

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 5th, 2023
Via Zoom

Prior to the start of the meeting, NCHA Vice President candidate Barnwell Ramsey spoke with the Board on issues facing NCHA, our Circuit and what he sees as the direction of NCHA. The Board was grateful for Barwell reaching out and sharing his time and vision with them.

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Directors Present: President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Darrell Lee, Doug Pearce, Clayton Miller, Josh Keimig, John Seymour, and Rob Fraser

Directors Absent: Roy Oliver

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser and Jessica Lee

President Peri Suenram started the meeting by asking the Board members to answer the roll call with sponsorships they have collected so far.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser gave the Treasurer's report to the Board. She reminded them that the CD with Edward Jones will be coming due the first week of May which will be \$130,000.00. She said the current balance on the Wells Fargo Checking was at \$34,198.87 and noted that a YTD P and L was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelly said she has currently received \$2200 in sponsorship money for 2023. She also pointed out to the Board that the clinic Roy was doing at the Horse Palace was set up as a separate account running through the MCHA checkbook.

Rob Fraser asked the Board that since the CD was coming due, should some of that money get reinvested. Kelly stated she believed that since we would be in the show season the Board should consider taking at least \$50,000.00 to reinvest. Rob agreed and would like Kelly to speak with the financial advisor to come up with an investment plan.

Michelle Van Dyke noted that the license plate income was looking fantastic and asked when MCHA sees payment from the State. Kelly said that MCHA receives a monthly ACH transfer from the State, but we do not see an actual statement from them. Rob Fraser noted that some counties do not carry the MCHA license plate. Kelly said that if your county does not have the plate on hand, you may ask for it to be mailed to you.

President Peri Suenram said the changes had been made to the January 14th, 2023 planning meeting minutes. Kelly had emailed the revised minutes as well as the February 1st meeting minutes to the Board. She asked the Board if there were any additions or corrections to either meeting minutes. The Board passed both meeting minutes on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Committee Updates

Dual Circuit Approval – President Peri Suenram noted that Miller’s April show has been both Pioneer and Big Sky Circuit approved. John Seymore had reached out to NCHA to get both Dillon shows Pioneer approved. Currently the June show is dual approved, and he has been working to get all three days of the July Dillon show dual approved. He noted that going forward NCHA will be moving to no longer give dual approval to shows. After the Convention we should know more on the Circuits and approvals.

Angela Bauer Scholarship Cutting – President Peri Suenram asked what the status was for the July Torrington Scholarship cutting. Kelly Fraser said that Wyoming was doing \$500 to the Wyoming youth that had accumulated the highest score over the three-day show. Montana has a different payout schedule through their scholarship program. It is basically \$450 paid out to the top three Montana youths (\$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively). Kelly posed the question to the MCHA Board of doing a lump sum to the top Montana youth instead of breaking it up as proposed. She said she would like the kids to feel like they are actually getting something and make this an exciting experience for them. The other question Kelly posed to the Board is how the scholarship cutting will work since it is not actually guaranteeing the scholarship, but only the opportunity to apply for the scholarship. Jessica Lee explained that the way the show scholarship was designed would be to accumulate money over several years and then the recipients could then apply for the balance accumulated. Jessica said that any of the kids could apply for the other scholarship offered which is \$2000 to \$3000. Peri asked Jessica to work with Kelly for the wording presented at the Torrington cutting youth scholarship. Rob Fraser said he would like to see the amount awarded to the youths be a substantial enough amount to mean something to the recipient. Jessica did note that there is sufficient money in the account since there has not been any payouts for some time. She said the Scholarship has not been actively promoted in recent years, no clinics were held to fund it and no youths active in MCHA. Jessica would like to see it promoted more and more youth activity. Rob said he likes what we are doing but wants the Board to understand that we need to have more money awarded in the Scholarship. He said in our current World \$500 is nothing, we need to have something substantial to attract the youths. Michelle said she would like to see a push for Youth Scholarship fundraising.

Deer Lodge – Darrell Lee updated the Board on the upcoming Deer Lodge show. He said they had a host hotel change if Kelly could please update it on the website to the Old Montana Inn. Darrell said the cattle are set and coordinated as well as the trucking. He said the Prison has been fantastic to work with and has changed their AI schedule to accommodate us. Rob and Josh are planning on going to Deer Lodge early to help with the set up. Jessica Lee is currently taking stall reservations. The Fairgrounds will furnish shavings and have shavings in the stalls prior to the show. Darrell said one of the decisions that needs to be made once we arrive in Deer Lodge is how much sand will be needed. Darrell has arranged for: a trailer for the judges stand, cattle hay, and someone to feed. Doug will be our cattle guy and has some ideas to make the handling situation better this year. There will be a 4-H club running the concession stand this year.

2024 NCHA Weekend – President Peri Suenram asked Kelly and Clayton to work on an application for the show to be at Millers in 2024. Clayton asked if Peri would please confirm the June dates, he said once we know for sure he can set his calendar and go forward with the application.

Year End Show Dates – President Peri Suenram asked Clayton to confirm the Year End show dates. He said all is set on his end for the October 12-14 and he is going to be adding a Futurity Class to that show as well. Kelly confirmed that there will be a practice October 11th with the show dates starting Thursday the 12th through Saturday the 14th. Rob noted that the banquet will then be Saturday evening.

Clinic Update – Kelly Fraser said that they were set for the April clinic and Roy would be planning another clinic June 7th prior to the Dillon #1 show.

Big Piney Added Money – President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke to start the discussion on changing the added money at the Big Piney show. Michelle said the last few years there has been some thoughts on adding more money to Big Piney and if it would benefit the show as far as entries and the bottom-line. She had reached out to Theresa Nelson, and Theresa indicated that in Idaho they added more money, and the bottom-line was indeed increased. Michelle felt the entries were down in Idaho and didn't understand how the less entries with higher added money added to the bottom line. Kelly said it may be possible for them to adjust their fee schedule with the added money to make their bottom-line increase. Michelle said she would like to have another conversation with Theresa to better understand. Peri had provided to the Board the P and L from the 2022 show. Michelle said that currently the fee schedule seems to be working for MCHA, we have great entries and have shown a good profit from the show in the past. Kelly asked if there was any concern, if MCHA encouraged more entries with additional added money, would there be a stalling problem. Peri said she did not feel that it would be a problem since there were two loads of portable stalls ordered for this year, however she and Michelle needed to have another conversation with Andi to discuss. John Seymour said that he was concerned with increasing the added money, Big Piney is working, it is a good show as is, he did not feel the added money would increase entries or increase our bottom line.

Michelle said she has a judge for Big Piney, Mike Warman. She understands that a seven day show is hard for someone to take on for the duration but Mike did not seem to be concerned with that when they spoke. Russ Miller will also be judging with Mike for the last three days of the show. Michelle said that Theresa Nelson had mentioned she would like three judges for the LAE portion of the show, however that is another added expense for the association. Kelly said that because of the location the cost is quite high for just one more person, considering the rental car and hotels in Jackson as well as other expenses for the show.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vendor Fees – President Peri Suenram brought to the attention of the Board the issue of vendors attending our MCHA produced shows. She said at Big Piney last year there was an issue of a vendor arriving at the show who was not a MCHA sponsor. This particular vendor did the same type of service as one of MCHA's sponsors who was also at the show. Peri would like to have a policy in place for vendors wishing to set up a booth or provide services at MCHA produced shows. She would like to see any vendor wishing to set up at our show either pay a vendor fee or become a MCHA sponsor. The Board agreed that there needs to be something in place going forward. John Seymour asked if Peri could draw up a proposal and present it at the next Board meeting. Michelle asked if we could have a short meeting at Miller's on Thursday to discuss this further. The Board agreed.

Medora, ND – Rob Fraser asked the Board to consider approving the Medora, ND show which falls on the weekend of June 17-18. He noted that the NDCHA association is struggling and would like to see MCHA support them. Rob said he realized we have already approved the Bonina show that same weekend, however the distance between those two shows should not create a conflict. Clayton Miller noted that because of the location of both shows the members that would attend Bonina would not be attending Medora and vice versa, for the membership he would like to approve both shows. Darrell Lee agreed, he said our membership is going to go to one or the other and they would not be in conflict. John Seymour said that Bonina moved their dates so they would not conflict with the June Dillon show and we would approve their show. Michelle said that her issue was not the proximity of the shows, it was that we had approved a show on that date and that Bonina had already moved the show so we would have the ability to approve it. She said that in the past the Board has been very careful not to approve two shows on the same weekend. Rob said that he understood that point, but we need to consider those Big Sky Circuit shows and look within our Circuit for approved shows. John Seymour said he is concerned in setting a precedent of approving two shows on the same weekend. Peri said as a Board the out of state show approvals were set up with two shows on the west and two shows on the east to balance each other. Josh Keimig asked if there could be a call made to Bonina and discuss their feelings on approving a show on the same weekend. The Board felt that would be appropriate and further discussion to follow at the next Board meeting.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.