

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

*January 8th, 2022
Best Western Grand Tree Inn
1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT*

President Cindy Garoutte called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Directors Present: President Cindy Garoutte, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Rob Fraser, Tanya Dvarishkis, and Doug Pearce

Directors Present Via Zoom: Will Nuttall

Others Present Via Zoom: Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert

The minutes of the November 12th, 2021, Board of Directors' meeting had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting. Minutes were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Will Nuttall Resignation

Wylie Fraser asked to open the floor to discussion regarding Will Nuttall's resignation at the General Membership meeting in September 2021. Will expressed interest in staying on the Board but understood if the Board voted for his removal. The Board voted and tied. President Cindy Garoutte told the Board that she would like this discussion tabled for now. She felt that until Will resigns, he should remain on the Board. She said she would like to see this new Board get along and have a productive year.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Show Schedule

Vice President Peri Suenram had previously provided the Board with the shows and dates that were under consideration for approval. New shows for 2022 would include a Deer Lodge show. Darrel has been working on logistics of the show including stall, cattle and show set-up. The board spoke regarding contracts for each MCHA produced show, and that Darrel, Peri and Kelsie would work together to complete such contracts. President Cindy Garoutte proposed a possible show at the Cottonwood arena in Selisia, she is still digging into details about this. She also would like to see a combined MCHA/USCHA show at Miller's Horse Palace with dates TBD. The board spoke of two back-to-back shows with a clinician in the middle at Miller's. Vice President Peri Suenram is working on a show at the 406 Arena in Vaughan, MT. The Board talked about the growth of Dillon and the second show that is scheduled, there may be a cattle availability question that will need to be addressed. Big Piney was thoroughly looked through,

regarding finances and where we can have fewer risks with cost. It was also spoke about what exactly was in the show management contract and how we can be more professional with the details.

The following shows were unanimously approved by the MCHA Board of Directors:

January 17-19: Rapid City, SD (Black Hills Stock Show)

March 23-27: Nampa, Idaho

April 15-17: Laurel, MT

May 6-8: Deer Lodge, MT (MCHA Produced)

May 19-28: Western Nationals Reno, NV (NCHA show listed for information only)

June 9-12: Dillon, MT (MCHA Produced)

June 23-26: NCHA Weekend (NCHA Show listed for information only)

July 15-17: Torrington, WY

July 22-24: Dillon, MT (MCHA Produced)

August 16-22: Big Piney, WY (MCHA Produced)

September 16-18: Laurel, MT

September 30 – October 2: Vaughn, MT (MCHA Produced)

Circuit Finals Date TBD

Never Won A Buckle Class (NWAB)

Vice President Peri Suenram has been in communication with Danielle Pace of the UtahCHA to promote a joint shootout class. The specifics regarding these qualifiers, how much added to each class, and finalized details are being researched by Peri, Kelsey, Danielle and Westin Sampson. The MCHA BOD approved Miller's Horse Palace (April), Deer Lodge, and Dillon (June) to be the three venues where NWAB classes will be scheduled. It was moved, seconded, unanimously approved to provide \$1000.00 to the joint shootout from MCHA.

2021 Approved Classes

President Cindy Garoutte asked the Board if they felt there was a need to change the list of approved classes for the 2022 show year. The Board felt there was no need to change the class list for 2022, except for adding the Unlimited Amateur class. Our MCHA 2022 Approved Classes will be as follows:

Open

Non-Pro

\$50,000 Amateur

Unlimited Amateur – Can be run as a class within a class in the \$50,000 Amateur
\$25,000 Novice Horse
\$25,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
Junior Youth
Senior Youth
\$35,000 Non-Pro
\$15,000 Amateur
\$5,000 Novice Horse
\$5,000 Novice Horse Non-Pro
\$2,000 Limit Rider
**Open Derby
**Non-Pro Derby
**Open Classic
**Non-Pro Classic

**It will be up to the show producer whether to offer these classes. All other approved classes must be offered in order for a show to receive MCHA approval.

**1,500 Novice Horse may be offered by the show producer; however, it is not an approved MCHA class and will not be eligible for year-end awards.

**The Board discussed the possibility of a 2-handed or Rancher class to be offered. They decided that if a show producer feels there would be interest it would be up to them to offer the class/classes.

2022 Year End Awards

Minimum Participation

President Cindy Garoutte discussed the 50% rule that was put in place for 2021. She explained that it was not beneficial to again put this in place, as the board had to do a rule change mid-year to compensate for the lack of members who qualified for the 50% attendance. Rob Fraser voiced his desire to have the Montana membership be the louder voice than that of other states. Doug Pearce expressed his opinion that if you pay your Montana membership, your money should count regardless. Rob Fraser discussed having the minimum participation be for the member to attend three in-state venues. The Board decided since saddles will be given in the Amateur/Non-Pro classes this year, it would support our Montana produced shows by requiring year end award winners to participate at three Montana in State shows. Motion was made and passed by voice vote to require a minimum participation at three in State venues of Montana approved or produced shows in order to qualify for year-end awards.

Membership Deadline

Membership deadline will remain May 1st per Article II, Section 4 of the MCHA bylaws. Members must buy their membership by this date for any earnings prior to May 1st to count towards year end standings.

Re-Run Cattle Shootout

The Board decided to focus on class awards and work with Utah to do a Shoot-Out in Big Piney for 2022.

Placing to Give Awards To

The Board decided the Awards Committee would be in charge of deciding how many places to give awards based on the budget. In addition, it was decided to give a saddle voucher to Amateur and Non-Pro classes (nine in total). Vice President Peri Suenram was tasked with researching saddle makers to determine where we could purchase vouchers. In addition, the remaining classes will receive some sort of nicer award for the Champion, such as boots, etc.

Special Awards

President Cindy Garoutte asked the Board if there needed to be any changes to the Special Awards offered, the Board felt the special awards were good except deciding the recipient needed to be changed on the Open and Non-Pro horse of the year. The Board made the following decisions for Special Awards.

The Special Awards for 2022 will be as follows:

- MCHA Open Horse of the Year – Most money won including both weekend and LAE classes.
- MCHA Non-Pro / Amateur Horse of the Year – Top horse in each Non-Pro or Amateur class excluding LAE classes, to be voted on by the membership.
- Adult Rookie of the Year (Voted on by the Board of Directors). Eligible candidates include adult MCHA members in good standing, having \$0 NCHA lifetime earnings at the beginning of the show year.
- Kim Asay/Most Inspirational (Voted on by the Board of Directors). The award goes to someone thought to be a fierce competitor, showing great sportsmanship both in and out of the arena, while continuing to place a high value on family, friends, and faith.

MCHA Approval Fees

The Board felt that at this time it is not in the best interest of MCHA or its associated show producers to ask for approval fees in 2022.

2022 Operating Budget

Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert had provided to the Board several financial documents including the 2021 final P & L as well as a proposed 2022 budget. The Board agreed to continue

offering sponsors of \$400 or higher a free MCHA membership. The Board approved awarding saddle vouchers to the nine Amateur/Non-Pro classes offered. They further approved providing matching funds of \$1000.00, along with UCHA, to fund a Never Won A Buckle Shootout at the Big Piney show. Details of the shootout are: 1) MCHA and UCHA will each offer three NWAB classes during the year, 2) Anyone who wins a buckle OR participates in at least two NWAB contests is eligible to compete at Big Piney “for the big prizes”. Kelsey Fraser and Peri Suenram will work with Danielle Pace and Westin Sampson to firm up the details. The Board agreed that the awards budget would remain at \$15,000.00 for 2022. The Board agreed to get out as a group and make a huge effort to get sponsorships for 2022. Kelsie Harbert agreed to provide a sponsorship spreadsheet to the Board

Annual Review of Secretary/Treasurer Compensation – Closed Session

Following discussion by the Board, it was decided that the 2022 compensation for the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position would remain at \$1000.00/Month.

2022 Committee Assignments

President Cindy Garoutte assigned the following committees:

Show Committee: Peri Suenram (per Constitution, Vice President is Chairman), Darrell Lee, Rob Fraser & Wylie Fraser

Year End Awards: Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser & Sarah Bauer (per her request)

Year End Banquet: Not Yet Assigned

Sponsorship: All Board Members

Nominating: Doug Pearce, Tanya Dvarishkis & Rob Fraser

Rules Committee: All Board Members

Encouragement of New Membership

Rob Fraser would like to see a clinic or multiple clinics held that would be open to diverse organizations and people. He will be digging into more details and will present the Board with ideas.

Signatory on MCHA Wells Fargo Checking Account

President Cindy Garoutte and Secretary/Treasurer Kelsie Harbert have equal access to the Wells Fargo checking account.

Angela Bauer Scholarship

Jessica Lee reported on her findings during a thorough review of the finances, past winners, and payouts. She reported on the amount of money in both the checking and savings accounts for the

scholarship fund, as well as how many outstanding checks were written. Jessica Lee said she would like to see MCHA put together a youth clinic again. Board was in agreement and will discuss further.

Other New Business

None.

President Cindy Garoutte adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.