

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

*April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021*  
*Big Timber, MT*

President Will Nuttall called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**Directors Present:** President Will Nuttall, Vice President Cindy Garoutte, Kelsey Fraser, Roy Oliver, Wylie Fraser, Kathy Foote, Michelle Van Dyke, Nancy Lacounte and Alison Anderson

**Others Present:** Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert

The minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors' meeting had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.

Moved and seconded to approve treasurers report and prior meeting minutes. Roy Oliver, Alison Anderson.

**OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**None was discussed as this was a special meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The floor was opened to new business. Michelle Van Dyke asked to go over the profit and loss reports for the shows at Dillon and Livingston. Board reviewed financials from both shows. Kelsey Fraser asked regarding projected goals for Dillon's financials, if this was what was expected for show totals. Michelle requested we send Audrey O'keefe a gift card and thank you for travel accommodations and compensation for judges transportation. Will suggested we send more than requested and send \$300.00. Kathy said she doesn't think Audrey expects that much in return. Motion was made by Kelsey \$200 dollars and a thank you card be sent. Seconded by Nancy. Will asked if there was any unforeseen expense that wasn't known about during Dillon show. Kelsey asked about the show environment, cattle, and attendance. Cindy replied with the needs of reconfiguring the show pen, show schedule change, making the show an overall better experience. Will asked if there were any final questions regarding the show.

Discussion began regarding Livingston Heart K show. Kathy noted sand was a bit of a high expense and suggested using it in practice pen for future use. It was discussed to send Matt Sarrazin and family a check for \$200.00 for the practice pen panel use, hauling and set up. Kelsey asked about the back fence costs that Roy (crew) and Will had put up and tore down at Livingston. Thank you to everyone that put time and effort into these shows. Kathy said the schedule was great and gave kudos to Will for preparing it. Cindy asked what the vendor fee was regarded. Kathy explained that Heart K requested those vendor fees outside of rental agreement for facility use. Kelsey motioned to approve and Alison seconded expenses discussed to be final.

President Will Nuttall began conversation regarding upcoming Big Piney show. He stated show manager Andi James is good-to-go and has everything lined out. She has been hard at work to have no gray areas--- hay ordered, shavings truck coming in, all basis covered. Kathy is sending all MCHA show supplies (flag, wrap, etc.) with Roy to Big Piney. Michelle voiced concerns regarding the schedule. Will explained keeping sets manageable (days shorter) during that show, especially adding the 3 year old classes was hard to do. Show secretary and manager had redone the schedule multiple times. Will thought it was too late to change, as everyone has put forth effort into this schedule. Kathy voiced her concern about the hospitality in the area and taking care of everyone late after shows. MCHA Secretary, Kelsie explained that Andi has asked the concessions and the food truck to stay open late. Will voiced his frustration that the aged event was only two go rounds (except 3 yr olds), and wants to move forward in future years with an open first schedule than non-pro, including 3 goes. Better scheduling for the trainers, working type and non pros to come in on the weekend. Alison has worked on circuit awards working on something fun to add to shows, keeping competitors to the end. Cindy said she had a saddle pad donated by Van and Kathy Greenwell, wants suggestions how to donate it back/what to use it for. Andi James also has fun loper awards to give away during length of show. It was suggested to send another blast about the silent auction, and to have the option to contact a board member to send silent items with to show. Another email blast, another fb blast will be done by Alison and Kelsie.

Kelsey asked about the back panel fence that Roy and Will spent with time and donated large amount of money. It was asked by Kelsey to reimburse the cost and MCHA buy it from Roy. \$2019.00 is the total cost of reimbursement. It was stated that the back fence made a huge difference in Livingston and will continue to at future shows. Will asked it be designated to the association, not a specific show expense. Will asked that the put-up and break-down be done by volunteer basis. Cindy added that we attempt to get more volunteers for set-up and breakdown of shows. Kelsey motioned that we reimburse Roy. Wiley seconded it.

Kelsey brought to the table that bringing another person on the MCHA bank account would be wise. To add incoming President (2022) Cindy instead of Will on the checking account. Make things 100% clear since a husband and wife are both on the account. Moved and second by Kelsey and Kathy to remove Will and add Cindy to the account.

Montana Cutting Horse year end show details. Alison asked if we had made decisions on the Miller horse show end of year banquet details. It was requested to have the banquet at Miller's seeing Theresa does a great job at the show. It also keeps people around the facility and makes for more fun at the shootout. The concern was raised about a Friday, Saturday and Sunday show. What would the details be for the Sunday Show----seeing the banquet for this year is Saturday and year end totals would already be totaled? It was suggested to move it to a Thursday-Saturday show. Banquet still was planned and scheduled for Saturday night. Remove Sunday and change the show dates to accommodate everyone involved. Will called Clayton and Theresa to confirm the dates. It was OK'd by Theresa to change schedule, as well as to host the banquet. Alison is in charge of the banquet details. Nancy asked regarding another NWAB class. It was advised to contact Theresa and Andi at Big Piney, and Kelly for Millers, since we have sponsors for the

NWAB throughout the year. The shoot out was briefly discussed. Advised to do same as the past. Fresh cattle in the shootout. Sponsors for the cattle. Calcutta event.

Alison has a horse blanket to donate to her idea of turnback horse award, wants to know how to do this, if we could do a turnback horse of the year? After discussion, it was decided to give multiple gifts/thank you's to the turnback horses that are there every time, for all the contestants. Nancy has been given the chance to get multiple gifts/awards to the turnback help. Will made a suggestion to give awards during the banquet, all trainer help attending. Nancy makes a motion to order 10 turnback horse appreciation awards, with no year put on the award item to have the ability to use elsewhere. Alison seconded. Will asked if we had done away with horse of the year, or is it by money won. Kathy agreed it was by money won. Kelsie will look back at prior minutes to see how we vote regarding these suggestions. The MCHA Board continued discussion if the awards should only be the high money winner, concerned with the others that had placed. Will voiced his opinion of the incentive for people to go show, the year-end award should go to high money winner, stating not to take away the prestige of being the top of their divisions.

Kim Asay award nominations. Kathy asked it be \_\_\_\_\_ stating she has been an amazing force for the industry. Will nominated \_\_\_\_\_. Will also asked we talk more about Kim more and make realization of the award and its meaning. Kelsie will send an email to vote for this honor. Wylie made a motion to go to the two nominees from several other suggestions. Roy seconded it.

Michelle wants clarification on what is approved on the 50% of the approved shows. Do we need to keep this rule, or look into changing it? Nancy stated she wanted to try to encourage people to go to more of the smaller shows and Montana shows. Kelsie looked back to the planning meeting (January 2021) minutes and read the reasoning of why it was put into place. It was discussed how we make this accurate, the amount of work it will take to record keep this percent, and what we can do to change moving forward. Kathy stated it is a sign of the times, the amount of affiliate shows along with members traveling in and out of state makes for a broader amount of competitors in each division. Alison stated about the newly added circuit incentive also affects traveling for competitors. The board agreed that we will have to stay with the bylaws and adhere.

Will voiced opinion about having the weekend show at Idaho (August-September) Montana approved. Michelle, Kathy and Nancy said that it must go through the proper channels to approve a show. Out of State approval was longer than the time frame to have this show Montana approved. It was agreed we had to follow proper guidelines and not approve the show. Michelle remembered the time we had denied South Dakota their approval due to the same reasons. It was suggested we re-evaluate during the year-end general membership meeting.

Kathy requests the voting/election process be evaluated. Creating a revision to the by-laws. Article III Section 8: Method of election was made. The board read and went over this election method. Kelsey asked about 18-25 year olds and their voting on family membership, asking for clarification. The finalized article presented will be brought forward to the general membership meeting.

Will asked about the Facebook blast that changed the circuit finals from Gillette, WY Torrington Wyoming. Will discussed knowing Gillette was having a hard time to find cattle. Kathy made calls to the NCHA Circuit director, as well as Jack Enright. Wylie and Nancy stated it was the only option to keep the circuit finals. Will asked about the Torrington facility, getting clarification on what are we gaining by moving it to a smaller venue, even further away. The President asked if we are benefiting our membership by moving dates and location. Kathy mentioned Jack bringing up a good point of moving on top of shows in the fall, maybe it should be moved to spring months. Kathy also gave credit for concept of the circuit program that it has to evolve and get kinks out as each year goes. Wylie stated it is what it is, stating it was the only place that was able to house us and get cattle. Michelle asked about adjusting the boundaries of the circuit program, that NCHA should readjust to accommodate. The MCHA Board requested that NCHA directors ask about our wants and needs for the betterment of our Montana members. Will suggested that Wyoming should have communicated better with its neighbors to make it a better venue for all. That the decision to move should have been consulted with the rest of the circuit before making a final decision. Michelle asked for clarification for taking top 30 to circuit finals, that seems like a lot and loses its prestige. Kathy and Will were speaking highly of Western Nationals and the layout and format of such a prestigious event. Pushing towards another event as such would be ideal.

Wylie made a motion to adjourn meeting. Roy seconded.

**President Will Nuttall adjourns the meeting at 6:48 p.m.**