

**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 8<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.