

# **Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)**

## **Board of Directors' Meeting**

*February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.