

# Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

## Board of Directors' Meeting

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 3:00pm Via Zoom

President Ashley Lee called the meeting to order at 3:05pm

**Directors Present:** President Ashley Lee, Vice President Roy Oliver, Cody Lee, Jann Parker, Kelly Fraser, Jeremy Young, Dave Ziebarth, Doug Pearce

**Directors Excused:** Gus Hoffman

**Others Present:** Secretary/Treasurer Valee Miller,

Approval Of BOD Meeting Minutes 1.6.2025 via zoom Doug Pearce to Approve, Jeremy Young to 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Passed

### **OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

President Ashley Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting, Secretary Valee Miller called for the Roll Call.

### **Rule Change Update**

1. There was discussion of the passing of Rule #4 vote in which it is now a majority board vote as opposed to a unanimous board vote for out of state approvals.

### **Standing Monthly Meetings**

1. The board had a brief discussion and decided to keep the monthly BOD Meetings on the first Wednesdays at 7pm on an as needed basis.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Tentative Show Schedule**

- a. There was a board discussion led by President Ashley Lee of the tentative show schedule. As it stands right now these are the proposed dates for the 2026 MCHA show schedule. The possibility of a Big Timber Show & Big Sky Show is currently still in the works. It was discussed there will be no Dillon show this year. President Ashley Lee led discussion of adding an additional half day to the second Deer Lodge, NCHA Days, show, which would allow for more time for two days of aged event and three days of weekend show, which would highlight NCHA days itself for the Saturday & Sunday weekend shows.
  1. May 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Deer Lodge #1
  2. May 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Miller's Horse Palace #1
  3. May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> Deer Lodge #2
  4. August 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Big Piney
  5. September 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Miller's Horse Palace #2

- 6. October 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Miller's Horse Palace #3
- 7. Possible Big Timber
- 8. Possible Big Sky
- b. Doug Pearce made a motion to approve the 2 Deer Lodge Shows, Big Piney and 3 Miller's Horse Palace Shows for MCHA approval, Kelly Fraser to second. Motion Passed
- c. **Outside Approvals**
  - i. There was board discussion led by President Ashely Lee on the approval of out of state shows. After taking a look at the tentative surrounding show schedule Roy Oliver made a motion to approve the April Utah show April 15-18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Doug Pearce to 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Passed
  - ii. Continued board discussion of out of state approvals for the Wyoming shows, Roy made a motion to approve the June 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Torrington Show & the August 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Torrington Show, Jann Parker to 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Passed
- d. **Paying Those Who Put Together Deer Lodge Shows**
  - i. There was board discussion of paying Daryl Lee & Peri Suenram for their work on putting together the Deer Lodge Shows. Years past they have been paid \$250. Kelly Fraser asked if we are using re run cattle, or fresh which would affect the bottom line. After the discussion the board decided to pay them based on the bottom line of the show.
- e. **Upping the cattle help pay at MCHA Shows**
  - i. Currently the board has been paying \$1000/ for the weekend, possibility of upping this amount. Roy Oliver led the discussion of knowing some cowboys who would possibly be interested in helping. Motion was made by Kelly Fraser to pay \$175/ Day with lodging, Roy Oliver to 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Passed.

### **Big Piney**

- a. Discussion of the board taking back over the hiring of personnel for Big Piney. The board would like to hire the judges and personnel to help with the quality of professionals. The board would like to increase the judges to weekend judges and aged event judges. Doug Pearce led discussion on possibly increasing the pay for the higher ranked judges.
- b. Discussion by the board of having Big Piney counts as one of the attendance shows for prizes as it is produced by the MCHA. Doug Pearce made a motion to have Big Piney a qualifying show for in-state show attendance for awards. Kelly Fraser to 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

### **2026 Approved Classes**

- i. **Open**
- ii. **Non Pro**
- iii. **Unlimited Amateur**
- iv. **\$75K Amateur**

- v. \$25K Novice Horse
- vi. \$25K Novice Horse Non Pro
- vii. Junior Youth
- viii. Senior Youth
- ix. \$50K Non Pro
- x. \$25K Amateur
- xi. \$5K Novice Horse
- xii. \$5K Novice Horse Non Pro
- xiii. \$4K Limited Rider
- xiv. Open Derby
- xv. Derby Non Pro
- xvi. Open Classic
- xvii. Classic Non Pro

Doug Pearce made a motion to approve these classes, Roy Oliver to 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

### **Year End Awards**

Jann Parker made a motion to have members attend 4 in state shows, including Big Piney in this count, to be eligible for awards, Cody Lee to 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

### **MCHA Approval Fees**

There was board discussion of waiving this fee. Kelly Fraser made the motion to wave the \$4/ run approval fee for outside approvals, Roy Oliver to 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Passed.

### **Operating Budget Items**

- a. 2025 P &L
  - i. There was board discussion about if there were any questions on the P&L for 2025.
- b. Yearly Comparison
  - i. After board discussion of the yearly comparison they have identified their weaker spots and stronger spots, to adjust for 2026
- c. Budget
  - i. Year End Award Budget
    - a. There was discussion for the 2026 budget, Kelly Fraser made a motion to have a \$25,000 Awards Budget, Jann Parker to 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.
    - b. Cody Lee led the discussion of giving saddles to the year end winners in the rerun classes, since they don't have the opportunity to cut fresh cattle in their classes. There was a motion made by Cody Lee

### **Committee Assignments**

- a. Show Committee- Roy Oliver, Ashley Lee, Kelly Fraser, Gus Hoffman
- b. Year End Awards- Dave Ziebarth, Jann Parker
- c. Year End Banquet- Roy Oliver, Possibly Cindy Fraser
- d. Sponsorship- Goal set of \$15,000 Dave Ziebarth to take the lead

- e. Nominating Committee- Cody Lee, Jeremy Young, Gus Hoffman
- f. Rules Committee- All Board
  - i. There was board discussion to open up the committees to the entire general membership. Valee Miller to send out a constant contact and ask.

**Other**

a. Website Updates- There was general discussion of what to leave on the website, what to change, what would make it have more appeal.

b. Update on Stockman Bank CD- The cd at stockman bank to come due on 1/13/26. There was board discussion to pull \$20,000 plus the interest that was earned and reinvest the \$80,000 remaining balance. Valee Miller to handle this.

c. There was discussion of getting banners for the sponsors that all matched in size and shape. Kelly Fraser made a motion to have all banners be 5'x3' Dave Ziebarth to 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.

Ashley Lee adjourned the meeting at 5:456pm,