

**Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)
Board of Directors' Meeting**

*April 13th, 2023
In Person & Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Directors Present (In Person): President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Roy Oliver, Clayton Miller, and Rob Fraser

Directors Present (Via Zoom): Doug Pearce, John Seymour & Josh Keimig

Directors Present (Via Proxy): Darrell Lee (Peri Suenram)

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

As this was a special meeting no prior meeting minutes were presented to be approved.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Show Vendor Policy – President Peri Suenram asked the Board if everyone had a chance to read over the vendor proposal that she had sent out. All Board members replied that they had received the proposal and had read it over. Peri asked if there was a discussion. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke made the motion to adopt the proposed vendor policy for all MCHA produced shows, seconded by Rob Fraser, and passed on a voice vote.

Medora North Dakota Cutting – President Peri Suenram asked Rob Fraser to expand on the proposed Medora Cutting approval. Rob had spoke with the ND president and noted that they would really appreciate the support of Montana. He said since it was a Big Sky show it makes sense for Montana to approve. Rob Fraser made the motion to approve the Medora, ND cutting June 17 – 18. Clayton Miller seconded. Peri asked for discussion. Doug Pearce said he did not feel it was the right thing for MCHA to do, only because we already have an approved show that weekend. Josh Keimig said since Bonina had already moved their dates so they were not on top of Dillon he did not feel we should consider a second show that weekend. Roy Oliver agreed and wanted to make sure we do not upset anyone even though he understands that Medora is the Big Sky Circuit. Michelle feels that it would be disrespectful to put a show on top of Bonina and does not want to set a precedent for approving two shows on the same weekend. Clayton disagrees, he does not want to do a disservice to the MCHA membership who would attend the Medora cutting. He wants those earnings for MCHA members to go towards their standings. Clayton also would like to see the show approved since it is in the Big Sky Circuit. He said in moving forward we need to show our fellow Big Sky producers we are supporting them. Josh Keimig said he would indeed have approved Medora if we had not already approved Bonina. John Seymore said it was not the idea of what members were going where, it was that there was

an agreement with Bonina to move their dates, and if we approved another show on top of Bonina it would discredit MCHA. Peri called for the vote; the motion was not approved.

NCHA Weekend 2024 – Peri said that NCHA weekend 2024 was slated for June 1-2, unfortunately Clayton does not have that date available to put on the show. Clayton said there may be an option for another venue, but he does not want to commit at this time. Rob Fraser told the Board NCHA has announced that the Circuit National Finals will be held next April in conjunction with the Super Stakes. This is not favorable to any of our Big Sky members. Peri said she has learned there are several proposals in the works for the reorganization of the Big Sky Circuit. The NCHA Executive Committee will be meeting the first weekend in May and should vote on how the Big Sky Circuit is changed.

Angela Bauer Scholarship – Kelly Fraser asked to have another discussion on the Scholarship cutting. She said she is disappointed in how it is set up to be presented at Torrington. She showed the Board that they have already created flyers for the July show. Kelly showed the Board the current scholarship application online is for \$2000 without even attending a cutting. She said it is hard to get kids excited about \$200 at a show and not even receiving the actual scholarship when they can all apply online. Kelly also asked who is on the scholarship committee and on the scholarship Board, no one on the current MCHA Board knew. Doug Pearce said it would be in our best interest to look at the entire Scholarship program to better understand it since no one on the current Board had been involved. Rob Fraser said maybe it would be better to forgo the scholarship and use the money to give the kids fresh cattle at shows. Peri said she would reach out to Jessica Lee and have her send over any documentation she has on the Scholarship program as the Board doesn't even know if it is a 501(c)(3) or a foundation. Michelle agreed the rules need to be looked over, so everyone understands what the program is about. John Seymour made the motion for President Peri Suenram to request from Jessica Lee all the documentation regarding the scholarship program be sent to the MCHA Board, including the rules and regulations and by laws, so the Board can make decisions in distribution of funds. Seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote. The Board will review the documents and will have a discussion at the Deer Lodge show.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.