400 head of cattle. Michelle Van Dyke said she had spoke with Nina Lundgren and Nina would love the support of MCHA for a couple of her shows, this would give those MCHA members on the west side of the state an alternative for Wyoming shows. Peri said she and John are working on the Dillon shows, there will be some changes of dates but it is coming together as well. She said it is looking like there will be several shows in Montana and MCHA approved shows to provide the membership with a full schedule for 2023.

John Seymour told the Board that NCHA is considering changing the Big Sky Circuit with Montana and Wyoming becoming their own Circuit. As it stands, this would not take effect until 2024. The Board said that it would be agreeable to have the two states as their own Circuit, however, would like see it to fruition for the 2023 season. John said he would be in contact with NCHA and would express to them the urgency the Board felt in getting it approved for 2023. He said he told NCHA that the Montana membership does not want the State to be split in half and would like to remain with Wyoming. John said he wanted/told NCHA to go back and look how the PRCA had divided its circuit's, they used common sense to put the boarders together.

Kelsey Fraser asked the Board if there was need to discuss approving the SDCHA Rapid City show in January. At this time there has been no outreach from South Dakota asking for approval. The Board members noted that because the show is held during the week, and not on a weekend, it is hard for MCHA membership attendance.

President Doug Pearce thanked those going off the Board at the end of the year for all they contributed and is looking forward to the new members coming on the Board for 2023. The Board went through a trying year in 2022 each member stepped up and got through the hard times. This was a great Board that pulled together, and everyone is looking forward to 2023!

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.