

Minutes of the Montana Cutting Horse Association (MCHA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 5, 2026 7:00pm Via Zoom

President Ashley Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

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

Directors Excused:

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Valee Miller, Peri Suenram, Andi James, Jessica & Daryl Lee

Approval Of BOD Meeting Minutes 1.8.2026 via zoom Motion to approve from Kelly Fraser, Roy Oliver to second, motion passed.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

Big Sky/ Big Timber Update

1. Vice President Roy Oliver led discussion on possible shows in Big Timber and Big Sky, Montana. It was decided that neither of these venues will be possible in 2026, but hopefully something will come together for 2027. With that, there is a possibility of a show in Red Lodge, Montana July 23rd-26th, 2026.

Insurance Information

1. Valee Miller led discussion of talking with Michela Suter, a current sponsor, with additional liability insurance aside from what is already received through NCHA. The board made a decision to get this insurance to cover other items, such as, set up/ tear down, cattle help, and any unforeseen circumstances.

NEW BUSINESS:

Big Piney

- a. Andi James led the board in discussions on the upcoming plans for the 2026 Big Piney show.
- b. Kelly Fraser led the discussion about putting the portable stalls in the additional building. After the discussion, the board asked Andi to check into pricing for this.
- c. There was board discussion of the 2025 schedule, the change of dates in the August schedule including Torrington & Spearfish. After discussion, Andi

- James was going to put together some options for the board to look at. The board really wants to implement the 1-2 minute clock to keep things rolling.
- d. There was a discussion about the reason for having the show concluded by 5:00-5:30pm each day. Factors that affect this is 45-minute hotel drive, availability of meals, and the burnout.
 - e. The board informed Andi James that the board would like to do all the hiring of Judges for the 2026 shows.

Deer Lodge

- a. Darrel & Jessica Lee led the discussion on the upcoming Deer Lodge Shows. Darrel updated the board on the cattle suppliers. There will be 175 head hauled by Dwayne, then go into using the prison cattle. The cattle will be coming a day early to be fed and settle before the show. The prison cattle have 350 head, which will be used right after the Hoppman Ranch Cattle. Frank Prince from Hall, Montana will be supplying 78 head, in which he will haul himself. All of these cattle need to be used in the 1st Deer Lodge Show, as they have AI programs which will be in full swing at the second show. There is a new vendor with 250 head which will donate his personal tractor with a rototiller attachment in exchange for the use of his cattle. With this there is a possibility of having fresh cattle for all classes. All cattle are \$36/head. Daryl feels as though he also has enough cattle lined up for the second Deer Lodge NCHA days shows are covered.
The facility took out 6 loads of sand, which will need to be brought back inside for the show, and new this year will be the board will have to remove the same amount of sand as added in 2026.
Roy Oliver asked if the stall cleaning situation is handled for this show. The facility would like the stalls cleaned, which Daryl is going to try to get the fire crew from the prison to clean all the stalls after the show. Jessica said the stalls will not be pre-bedding this year, shavings will be available, but the contestants will have to bed their own stalls. We will put out a constant contact stating you will be having to bed your own stalls.
Jessica said there are currently 80 stalls on site. There has been discussion of adding stalls in the unused spaces at the facility, which will total around 115 onsite.
Kelly Knight, the fairgrounds manager, did get approval to cover any stalls purchased by MCHA.
There is still a sewer line problem, they are hoping to have this fixed before the show.
Kelly Fraser led the discussion on potential profit and loss with using fresh cattle throughout both shows. Currently they have \$750 added per class, which will need 3 head per, instead of 2.5 head. By adding this much money we would have to up the cattle fee and office fee, to cover costs. There was board discussion about fee structure.

Doug Pearce led a motion to use fresh cattle in all classes with a \$750 entry fee for the First Deer Lodge, MT show, Second Roy Oliver. Motion Passed Daryl stated the need for Cattle Help. He recommended trying to get Tim Stryker as an inmate, for the cattle help in the back. Roy Oliver stated that Gus Hoffman and him could also try to find help covering lodging costs. The board expressed gratitude to Daryl & Jessica Lee and Peri Suenram for their hard work on bringing the Deer Lodge shows together.

MCHA Show Upgrades

- a. There was board discussion led by Roy Oliver to get a new show pen, which could be portable to any pens that the MCHA is producing shows. The bid was \$7740 from Anderson Fencing in Dillon, 20' panels, total of 6. Roy brought up discussion of needing a trailer to move the show pen around, in which run from \$8000 to \$18000. Kelly Fraser offered the use of their flatbed until a decision was made to purchase a trailer. Roy Oliver brought up the idea of adding boxes to the trailer for all MCHA equipment, Flag, Eyes, Tools, Tarps, Banners. Kelly Fraser made a motion to approve the new back fence for \$7740, and to see about getting a trailer to haul it at a later date, Roy Oliver to second. Motion Passed.

Judges

- a. Kelly Fraser presented the board with a list of judges names to hire for the Big Piney show. Jann Parker gave her insight to each name and shared her knowledge of who she though would be a good fit.
- b. Jann Parker led discussion on payment of judges. Valee Miller gave information on what Miller's Horse Palace. Jann Parker said in Arizona said they pay \$750/ day with all expenses. Kelly Fraser made a motion to pay all judges \$750/ day as well as plane tickets, parking, luggage, lodging & rental car, Roy Oliver to second, motion passed.

TSCHA Clinic in Deer Lodge

- a. President Ashley Lee informed the board of the Clinic before the second Deer Lodge shows. Peri Suenram said there has been discussion on them buying additional sand if needed. There will be more information as it is provided.

Added Money at MCHA Shows

- a. This discussion was tabled until the March show.

Sponsorship Letter

- a. Kelly Fraser led the discussion on the Sponsorship Letter she sent out to almost all past sponsors as well as trainers. Kelly Fraser brought up the idea of doing some Facebook advertising for the sponsors, where they are promoted.

Valee Miller & Kelly Fraser discussed putting the Bronze and under sponsors on one banner so they would still be getting some recognition at the shows. This idea will carry to the next meeting with more ideas to go along with this.

Other

- a. The Nevada Reined Cow Horse Association asked for MCHA approval, the board kindly declined the offer for this year.

9:26pm Jann Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gus Hoffman to second. Meeting adjourned.