

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

January 14th, 2023
Best Western Grand Tree Inn
1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

Directors Present: President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Doug Pearce, Clayton Miller, Roy Oliver, Darrell Lee, and Josh Kiemig

Directors Present Via Zoom: John Seymour

Directors Absent: Rob Fraser

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

Others Present Via Zoom: National Director Suzanne Nellen and Theresa Nelson

The minutes of the November 30th, 2022, 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:

President Peri Suenram welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the past Board members and past President Doug Pearce for their service, and welcomed the new Board members.

President Peri Suenram proposed to the Board a standing BOD meeting each month. She asked if the first Wednesday of every month would be convenient for everyone at 7:00 p.m. The Board felt that it was a good idea to have a standing meeting and Wednesday worked well for everyone. Darrell Lee noted that if there was nothing pressing to discuss the meeting may be canceled and there would be flexibility for a change if need be. Clayton Miller asked if the 1st Wednesday fell close to a show, could the Board have an in person meeting. The Board agreed that it would be nice to have a face to face meeting if possible. Darrell made the motion for the 1st Wednesday of every month be a standing date for the BOD meeting via zoom or in person, if possible, unless deemed unnecessary by the President, seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

2023 Show Schedule

President Peri Suenram asked all the Board members if they were able to review the tentative show schedule that was sent. She noted that in putting together the tentative schedule she and Vice President Michelle Van Dyke looked back on the membership survey from 2022. The membership collectively wanted their show season to start in April and end in late September or early October. They also asked for two shows per month to be approved MCHA shows and would like those shows to be three day shows. The other request was to balance shows between the East and West sides of the states. Peri noted that for the Dillon shows it is very important to have Utah support and with that MCHA will need to approve a Utah show to help draw cutters to Dillon. Peri said she spoke with the current UCHA president and Utah would be willing to approve one Dillon show if MCHA would approve the April Ogden show. Darrell Lee said he fully supports approving the Ogden show and understands the need for Utah support.

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke explained that she included several area shows on the show schedule even if they are not MCHA approved. Michelle updated the Board on the status of the Vaughn show. She said they are still struggling to obtain cattle and the only available date the barn is open will be May 26-28. Peri and Michelle explained to the Board that the approval of a second Torrington, WY show will depend on the Vaughn show coming together. Clayton Miller asked the Board what they can pay for cattle, Peri said \$35/head is all they can pay and perhaps \$45 if trucking is included. Clayton also asked about the stalls and how many head they may need for Vaughn. Darrel said no less than 450 head and Peri said there should be plenty of stalls at 100, with the option of overflow at the Great Falls Fair Grounds. John Seymore said he has concerns on the Vaughn show with so much uncertainty and the risk of losing money on the show. Collectively the Board decided to make a decision on Vaughn, and the second Torrington WY approval, at the next BOD meeting February 1st.

The Board asked Clayton what his thoughts were on the Year End Show dates. Clayton said he did have an October date open, 10-14, and would be willing produce the Year End Show over that weekend. Kelly Fraser noted that the September 2022 show for Millers worked well with the Futurity and for 2023 they would like to do 3 shows over 4 days, making it a hard weekend for the Year End, since they would not want to give up showing on Sunday. Clayton said he would be willing to add a futurity to the October show, in hopes of drawing more cutters. He said he will now have 106 covered box stalls available.

*****See attached list of shows approved by the Board to be listed on the website. The Board reserves the right to change approved shows at the February 1st, 2023 meeting.*****

The Board would like the website to list area shows even if they are not MCHA approved.

President Peri Suenram opened the floor for a discussion on the dual Circuit approval requirements for the 2023 show year. John Seymour said he would talk with Allison Walker at NCHA regarding our shows requesting dual approval. He said at this time NCHA does not want to allow dual approval but because Montana is in a unique position they may be more open to relaxing the requirements. The main change for our shows for 2023 is NCHA only allowing 5

show numbers to be used for Dual Circuit Approval per show producer. That means only 5 show days can have dual approval. John said he would work with Theresa Nelson and Kelly Fraser on the shows they are asking for dual approval. Peri and Michelle said they would like to ask UtahCHA to ask for dual circuit approval on the April Ogden show. Kelly asked the Board if they would like her to ask for dual circuit approval for the Miller's Horse Palace shows, which they would like to have if possible. Theresa Nelson told the Board that if NCHA does stay with only the 5 show days for dual approval, the Board is going to have to pick and choose what shows they would like to ask approval on. Peri said that she would like Theresa, Kelly, John, Suzanne and Michelle as a committee to report back on the dual approvals at the Feb 1st or March 1st Board meeting.

2023 Approved Classes

President Peri Suenram asked the Board if they felt there was a need to change the list of approved classes for the 2023 show year. The Board felt there was no need to change the class list for 2023. Our MCHA 2023 Approved Classes will be as follows:

Open
Non-Pro
\$50,000 Amateur
Unlimited 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.

The Board discussed having a year end award for the Futurity class, but since there are not 3 in State shows that offer a Futurity class it was decided to try and do a “Circuit” award instead over the two Miller’s shows.

Peri asked Clayton if he was still willing to hold free Youth classes at his shows. Clayton said 100% he was going to offer that to our Youth cutters. Darrell then suggested that we have a youth scholarship cutting at all of the Miller’s cuttings, the Board agreed.

Show Rules Update

President Peri Suenram asked Theresa Nelson and Kelly Fraser to update the Board on the 2023 changes NCHA has made to the show rules. Theresa noted that NCHA Convention and NCHA Weekend flip-flopped dates. She said another big change was the addition of the Select Non-Pro class which was added to appease people who no longer are eligible for the \$50,000 Amateur class. Kelly said that the biggest change for her was the increase in the entry fee cap on jackpot classes, up to \$125. This should allow for a better payout in those lower classes. Theresa said the other rule changes were geared towards the larger LAE shows that have go rounds and a finals, which will not affect MCHA shows.

Never Won A Buckle Class (NWAB)

President Peri Suenram told the Board there was such a positive feedback on the NWAB shootout in Big Piney for 2022 she would like to see it repeated in 2023. The Board agreed and will give \$1000.00 again towards awards. Peri will work with Danielle Pace and Weston Sampson again on the joint effort with UtahCHA to put this all together. Peri asked the Board if they would like to offer a NWAB class at every MCHA show, Roy said to encourage new members it would be beneficial to offer it at every show. Roy Oliver made the motion to offer the NWAB class at every MCHA show including Miller’s, seconded by Josh Keimig, and passed on a voice vote. Josh and Kelly will work on ordering buckles to have on hand. The show committee will have to determine which three shows will be qualifiers for the NWAB shootout in Big Piney.

2023 Year End Awards

Minimum Participation

President Peri Suenram discussed the participation rule used in 2022 and asked the Board their feelings on using the same rule for 2023. The Board said they felt last year worked out well for awards and this year in looking at the show schedule there would be a nice selection of Montana shows. Peri stated the rule was in order to qualify for a year end award, you must show at three “Year End Qualifier” show locations, in the same class. John Seymour said he appreciated the awards staying in state or going to those who supported in state shows. Darrell made the motion to implement the three in state show participation rule for 2023, seconded by Roy Oliver and carried on a voice vote.

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.

Championship Awards

President Peri Suenram discussed the awarding of five saddle vouchers valued at \$2100 for the 2022 year. Peri said that there was some negative feedback on the raffle saddle given at the Banquet. Doug Pearce said he did not feel that auctioning off left over awards at the Banquet was the right decision. He would like to see those awards held over for a silent auction in Big Piney. Peri asked the Board how they would like to handle the 2023 awards. Kelly Fraser asked the Board to clarify if they were considering saddles again in 2023. The Board said they would like the Championship award to be present and given to the recipient at the Banquet. They did not feel they could afford a saddle for each class. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke suggested a bit with the MCHA logo or MCHA Champion on the cheek piece and have those bits to give at the banquet. Clayton Miller suggested approaching several bit makers with our proposed 14 bits and ask for a bid from them. Michelle said you could also ask for sponsorships from the maker chosen. Darrell said he would like a participation award given out at the banquet as well, Doug agreed as long as that award was budgeted and planned for as well as advertised to the membership. Peri said she would like to see very nice 1st, 2nd, awards and could give awards to 4th place. Roy Oliver suggested some nice headstall buckles engraved with MCHA. Peri said she would like to assign an awards committee and it will be up to them what the awards will be and what placing to give the awards out to.

Special Awards

President Peri Suenram asked the Board if there needed to be discussion on the special awards for 2023, she asked specifically about the Non-Pro/Amateur Horse of the Year. After discussion the Board made the following decisions for Special Awards.

The Special Awards for 2023 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 including LAE classes, to be voted on by the membership.
- Adult Rookie of the Year. Eligible candidates include adult MCHA members in good standing, having \$0 NCHA lifetime earnings at the beginning of the show year and ending the show year with the most money won.
- 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

#10 of the MCHA Rules and Regulations states that there is a \$4/run approval fee. 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 2023. Doug Pearce moved to wave the rule for the 2023 show season, Michelle seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2023 Operating Budget and Current Financials

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser provided the Board with the 2022 year end P and L as well as the yearly comparison and the show finals for 2022. She stated that since the General Membership meeting there has not been much activity in the account. She noted that earmarked for 2022 are two saddle vouchers that have not been collected but are set against the P and L for last year. President Peri Suenram noted that there was a profit of over \$14,000.00 for the year. Kelly said MCHA has \$130,000.00 in a CD that will come up in May and the current QuickBooks balance shows over \$36,000.00. She said the Budget for 2023 is an estimate based on a three-year average. For the most part MCHA considers a break even on the shows for budgeting purposes. Peri noted that with everything that 2022 brought to the Board she was very pleased to see how the year shaped up financially.

President Peri Suenram asked the Board if they would like to continue offering free memberships to the prior year's sponsors of \$400 or higher. John Seymore made the motion to continue offering free memberships to the MCHA Sponsors at a level of \$400 or higher, seconded by Doug Pearce and carried on a voice vote.

President Peri Suenram opened the floor to discussion on the Year End Awards budget. She said she would like to allow some flexibility for the awards committee and have them present to the Board what they feel is needed. She also would like to implement in 2023, as done in the past, that the award recipients must be responsible for shipping their awards or having someone pick up their awards if they are not able to attend the banquet, the Board agreed. Sec./Tres. Kelly Fraser said that perhaps the Board should set some parameters for the Budget. Peri said she is comfortable with between \$22,000 and \$30,000 for awards. She would like the committee to build a package and bring it back to the Board for further consideration.

Annual Review of Secretary/Treasurer Compensation – Closed Session

Following discussion by the Board, it was decided that the 2023 compensation for the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position would remain at \$1000.00/Month.

2023 Committee Assignments

President Peri Suenram assigned the following committees:

Show Committee: Per Constitution Vice President Michelle Van Dyke is Chairman, Darrell Lee, and Josh Keimig

Year End Awards: John Seymour, Josh Keimig and Peri Suenram

Year End Banquet: Rob Fraser, Roy Oliver and Doug Pearce

Sponsorship: All Board Members **Goal of \$20,000 for 2023**

Nominating: Doug Pearce, Darrell Lee and Clayton Miller

Rules Committee: All Board Members

Issues for National Directors

President Peri Suenram asked John Seymour to bring the Board up to date on the Circuit boarder changes. John said he has been working with Skip Jones and Allison Walker, at NCHA, to change the Big Sky Circuit to include Montana and Wyoming, maybe North Dakota and South Dakota and moving Minnesota to a different circuit. This is something that would be implemented in 2024 after discussion with the NCHA finance committee. He said there are several options but the goal is to have Montana and Wyoming as a Circuit by themselves. John has noted to NCHA that the MCHA membership does not want to split the state. He has been in contact with other area National Directors regarding this.

Peri asked John if he has any information on the location of NCHA Weekend or Circuit Finals. At this time John does not know of any applications into the NCHA office. Peri said she would like to see 2024 NCHA Weekend at Miller's. She would like for John and Clayton to work together on that show. Clayton would like the association to look at some show possibilities at the Metra in Billings. He said there will be new management and a greater possibility of their willingness to work with horse shows.

Sec./Treas. Kelly Fraser asked the reasoning for NCHA to not set dates well in advance, for instance having convention dates known for 2024 no later than June 2023. This would allow affiliates to plan shows accordingly, especially when having to reserve venues. Peri said she would like to see more affiliate support from NCHA. She would like the National Directors to lobby for more support and recognize the weekend cutters. Peri said it is important for MCHA to utilize their National Directors so we do have a voice in NCHA. She reminded the Board that at the GM meeting it was approved that travel expenses to the convention would be paid for by MCHA. Peri said we have a voice we need to use it.

Encouragement of New Membership

President Peri Suenram said the free youth classes at Miller's is a great example but there is more we can do as an association. Clayton Miller suggested having a cutting before another event, like doing something with the NILE or State Fair in Great Falls. Michelle said they used to have an exhibition at the NILE, Darrell said he remembered having FFA and 4-H kids there who were enthralled with the horses. The Board discussed having a set time at the NILE where we could have an exhibition, we need to get in touch with the Horse Show Manager to facilitate it. Roy Oliver suggested having a clinic, perhaps before the first show of the year at Miller's. Roy and Kelly would be willing to work on the proposed clinic.

Josh Keimig brought to the attention of the Board the negative feelings some Treasure State CHA members have toward MCHA. The Board would like to rectify that feeling they would offer free memberships to TSCHA members who attend a MCHA show. Darrell Lee also noted that new faces at the cuttings need to be welcomed. He suggested all the Board members make an effort to approach those new cutters and engage them so they feel comfortable.

Signatory on MCHA Wells Fargo Checking Account

President Peri Suenram, past President Doug Pearce and Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser are currently on the Wells Fargo checking account. Doug Pearce will be removed, and new Vice President Michelle Van Dyke will be added. Kelly will contact our Wells Fargo account manager and start the paperwork for Michelle to be added.

Angela Bauer Scholarship

Jessica Lee was unable to attend the meeting, however she had prepared a statement and spread sheet that Darrell Lee handed out to the Board. President Peri Suenram suggested the Show Committee work with Jessica on what additional shows the scholarship cuttings may be held other than Miller's three shows. Darrell Lee noted to the Board that a scholarship recipient must be a Montana resident at the time of being awarded the scholarship per the Angela Bauer Scholarship by-laws and the scholarship application form. He said as Jessica was going through the paperwork, she noted that there were several people who are written down as scholarship winners, who are not Montana residents. Peri said that if there is a rule that this must be given to a Montana resident, the Board is obligated to enforce that rule. She said as a non-profit MCHA needs to be very careful to follow the guidelines and not make their own decisions based simply on a kid we like. Going forward Jessica is going to need to make a determination when a scholarship payout is asked for if the recipient was a resident at the time. Peri asked if Jessica could let the Board know who on her list is a Montana resident and any recipient who was paid out incorrectly. She would like a money won column on Jessica's spreadsheet as well as an eligibility column.

After Action Review of Voting Procedures

President Peri Suenram said that the 2022 voting was the first with the new MCHA by-laws. Kelly Fraser said there was an email sent out with a link for the members to vote and the results were then sent to Big Sky Internet Design to be tallied. She said on her end everything was smooth and Tom with Big Sky, indicated that it was smooth on their end as well. Doug and Peri received the compiled tallies from Big Sky, they said it was easy to read. Doug suggested that the final tally may need to be sorted by NCHA number next year so there were no duplicate votes.

Other New Business

The Board would like some of the website to be updated such as the scrolling pictures. Kelly will see about including the 2022 Class Champions in our pictures. We may also be able to change some of the colors on the pages to brighten it up.

Michelle would like to see our sponsors receive a thank you gift at the end of the year. Darrell would like to see the sponsors recognized at the year end banquet as well.

The Board discussed the possibility of producing a joint show with TSCHA. There are some classes that would be similar, and a show may be able to accommodate cutters for both associations.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

MCHA Tentative Show Schedule 2023

Proposed MCHA Approved Shows are Highlighted

<u>Date</u>	<u>Show Location</u>	<u># of Shows</u>	<u>Year End Qualifier</u>
March 3-5	Bonina	3	
March 3-5	Spanish Fork	2	
April 6-9	Bonina	3	
April 13-16	Millers Horse Palace	3	X
April 19-23	Ogden UT	3	
May 5-7	Deer Lodge	3	X
May 12-14	Torrington WY ****May approve if Vaughn is a no go	3	
May 18-21	Bonina	3	
May 26-28	Vaughn (TENTATIVE)	2	X
June 9-11	Dillon	3	X
June 15-18	Bonina	3	
	*They are moving their show as to not conflict with Dillon		
July 13-15	Torrington WY	3	
July 20-23	Dillon	3	X
August 10-16	Big Piney	3	
	Weekend show Aug 10-13		
August 25-27	Torrington WY ****May approve if Vaughn is a no go	3	
Sept 14-17	Millers Horse Palace **Discussion on Year End show	3	X

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

*February 1st, 2023
Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Directors Absent: Roy Oliver

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

President Peri Suenram started the meeting by asking the Board members to answer the roll call with sponsorships they have collected so far.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser gave the Board a quick update on the bank balance stating that since the planning meeting there had been little activity to elaborate on.

President Peri Suenram said there were some clarifications needed on the January 14th, 2023 planning meeting minutes before they could be approved. She asked the Board to first clarify how the Rookie of the Year would be determined. The Board decided that the Rookie should be based on the most money won. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke made the motion that the award would go to the qualifying individual with the most money won at the end of the 2023 show year, seconded by Josh Keimig and passed on a voice vote.

The Board also discussed the wording MCHA uses for year end awards qualification. Peri noted that currently the minutes say that you must show at all three days at three different show locations. The Board wants to clarify that a competitor only has to attend three different show locations and show in their class one day at each show location. Peri said she, Michelle, and Kelly would work on the verbiage and send it out to the Board for approval/discussion.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Committee Updates

President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke and John Seymour if there had been any progress with dual circuit approvals. John said that as NCHA moves away from dual circuit approval we need to be very careful with what we ask for. He said that it is not likely we can get Big Piney dual approval. Peri said she had spoken with Kristen York, and Kristen believed that she would be able to get both Dillon shows dual approved. That would be a total of 6 show days approved. Kristen also said that getting Big Piney approved was very unlikely.

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke said that after several calls with cattle producers, nothing has been secured for the Vaughn show. She moved to forgo the Vaughn show and instead approve of the Torrington, WY May show. Seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote.

The show committee discussed with the Board their ideas for the Angela Bauer Scholarship cutting. Michelle said she would like to offer it at all three Miller's Horse Palace shows. Josh Keimig said there may be better luck getting kids to the summer shows. Clayton Miller suggested the Dillon #2 show as it would fall after the National High School Finals. John Seymour said that he would contact the cattle producer and see if they would donate the cattle for the youth. Kelly Fraser asked the Board if they were interested in asking Wyoming the possibility of having a scholarship cutting in Torrington at their July show just prior to National Finals. Peri asked if Kelly would contact Wyoming and discuss this possibility. Kelly said she would bring it up at the Wyoming GM meeting and ask Wyoming if they would match the scholarship. The Board decided that they would offer the Angela Bauer Scholarship cutting at the July Torrington WY show, the July Dillon show, and the September Miller's Horse Palace show.

Josh Keimig said he had ordered six buckles for the NWAB class through Molly's silver. We have two buckles left over so we will have a total of eight to give out during the 2023 show season.

President Peri Suenram has been working with Utah and other sponsors for the NWAB shootout in Big Piney. She said Utah is in for \$1000, MCHA is in for \$1000 and the other sponsors are also coming together. There will be a total of four qualifying shows for the Shootout in Montana:

Miller's Horse Palace – April Show
May Deer Lodge
Dillon #1(June)
Dillon #2 (July)

Peri noted that if you win a NWAB class at one of the qualifying shows you are automatically eligible for the Shootout in Big Piney. If you do not win a class you would still have to show at two qualifying shows to be eligible for the shootout. Peri said that Danelle Pace is currently working on a flyer to put out to our membership.

President Peri Suenram noted that NCHA Weekend is highly controversial this year with the date change between it and NCHA Convention. Peri said she spoke with Kristen York and Cathy Aleff at NCHA regarding 2024 dates. She told them that for us to plan and reserve venues we need to have those dates ASAP. Peri hopes that by Feb 13th we will have an answer from NCHA.

Clayton Miller said that October 10-14 will work well for the Horse Palace for the Year End Show. He asked the Board if they wanted to produce it or if they would like Miller's to produce it. The Board said that they would like Miller's to produce the show and the Board will be happy to take on the Banquet side of the show. Clayton said there was a Ranch Cutting in conjunction with the NILE the Monday following the Year End Show and he would like to be able to work with those individuals to promote MCHA in some way. He said if we could have some knowledgeable people there for that show it may go a long way in gaining some interest in MCHA. Clayton will work with Kelly Fraser in going forward with the structure of the LAE for

the year end show. Peri asked Rob, Doug, and Roy to please work toward bringing the Year End Banquet together. She suggested some kind of fun activities be held during the show to get some excitement, for example a Pro-Am class. Clayton asked all the Board members to please bring to the next BOD meeting some ideas on how to make the Year End show something different.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said she worked on a sample “thermometer” for the website. She built it in Excel so as a monetary value was added the “red” would raise. It will be a work in progress. Peri encouraged all the Board members to start bringing in sponsorships!

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the Board she reached out to the web designer regarding updates to the website. She told the Board that there were some pictures of the 2022 class champions that they were able to use for the scroll on the home page. She said because of the size of other pictures they were not able to use them. Kelly said that there was discussion on changing the colors on the website. If the Board elects to do that they must come up with a scheme they like as it has to be changed in the script throughout the entire site. Kelly also asked about changing the background of the show schedule. If we wanted something more along the lines of a parchment background, we would have to use a picture and send to the designer, something that we manipulate not the web designer. As of right now the Board will stick to the current design.

Darrell Lee asked if the show schedule on the website could be changed to more clearly show the MCHA approved shows. Kelly will work on updating the show schedule with the changes made by the Board this evening and will try to make it a more clear display of shows and their approval.

Darrell Lee said he is continuing to work with Treasure State CHA in regards to the Deer Lodge show being a co-approved show. He said the TSCHA Board is meeting Feb 11th and they will decide then if it is feasible for their association. Darrell said he has spoken with Kelly Fraser on how the logistics of the show may work. Kelly said she has no problem running the program to facilitate both associations. Darrel said his thought was for MCHA to pay for all the cattle and then have TSCHA reimburse MCHA for their cowhorse classes. He also would like TSCHA to help with the cost of the sand. Darrell said he feels he will have enough cattle to provide a great show for both MCHA and TSCHA. Darrell made the motion to approve the idea of a co-approved Deer Lodge show with TSCHA, seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote. Peri suggested that if this all works out, NCHA needs to know how hard this affiliate is working to put shows together and encourage membership. Darrell will update the Board at the March BOD meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said she would like permission from the Board to write a letter to all past sponsors and a letter to area trainers in hope of generating some interest. The Board agreed.

President Peri Suenram brought to the attention of the Board Article IV Section 5 of the MCHA Constitution: *Any Director who is absent from three (3) Directors meetings per year may be removed as a Director. At their next meeting the Board of Directors may appoint another*

person by a majority vote of the Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. An excused absence for extenuating circumstances may be taken into account. Peri asked if any Board member must miss a meeting that they please send a text or email to her to explain their extenuating circumstances.

President Peri Suenram talked to the Board members about the SPAM emails that are coming through. She said the emails may look like they are coming from her but the email address is not hers. Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser said there is nothing we can do about the spam emails unless the Board members names are not listed on the website.

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke asked all Board members to give her names of prospective judges. If they could please email her some ideas, it will be helpful.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 5th, 2023
Via Zoom

Prior to the start of the meeting, NCHA Vice President candidate Barnwell Ramsey spoke with the Board on issues facing NCHA, our Circuit and what he sees as the direction of NCHA. The Board was grateful for Barwell reaching out and sharing his time and vision with them.

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

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

Directors Absent: Roy Oliver

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser and Jessica Lee

President Peri Suenram started the meeting by asking the Board members to answer the roll call with sponsorships they have collected so far.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser gave the Treasurer's report to the Board. She reminded them that the CD with Edward Jones will be coming due the first week of May which will be \$130,000.00. She said the current balance on the Wells Fargo Checking was at \$34,198.87 and noted that a YTD P and L was sent to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelly said she has currently received \$2200 in sponsorship money for 2023. She also pointed out to the Board that the clinic Roy was doing at the Horse Palace was set up as a separate account running through the MCHA checkbook.

Rob Fraser asked the Board that since the CD was coming due, should some of that money get reinvested. Kelly stated she believed that since we would be in the show season the Board should consider taking at least \$50,000.00 to reinvest. Rob agreed and would like Kelly to speak with the financial advisor to come up with an investment plan.

Michelle Van Dyke noted that the license plate income was looking fantastic and asked when MCHA sees payment from the State. Kelly said that MCHA receives a monthly ACH transfer from the State, but we do not see an actual statement from them. Rob Fraser noted that some counties do not carry the MCHA license plate. Kelly said that if your county does not have the plate on hand, you may ask for it to be mailed to you.

President Peri Suenram said the changes had been made to the January 14th, 2023 planning meeting minutes. Kelly had emailed the revised minutes as well as the February 1st meeting minutes to the Board. She asked the Board if there were any additions or corrections to either meeting minutes. The Board passed both meeting minutes on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Committee Updates

Dual Circuit Approval – President Peri Suenram noted that Miller’s April show has been both Pioneer and Big Sky Circuit approved. John Seymore had reached out to NCHA to get both Dillon shows Pioneer approved. Currently the June show is dual approved, and he has been working to get all three days of the July Dillon show dual approved. He noted that going forward NCHA will be moving to no longer give dual approval to shows. After the Convention we should know more on the Circuits and approvals.

Angela Bauer Scholarship Cutting – President Peri Suenram asked what the status was for the July Torrington Scholarship cutting. Kelly Fraser said that Wyoming was doing \$500 to the Wyoming youth that had accumulated the highest score over the three-day show. Montana has a different payout schedule through their scholarship program. It is basically \$450 paid out to the top three Montana youths (\$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively). Kelly posed the question to the MCHA Board of doing a lump sum to the top Montana youth instead of breaking it up as proposed. She said she would like the kids to feel like they are actually getting something and make this an exciting experience for them. The other question Kelly posed to the Board is how the scholarship cutting will work since it is not actually guaranteeing the scholarship, but only the opportunity to apply for the scholarship. Jessica Lee explained that the way the show scholarship was designed would be to accumulate money over several years and then the recipients could then apply for the balance accumulated. Jessica said that any of the kids could apply for the other scholarship offered which is \$2000 to \$3000. Peri asked Jessica to work with Kelly for the wording presented at the Torrington cutting youth scholarship. Rob Fraser said he would like to see the amount awarded to the youths be a substantial enough amount to mean something to the recipient. Jessica did note that there is sufficient money in the account since there has not been any payouts for some time. She said the Scholarship has not been actively promoted in recent years, no clinics were held to fund it and no youths active in MCHA. Jessica would like to see it promoted more and more youth activity. Rob said he likes what we are doing but wants the Board to understand that we need to have more money awarded in the Scholarship. He said in our current World \$500 is nothing, we need to have something substantial to attract the youths. Michelle said she would like to see a push for Youth Scholarship fundraising.

Deer Lodge – Darrell Lee updated the Board on the upcoming Deer Lodge show. He said they had a host hotel change if Kelly could please update it on the website to the Old Montana Inn. Darrell said the cattle are set and coordinated as well as the trucking. He said the Prison has been fantastic to work with and has changed their AI schedule to accommodate us. Rob and Josh are planning on going to Deer Lodge early to help with the set up. Jessica Lee is currently taking stall reservations. The Fairgrounds will furnish shavings and have shavings in the stalls prior to the show. Darrell said one of the decisions that needs to be made once we arrive in Deer Lodge is how much sand will be needed. Darrell has arranged for: a trailer for the judges stand, cattle hay, and someone to feed. Doug will be our cattle guy and has some ideas to make the handling situation better this year. There will be a 4-H club running the concession stand this year.

2024 NCHA Weekend – President Peri Suenram asked Kelly and Clayton to work on an application for the show to be at Millers in 2024. Clayton asked if Peri would please confirm the June dates, he said once we know for sure he can set his calendar and go forward with the application.

Year End Show Dates – President Peri Suenram asked Clayton to confirm the Year End show dates. He said all is set on his end for the October 12-14 and he is going to be adding a Futurity Class to that show as well. Kelly confirmed that there will be a practice October 11th with the show dates starting Thursday the 12th through Saturday the 14th. Rob noted that the banquet will then be Saturday evening.

Clinic Update – Kelly Fraser said that they were set for the April clinic and Roy would be planning another clinic June 7th prior to the Dillon #1 show.

Big Piney Added Money – President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke to start the discussion on changing the added money at the Big Piney show. Michelle said the last few years there has been some thoughts on adding more money to Big Piney and if it would benefit the show as far as entries and the bottom-line. She had reached out to Theresa Nelson, and Theresa indicated that in Idaho they added more money, and the bottom-line was indeed increased. Michelle felt the entries were down in Idaho and didn't understand how the less entries with higher added money added to the bottom line. Kelly said it may be possible for them to adjust their fee schedule with the added money to make their bottom-line increase. Michelle said she would like to have another conversation with Theresa to better understand. Peri had provided to the Board the P and L from the 2022 show. Michelle said that currently the fee schedule seems to be working for MCHA, we have great entries and have shown a good profit from the show in the past. Kelly asked if there was any concern, if MCHA encouraged more entries with additional added money, would there be a stalling problem. Peri said she did not feel that it would be a problem since there were two loads of portable stalls ordered for this year, however she and Michelle needed to have another conversation with Andi to discuss. John Seymour said that he was concerned with increasing the added money, Big Piney is working, it is a good show as is, he did not feel the added money would increase entries or increase our bottom line.

Michelle said she has a judge for Big Piney, Mike Warman. She understands that a seven day show is hard for someone to take on for the duration but Mike did not seem to be concerned with that when they spoke. Russ Miller will also be judging with Mike for the last three days of the show. Michelle said that Theresa Nelson had mentioned she would like three judges for the LAE portion of the show, however that is another added expense for the association. Kelly said that because of the location the cost is quite high for just one more person, considering the rental car and hotels in Jackson as well as other expenses for the show.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vendor Fees – President Peri Suenram brought to the attention of the Board the issue of vendors attending our MCHA produced shows. She said at Big Piney last year there was an issue of a vendor arriving at the show who was not a MCHA sponsor. This particular vendor did the same type of service as one of MCHA's sponsors who was also at the show. Peri would like to have a policy in place for vendors wishing to set up a booth or provide services at MCHA produced shows. She would like to see any vendor wishing to set up at our show either pay a vendor fee or become a MCHA sponsor. The Board agreed that there needs to be something in place going forward. John Seymour asked if Peri could draw up a proposal and present it at the next Board meeting. Michelle asked if we could have a short meeting at Miller's on Thursday to discuss this further. The Board agreed.

Medora, ND – Rob Fraser asked the Board to consider approving the Medora, ND show which falls on the weekend of June 17-18. He noted that the NDCHA association is struggling and would like to see MCHA support them. Rob said he realized we have already approved the Bonina show that same weekend, however the distance between those two shows should not create a conflict. Clayton Miller noted that because of the location of both shows the members that would attend Bonina would not be attending Medora and vice versa, for the membership he would like to approve both shows. Darrell Lee agreed, he said our membership is going to go to one or the other and they would not be in conflict. John Seymour said that Bonina moved their dates so they would not conflict with the June Dillon show and we would approve their show. Michelle said that her issue was not the proximity of the shows, it was that we had approved a show on that date and that Bonina had already moved the show so we would have the ability to approve it. She said that in the past the Board has been very careful not to approve two shows on the same weekend. Rob said that he understood that point, but we need to consider those Big Sky Circuit shows and look within our Circuit for approved shows. John Seymour said he is concerned in setting a precedent of approving two shows on the same weekend. Peri said as a Board the out of state show approvals were set up with two shows on the west and two shows on the east to balance each other. Josh Keimig asked if there could be a call made to Bonina and discuss their feelings on approving a show on the same weekend. The Board felt that would be appropriate and further discussion to follow at the next Board meeting.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

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

*April 13th, 2023
In Person & Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Directors Present (In Person): President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Roy Oliver, Clayton Miller, and Rob Fraser

Directors Present (Via Zoom): Doug Pearce, John Seymour & Josh Keimig

Directors Present (Via Proxy): Darrell Lee (Peri Suenram)

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

As this was a special meeting no prior meeting minutes were presented to be approved.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Show Vendor Policy – President Peri Suenram asked the Board if everyone had a chance to read over the vendor proposal that she had sent out. All Board members replied that they had received the proposal and had read it over. Peri asked if there was a discussion. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke made the motion to adopt the proposed vendor policy for all MCHA produced shows, seconded by Rob Fraser, and passed on a voice vote.

Medora North Dakota Cutting – President Peri Suenram asked Rob Fraser to expand on the proposed Medora Cutting approval. Rob had spoke with the ND president and noted that they would really appreciate the support of Montana. He said since it was a Big Sky show it makes sense for Montana to approve. Rob Fraser made the motion to approve the Medora, ND cutting June 17 – 18. Clayton Miller seconded. Peri asked for discussion. Doug Pearce said he did not feel it was the right thing for MCHA to do, only because we already have an approved show that weekend. Josh Keimig said since Bonina had already moved their dates so they were not on top of Dillon he did not feel we should consider a second show that weekend. Roy Oliver agreed and wanted to make sure we do not upset anyone even though he understands that Medora is the Big Sky Circuit. Michelle feels that it would be disrespectful to put a show on top of Bonina and does not want to set a precedent for approving two shows on the same weekend. Clayton disagrees, he does not want to do a disservice to the MCHA membership who would attend the Medora cutting. He wants those earnings for MCHA members to go towards their standings. Clayton also would like to see the show approved since it is in the Big Sky Circuit. He said in moving forward we need to show our fellow Big Sky producers we are supporting them. Josh Keimig said he would indeed have approved Medora if we had not already approved Bonina. John Seymore said it was not the idea of what members were going where, it was that there was

an agreement with Bonina to move their dates, and if we approved another show on top of Bonina it would discredit MCHA. Peri called for the vote; the motion was not approved.

NCHA Weekend 2024 – Peri said that NCHA weekend 2024 was slated for June 1-2, unfortunately Clayton does not have that date available to put on the show. Clayton said there may be an option for another venue, but he does not want to commit at this time. Rob Fraser told the Board NCHA has announced that the Circuit National Finals will be held next April in conjunction with the Super Stakes. This is not favorable to any of our Big Sky members. Peri said she has learned there are several proposals in the works for the reorganization of the Big Sky Circuit. The NCHA Executive Committee will be meeting the first weekend in May and should vote on how the Big Sky Circuit is changed.

Angela Bauer Scholarship – Kelly Fraser asked to have another discussion on the Scholarship cutting. She said she is disappointed in how it is set up to be presented at Torrington. She showed the Board that they have already created flyers for the July show. Kelly showed the Board the current scholarship application online is for \$2000 without even attending a cutting. She said it is hard to get kids excited about \$200 at a show and not even receiving the actual scholarship when they can all apply online. Kelly also asked who is on the scholarship committee and on the scholarship Board, no one on the current MCHA Board knew. Doug Pearce said it would be in our best interest to look at the entire Scholarship program to better understand it since no one on the current Board had been involved. Rob Fraser said maybe it would be better to forgo the scholarship and use the money to give the kids fresh cattle at shows. Peri said she would reach out to Jessica Lee and have her send over any documentation she has on the Scholarship program as the Board doesn't even know if it is a 501(c)(3) or a foundation. Michelle agreed the rules need to be looked over, so everyone understands what the program is about. John Seymour made the motion for President Peri Suenram to request from Jessica Lee all the documentation regarding the scholarship program be sent to the MCHA Board, including the rules and regulations and by laws, so the Board can make decisions in distribution of funds. Seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote. The Board will review the documents and will have a discussion at the Deer Lodge show.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

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

*May 17th, 2023
Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Directors Present (In Person): President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, John Seymour, Doug Pearce, and Josh Keimig

Directors Present (Via Proxy): Clayton Miller (Rob Fraser)

Directors Absent: Roy Oliver

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser, Jessica Lee & Kathy Foote

The minutes from the April 5th and April 13th meetings were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and approved on a voice vote.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser updated the Board on the current bank balance, there is \$30,912.72 in the QuickBooks balance. She told the Board the Edward Jones 6-month CD had been finalized with an interest gain of around \$2800 and will be discussed later in the meeting. Kelly said the taxes were finalized and reflected in the current P and L provided to the Board.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Angela Bauer Scholarship – President Peri Suenram welcomed Kathy Foote and Jessica Lee to the meeting for the Scholarship discussion. Peri gave a bit of background on the questions regarding the Angela Bauer Scholarship and asked Jessica and Kathy to please help the Board to better understand how the program was set up. Rob Fraser asked how the scholarship was originally funded, how much had been paid out and who have the recipients been. Kathy told the Board that it was funded by memorials given after Angela passed away, she said Will Nuttall, Mark Hendrickson and herself came together and decided to start a scholarship fund. They formed a non-profit organization in 2005 with its own Board and by laws, there is a scholarship that must be applied for and there are also scholarships that are won by participating in the scholarship cuttings. Jessica Lee said there has been a total of \$26,875 paid out to date to 23 recipients.

Kelly Fraser asked when the last time taxes had been filed, Jessica said she had filed every year. Kelly noted that the MT Secretary of State Annual Reports show Jessica just updated for the last three years, she said that on the State of MT website it shows that the program no longer has Non-Profit status. Jessica will look into it as it should still have 501(c)(3) status. Kelly asked Kathy who was currently on the Angela Bauer Scholarship Board and if MCHA had anything to do with the program. Kathy said that she would have to look and see who is currently on the Board but that because it is its own entity, MCHA has no oversight on the program.

Rob Fraser voiced his concern regarding the scholarship program continuing. He would like to see the money go towards youth clinics or fresh cattle for the youth classes. Rob felt that scholarships are outdated, and it may be in the best interest of our youth to go another direction with the funds. Doug Pearce said now that they realize how the Angela Bauer Scholarship program is designed, MCHA can not make any decisions on it. Rob agreed and said it a moot point to discuss further. Peri said the discussion was to inform MCHA how the program worked and suggested the Scholarship Board talk together and decide how they would like to move forward.

Kelly asked the Board what they would like to do for the Torrington July show and scholarship given out there. Josh Keimig felt that it would be a good idea for Montana to match Wyoming in the amount given out. Kelly said Wyoming is giving out a single \$500 scholarship to the highest point earning Wyoming youth. Doug said he would like to see the Angela Bauer scholarship used in Torrington as it was already in place for that show. Rob made the motion to utilize the Angela Bauer Scholarship and to match Wyoming by giving the difference (\$300) for first place out of the MCHA account. Seconded by Josh, passed on a voice vote.

Cattle King Cutting, Deer Lodge – President Peri Suenram asked Darrell Lee to give a recap on Deer Lodge. Darrell said all the bills had been received and paid from the show. He said the show ran smoothly and having a three-day show made a big difference in the bottom line as well as incorporating the TSCHA classes. Darrell was very happy with the cattle suppliers and their help with the trucking. The one place that will need improvement is the cattle holding facilities and help with the cattle. He thanked Michelle for stepping up and working with Doug, sorting, moving, and bringing cattle in. Darrell said that next year we may be able to have workers from the Prison help with setup and tear down for the show. Kelly said that it looks like a profit of \$300 for the show. She said TSCHA gave \$400 for sand and MCHA is appreciative of that contribution. Kelly also said in talking with Ruth, there may be room next year to have the facility and stalls in a lump sum which may allow for a larger profit on the stalls. Darrell said the fairgrounds have been great to work with and they did give us a \$500 credit for the sand brought in.

Awards Committee – President Peri Suenram asked John Seymour and Josh Keimig to give a brief update on the year end awards. John said the buckles, spurs and headstalls had been ordered. They are working on loping hackamores and leather jackets. Josh is currently working on logos for the jackets. Peri noted that awards will be given through fifth place.

Year End Show – Peri suggested this item be tabled until June when Clayton is present.

Big Piney Added Money – Vice President Michelle Van Dyke said she had asked Andi James to speak with Theresa Nelson and go over possible ideas on upping the added money in Big Piney which could possibly add to the bottom line for the show. The additional money would be only for the LAE and not for the weekend classes. She noted that if we do add more money, the entry fees will reflect that and increase. Peri said the added money in the past has been \$1000, she asked the Board for feedback on the discussion. Michelle said that an increase in the added money would possibly mean more entries and that would mean more stalls needed. At this time, we may not be able to obtain more stalling. Doug said he felt leaving the LAE at \$1000 added

would be the best decision at this time, Darrell agreed. John said if we do decide to add more money it would need to be for 2024 so we can plan ahead especially for stalls. Peri said after listening to the discussion, MCHA will leave the added money at \$1000 for 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Edward Jones CD – President Peri Suenram told the Board that the 6-month CD with Edward Jones came due, she proposed to the Board that they go back into a 6-month CD with \$70,000. She said that amount would ensure plenty of money in the MCHA general checking account. Michelle made the motion that MCHA reinvest \$70,000 into the highest interest earning 6-month CD available. Seconded by Darrell and passed on a voice vote.

New Board Member – President Peri Suenram told the Board that Roy Oliver contacted her and resigned from the Board. She said he also resigned from the Wyoming Board. Roy wanted to make sure the Board understood that the decision to resign had nothing to do with the Board or its members, he just needed to refocus his attention on his business. This leaves a vacancy on the Board to be filled by appointment by the MCHA Board. Peri said she and Michelle discussed possible candidates for the position and Michelle felt Mike Hoffman would be a welcome addition to the MCHA Board. Peri said she spoke with Mike and he is willing to be a part of the Board for the remainder of Roy's term, which is up at year end. John Seymour made the motion to appoint Mike Hoffman to the MCHA BOD for the remainder of 2023, seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote.

NCHA Weekend 2024 – President Peri Suenram said the dates for NCHA Weekend next year will be May 31st to June 2nd, 2024. Peri told the Board that Miller's and the Metra both have events planned that weekend already, so she suggested that with the success of the Deer Lodge show this year, MCHA host NCHA Weekend at Deer Lodge. Darrell Lee asked if it would be in addition to the May show already on the books? The Board thought that if there is cattle availability, we should try for both shows. Darrell said one advantage would be the ground at the facility would be set. He said the key would be the cattle supplier and possibly hiring him to source the cattle for us. Darrell said he would discuss that with him and get back to the Board. Kelly asked if the number of contestants would increase from what we saw this year at Deer Lodge? Peri thought that indeed the contestant numbers would grow from what we had in May. The next question then would be additional stalling to accommodate those people. Darrell said the only option would be to bring in more panels. John suggested Darrell do some leg work and come back to the Board for the final decision if the show would be feasible to produce.

Show Producer Meeting – President Peri Suenram has asked Kelly to set up a show producer meeting with all the surrounding show producers from all surrounding states. There is a real concern that several shows are being scheduled on top of one and another making it hard for producers to maintain the number of contestants needed for the show to be profitable. Peri feels strongly that show calendars need to be coordinated as much as possible to help producers and contestants alike. She also said she would like to have a 2024 show schedule out as soon as possible so people are able to plan.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**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.

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

*August 3rd, 2023
Via Zoom*

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Directors Absent: Josh Keimig

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the Board there had been updates to the Treasurer's Report of 6/26/23. After completing the 6/30/23 bank reconciliation there were some checks that were not accounted for as of the 26th. The Minutes of the 6/26/23 BOD meeting reflect the corrected balances as well as the exact amount of interest collected from the original CD.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser gave the Treasures Report as of 8/3/23. She said the current bank balance in QuickBooks was \$88,222.93 and \$70,000.00 in the CD. Kelly noted that there were some expenses that were for Dillon #2, which included the cost of sand, that showed in the YTD P and L distributed to the Board. John Seymour said the Horsemanship Center will work with MCHA on the cost of the sand and will carry over a credit to us for our 2024 Dillon show. Kelly said currently that amount is on the Dillon #1 show but would like to make notes for the GM meeting so the membership understands we will have some credit for next year. There will also be a carryover of awards that were slated for Dillon #2 which we will save and give out for Dillon 2024.

President Peri Suenram asked what the current sponsorship income was, Kelly said to date she has collected \$8100.00 in sponsorship money. Peri noted that Mike Wood is donating his clinic to MCHA as part of their sponsorship and would like that reflected in our sponsorship thermometer for the website.

The minutes from the June 26th meeting had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MCHA Year End Show – President Peri Suenram noted that many of the Board had discussed putting in for the Big Sky Circuit Finals to be held at the October Miller's show, however South Dakota had indeed put in and were approved to hold the finals. That being said, the October show will go on as our Year End Show. As previously discussed, Mike Hoffman and Clayton Miller would be working together to put on a clinic the Sunday following the show, October 15th. Mike and Clayton said the clinic would be for beginner cutters and the hope is to draw some Ranch Horse Versatility riders that would be attending the NILE. Mike said the word is already

out that there would be a clinic and some interest has been expressed. Clayton said he would like to do a half day clinic and he would like to work with Mike to get the details set regarding how many participants and the cost. He would like some help with advertising and logistics of the clinic. Kelly Fraser said she would be willing to help with the advertising. She would also like the NILE to help get word to their competitors that we will be having the clinic. Clayton said he had spoken with the Equine Director of the NILE and she was excited and wanted to know where they could help. He said we need to get them the clinic flyer and then they would help us promote it. President Peri Suenram also volunteered to help wherever needed on the clinic.

President Peri Suenram said notice for the GM Meeting would need to be given out no less than 30 days prior to the meeting date. Kelly Fraser asked the Board to clarify when they would like to hold the meeting and if it would be the same day as the Calcutta/Bridle-Less Cutting. Peri said she would like to plan for the GM meeting on Friday October 13th and is going to try to hold it to one hour. Clayton suggested the meeting be advertised to start one half hour after the conclusion of the show but not before 6:00 pm. Following the GM meeting we will have a Calcutta for our Bridle-less contestants and our Social.

Year End Banquet – President Peri Suenram asked Rob Fraser and Doug Pearce what ideas they have for the Banquet. Rob said he had not yet worked on it but would start getting some ideas. The suggestion from the Board would be to see what options around Laurel there may be, perhaps the golf course. Peri asked Clayton if he wouldn't mind helping Rob and Doug with locations since he is local. She asked if they would all report back to the Board with their plan going forward. Rob asked what the budget may be, Peri said it would be dependent on the venue of the Banquet and the Board would trust their judgement. Kelly said for 2022 the room rental cost was \$250, the meal cost \$2300.00 with a gratuity of \$400 and the bar fee of \$75, this would be some comparison for them to work off of.

Big Piney Silent Auction – President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke to present her idea on the silent auction for Big Piney. Michelle said she is suggesting that all Board Members have some connection with individuals in their area and if they could please reach out to them and request a silent auction item for Big Piney. The auction at Big Piney has been a great fund raiser for MCHA. Michelle feels that if the Board reaches out personally to the membership for items there would be a better response, rather than an eblast. She also said that the Board members offer to pick up the item, if the member is not planning on attending Big Piney. Peri noted that Andi James has an activity planned for every day at Big Piney and is going to have a Banquet this year. There are around 380 stalls reserved currently for the show. Peri said Big Piney will be a premier event for our area and competitors are really looking forward to the show this year. John Seymour said that anyone attending the Banquet must have a ticket. The ticket must be purchased the day before the dinner either by cash or added to your show settlement. He said that Andi has a plan for controlling the banquet and he encouraged any Board member present at Big Piney to help out in any way as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NCHA Weekend 2024 – President Peri Suenram asked the Board if there was interest in MCHA producing NCHA Weekend at Deer Lodge May 31 to June 2, 2024. She said if it is something that MCHA wants to produce we should be looking at getting the application in as soon as we can. Peri noted that if this is something the Board decides, Darrell Lee does not want to manage the show. He feels that after the first Deer Lodge show in May it would be too much for him to manage. Peri said that the Board will need to step in and manage NCHA Weekend. Darrell said the sand for the show pen should carry over and that will help with some expense of a second show. He said he has been working with Ryan Kelly to source cattle at \$36/head delivered. John asked if the show pen would have to be taken down, Darrell said that is something that will have to be negotiated with the Arena. John also had questions regarding stalling for the show. Darrell said that they are working on additional stalling at the Fairgrounds, there is additional stalling at Mountain View and there is a ranch about 10 miles away that would possibly have stalls available for us. Currently there are around 125 stalls at the Fairgrounds. Darrell also suggested additional areas at the Fairgrounds where we could possibly set up panels. Rob brought to the Boards attention that since we are talking about 2024, we would be looking at Montana and Wyoming being their own circuit. With that, NCHA Weekend would be affecting those two states for Big Sky. Rob suggested to the Board that Peri reach out to Wyoming on their thoughts for NCHA Weekend and if they would be ok with MCHA producing that show in Deer Lodge. He would like to see MCHA and WYCHA work together in determining their show schedule and would like their input on this show in particular. Clayton agreed with Rob and wants Wyoming brought into the conversation before we move forward. Peri will call Justin Johnson and discuss with him thoughts regarding this show, and she will get back to the Board.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

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

*September 15th, 2023
Miller's Horse Palace*

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

Directors Present: Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, John Seymour, Doug Pearce, Mike Hoffman, and Clayton Miller

Directors Absent: President Peri Suenram and Josh Keimig

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

There was no Treasurers report or minutes read/passed as this was a special meeting for the Year End Banquet

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Year End Banquet – Rob Fraser and Doug Pearce updated the Board on the plans for the MCHA Year End Banquet and Awards. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center has been booked for the evening of October 14th. There will be a cash bar which will open at approximately 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow at approximately 7:00 p.m. with awards. Rob asked that the Wyoming CHA be included with not cost to Wyoming. It was discussed that both associations share the same membership and including them was a wonderful idea. It was moved by Rob Fraser to comp all meals to the Montana CHA membership. Seconded by Darrell Lee and passed on a voice vote. Darrell Lee said Kelsie Harbert will be providing pictures as a slide show that she has taken throughout the year. He also told the Board Roy Oliver had agreed to have his band at the Banquet for entertainment. Jessica Lee volunteered to bring her karaoke machine and she will also perform songs for us. It will be requested anyone planning on attending the Banquet RSVP at the October show. Rob Fraser noted that one of the rules for the BHCC will be no outside alcohol. Kelly Fraser will send out an eblast with all the details of the banquet.

Vice President Michelle Van Dyke adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

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

December 18th, 2023
Via Zoom

President Peri Suenram called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser, newly elected Board members John DelMonte & Cindy Fraser.

President Peri Suenram asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to report on the current bank balance and P and L report provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelly said there was a current balance in QuickBooks of \$31,188.04 for the Wells Fargo checking account. MCHA had the original \$70,000.00 6-month CD with Edward Jones come to maturity, it was renewed and now will be due on 6/5/24. There is also the \$100,000.00 CD that will come due 4/11/24. Kelly noted that the interest income on the first CD was \$1893.87. She said there were not many changes on the P and L since the year end show, the only change was the cost of the awards banquet and the final payment on awards.

Peri Suenram and John Seymour noted that there will be carryover from Dillon #2 into 2024. Notably the sand cost will be recouped at the next Dillon show. Peri said that the year was a success and thanked the Board for all their hard work. She said that because of the sponsorship's, all of our award costs were covered.

The minutes of the September 26th BOD meetings had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Doug Pearce moved to approve the minutes seconded by Michelle Van Dyke and passed on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Year End Show and Banquet Recap – President Peri Suenram first thanked Miller's Horse Palace and the Miller Family for putting on a great year end show. She also thanked Doug Pearce and Rob Fraser for their work on the banquet, and Josh Keimig and John Seymour for the exceptional awards. The Board discussed how well the year end show and banquet came together, there was a great turnout and the membership seemed to enjoy the show. Everyone agreed that offering a free meal to the membership was a great idea and helped in getting people to attend the banquet and in thanking the membership for their support throughout the year. They also appreciated the comradery with Wyoming CHA.

Tentative Show Schedule – President Peri Suenram said that she and Kelly Fraser worked with the show producers across the Northwest and have put out a tentative schedule of area shows. She said of course the dates are not set in stone, but it will give competitors a good idea of shows

to attend. MCHA show approval will take place at the January planning meeting. Rob Fraser said he would like to see every show in the new Big Sky circuit to be approved by MCHA.

NEW BUSINESS:

January Planning Meeting – President Elect Michelle Van Dyke said that she has earmarked January 13th for the planning meeting. There are a couple Board members that will not be able to make the meeting but will plan on calling in if available. Kelly Fraser said she would make some calls and reserve a banquet room in Bozeman. The meeting will start at 11:00 am and will be over a working lunch. Michelle asked if any Board members have agenda items to add, please send her an email with their suggestions.

Secretary/Treasurer Position – President Peri Suenram told the Board that there had been two applicants for the position. Peri thanked Kelly Fraser for her work over the years.

Executive Session – (Updated by President Peri Suenram after session ended)

It was moved by Josh Keimig and seconded by Darrell Lee to pay Kelly Fraser a bonus of \$2000.00 for her extraordinary work as Secretary/Treasurer in 2023. Motion passed on a voice vote.

John Seymoure made the motion to have the MCHA QuickBooks reviewed prior to handing files over to the new Secretary, seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.