

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

*June 26th, 2023
Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser updated the Board on the current bank balance, there is \$94,555.65 in the QuickBooks balance. She noted that the CD investment of \$70,000.00 had been completed with the balance of \$60,000.00 deposited into the MCHA checking account. The interest on the original CD was a total of \$2812.53. Kelly asked the Board if there were any questions on the YTD P and L that was sent out. Michelle asked what the total money was with the CD and the current QuickBooks balance, Kelly said there would be around \$164,000.00.

President Peri Suenram asked where MCHA was on total sponsorships for the year. Kelly said she had just done an update for the website and was at a total of \$7200.00, which included what was collected at the Dillon show.

The minutes from the May 17th meeting had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Dillon #1 Recap – President Peri Suenram noted that the Board had received a preliminary P and L on the show and it was looking to be about a \$7000.00 profit, however the sand invoice had not yet been received. Peri and John Seymour both agreed that whatever invoice we may receive on the sand should be distributed to the Dillon #2 show. John is in the process of negotiating with the Horsemanship Center, so they may buy the sand and use in their outdoor arena once MCHA has finished with it. Peri asked Kelly about the outstanding settlements from competitors at the show, the amount was around \$4000.00, and if that amount would be added to the bottom line for the show. Kelly said she had already accounted for that amount in the preliminary P and L so unfortunately that money would not go to the positive of the show.

Peri said the show went really well overall with 125 works the first day, 134 the second day, and around 90 the third day. She noted it was much bigger than the 2022 show. John Seymour said the sand that was used at this show will be stockpiled for use at the 2nd Dillon show. He said there may be a need to purchase more sand for the show pen at Dillon #2. He reiterated that he is working with Eric, the manager at the Horsemanship Center, to forgive some of the facility cost

in exchange for the cost of the sand. John's hope is the sand will be a break even for the cost of the arena.

For the Dillon #2 show, John Seymour noted that there will be some changes in how the cattle are handled. He also said that the show cattle will be big steers, like were used the 2nd day at Dillon #1. John said there would not be a practice prior to the Dillon #2 show, however there will be a flag available for contestants.

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke asked how the expenses for the Dillon #1 Judge were handled. She noted that he had tied this show in with a planned vacation, yet his expenses were quite high. Michelle wanted to know if the travel expense was on par with other travel arrangements that had been made for prior judges. Kelly said she had pulled his expense reimbursement sheet and for the most part all expenses were normal for this year. She said what is expensive was the rental car, however she noted that last year MCHA ran into this as well. Some of the add-on expenses like airport parking and misc. travel expenses added up too. Peri said this may be something to remember for next year and always book the flights ourselves.

Mike Hoffman asked if the second Dillon show is anticipated to be larger than this June show. Peri said she is not expecting it to be larger because there is another show that will conflict with ours. Peri asked all the Board members to reach out to people and encourage attendance at the July show.

President Peri Suenram said that there is an area producer meeting in the works and hopefully there will be some resolution for the 2024 show season on conflicting shows. Peri said the meeting should take place July 10th or 11th.

Kelly Fraser noted on the July Dillon show that the Judge will be doing a show right after ourd, so she had been working with the other show producer on flights. The split cost of the flight for MCHA was \$500.00.

Doug Pearce asked about the collection on the outstanding settlements from the June Dillon Show. Kelly said one check should be available to her this week for deposit. One check was simply a miscalculation, and we should be receiving the difference shortly. The other check was to be sent via mail and should be received within the next week. And the final settlement was a credit card transaction, and we are waiting for a card number to run.

Year End Show – President Peri Suenram told the Board that the Year End Show is currently scheduled for October 12 – 14. Peri noted that there is a banquet committee consisting of Rob Fraser and Doug Pearce. Peri asked Darrell if he would be willing to help out with the Banquet entertainment. Clayton said he would be willing to help too, mainly with boots on the ground, prior to the show as the weekend of the show he is too consumed to help set anything up.

Clayton said the Year End Show will be just prior to the NILE at the Horse Palace. He asked if there would be some interest in doing a clinic on the Sunday following the show which would be prior to the Ranch Horse competition at the NILE. He thought a clinic may be a way to introduce people to MCHA and Cutting. The clinic could be a half day (4 to 5 hours), Mike Hoffman volunteered to do the clinic. Mike also suggested offering a Rancher class on Saturday

to draw some people to the show a day earlier and perhaps stay for the clinic. Kelly asked Clayton if there would be a possibility of partnering with the NILE to advertise the clinic and Rancher class. Clayton said he thought the NILE would be open to adding MCHA to an eblast to their competitors.

Clayton said since we had lost the excitement of the Re-Run Cattle Shootout that there may be a need to add an element to the show. He said the Calcutta was a good money earner for the association so if there was a way to duplicate that with a new activity it would benefit MCHA. Doug Pearce suggested a Bridle-less cutting with a Calcutta. Kelly asked when that would take place during the show? Darrell Lee suggested combining the General Membership Meeting with the Bridle-less cutting to ensure a good turnout. President Peri Suenram said it would be wonderful if Teresa Miller would be on board to cater the social and Membership Meeting.

NCHA Convention Recap – President Peri Suenram said the Convention was a phenomenal experience and a lot was covered over the weekend. She said Montana was very well represented by both our National Directors, John Seymour and Suzanne Nellen, Kathy Foote on the Non-Pro Committee, Buddy Westphal on the Judges Committee. Michelle Van Dyke, and Peri who is on the Amateur Committee.

Peri said one thing that was solidified was the dates for 2024 NCHA Weekend – May 31st to June 2nd. She told the Board if they wanted to host it, MCHA would be able to put in the application for it in Deer Lodge. Peri asked the Board their feelings on producing that show. John Seymour said he would find out how much money NCHA gives to the producing affiliate for the show then he and Darrell could talk and see if the show would pencil. It would be an additional show to the May Deer Lodge show.

John Seymour said one of the most important items for MCHA out of the Convention was the change of our Big Sky Circuit. He said it was proposed to make Montana and Wyoming their own Circuit, but it would still need to go to the EC for approval. John said that the Circuit National Championship show will be during the Super Stakes in April. NCHA made that decision since the facility was already contracted. NCHA is talking about moving the National Circuit Finals around after the first two years. They will be adding \$300,000.00 back into the Finals show.

Rob Fraser asked about the possible facility being built in Weatherford to replace Fort Worth. John said that Weatherford has bought the land and will be building a new venue for Equine events. NCHA cannot pull out of Fort Worth until they know they have a new facility to hold events at. The Weatherford facility will not be done for at least 3 years. In an effort to make their facility more user friendly, Fort Worth is renovating the Coliseum. With the possibility of NCHA leaving Fort Worth, the city is starting to realize the need to update their facility. John wanted everyone to understand that NCHA will NOT be adding any money to the Weatherford project.

NEW BUSINESS:

To Honor Wirthlin's – President Peri Suenram said MCHA has two great supporters in Todd & Lee Wirthlin. They have been instrumental in the license plate program and have donated merchandise for several drawings over the last three years. Peri asked the Board to discuss ideas to honor them. The Board would like to honor them with something at the Year End Banquet, allow them to hang a banner at MCHA shows, and grant them a sponsorship on the website. Michelle Van Dyke made the motion to honor the Wirthlin's with an award at the Banquet, a silver sponsorship, extend an invitation to the Banquet and allow them to have a banner at our shows. Seconded by Darrell Lee and carried on a voice vote.

Upcoming Dillon Show – President Peri Suenram said the Dillon #2 show had already been discussed however there was one question that is up for discussion. She said it had been talked about for MCHA to donate the construction of a wash rack at the Horsemanship Center. This idea came only with the thought that the profit on the show would be around \$10,000.00. She said at this time it may not be worth discussing. The Board decided it would not be wise to set a precedent for a venue and have something of this nature to be expected in the future.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.