

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

*February 7<sup>h</sup>, 2024  
Via Zoom*

President Michelle Van Dyke called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

**Directors Present:** President Michelle Van Dyke, Vice President Doug Pearce, Peri Suenram, Mike Hoffman, John Delmonte, Josh Keimig, Clayton Miller, John Seymour and Cindy Fraser

**Directors Excused:**

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

The minutes of the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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 Michelle Van Dyke welcomed everyone to the meeting.

President Michelle Van Dyke proposed to the Board continuing 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 continue with the standing meeting as was done in 2023 and on the day and time. Michelle 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.

**Year End Show/Circuit Finals**

Clayton Miller said he had talked with Cindy Frasier about accommodating the show schedule to make sure that it was finished in enough time for the year end banquet. This show will start on a Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, with the aged events, followed by the weekend show Thursday through Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The schedule has not been set in stone, but the board unanimously agreed that it sounded good. With this Clayton expressed there being 2 goes of aged events for everyone. Discussion was brought up by Clayton Miller and we decided not to move the year end/ circuit finals date down because of a possible show happening in October, he has talked to Justin Johnson about Wyoming being on board and he thinks the schedule sounds good to him as well. He submitted paperwork for the shows on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Added Money & Show Schedule Big Piney**

The discussion of the added money and show schedule needs to be pushed down to the next meeting as President Michelle Van Dyke had not heard from Theresa Nelson or Andy. Michelle Van Dyke trusts what they come up with as they have the best interests of all of us and doubts there will be much if any change.

## **Corvallis Cutting**

Josh Keimig talked to the 5C Arena about having a cutting, they are hesitant to change their dirt to accommodate the cutting. Clayton Miller, Josh Keimig & Valee Miller were following up the meeting with a phone call to discuss talking with them more.

## **Audit**

Valee Miller is going to reach out to Deena Bertrand on the Tax Evaluation for a current update. President Michelle Van Dyke asked for a vote to approve the financials sent with the meeting agenda, there were no questions on them. John Seymour moved to approve the financial statements and profit and loss; John Delmonte moved to second the motion. President Michelle Van Dyke asked for a vote from the board which was unanimous to pass the motion of approving the financials.

## **Awards Banquet**

The awards banquet discussion included possibly looking into other venues or staying at the same venue as last year. John Seymour asked about moving it to the Golf Course Club House, Cindy Fraiser is going to check into it. Clayton Miller & Cindy Frasier are working together to make sure the scheduling of the year end show is conducive to the awards banquet. We will revisit this is the next meeting.

## **Deer Lodge Shows & NCHA Days**

Peri Suenram led the discussion on the Deer Lodge & Dillion shows. The first Deer Lodge Show will be May 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and will be produced by Darrel Lee. The Treasure State Cutting approved the May 4<sup>th</sup> date as a co-approved show, with hopes of another Kentucky Derby Party.

NCHA Days will be held May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup> and per the rules there will be no aged events on the weekend, therefore all aged events will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

The NCHA has given \$4000 to go to the added money at NCHA Days as well as sending prizes. Josh Keimig will be helping Peri Suenram with the awards with plans of using bridles that were extra from last year's awards banquet for circuit awards.

The cattle set up is ready. Peri Suenram opened the floor to any questions regarding the two shows, Mike Hoffmann was concerned about adding an extra day to help with the aged event classes, Peri Suenram suggested the aged horses pick weekend show classes to show in. The board then agreed to add a day of aged events to the beginning of NCHA days which would be completed prior to the start of the two NCHA Days.

The NCHA will not allow anyone to win an award that is not part of the Big Sky Circuit. They can win the class and get the money, but it will not count towards awards or points.

Theresa Nelson will be the secretary at both the Deer Lodge & Dillion shows.

Michelle Van Dyke thanked Peri Suenram and Darrel Lee for their hard work on these shows.

## **Affiliate Of The Year Application**

Peri Suenram stated she and John Seymour led the discussion of gathering the 2023 gratitude reports which was emailed to all members and sponsors. They are going to use that report with letters of support from Wyoming, Utah & Arizona. John Seymour expressed how well Lynn Moore, Secretary for Wyoming CHA, letter was written. Kristen York will also follow up with a letter.

John Seymour & Suzanne Nellen as our national directors will send that packet in both email & mail a hard copy format to the NCHA Weekend Committee, which is submitted in March.

Peri Suenram expressed how great it would be to be awarded the Affiliate of the Year, receive the bronze and have a spot in the chatter and \$2500 for the association.

Michelle Van Dyke thanked Peri Suenram and John Seymour for their work on the Affiliate of the Year

### **Kristen York Replacement**

President Michelle Van Dyke led the discussion that Kristen is hoping a previous position holder will come back. At this point she would like to work that angle.

### **Big Sky Internet Design Voting Change Update**

President Michelle Van Dyke was able to reach out to Tom Bruch, who is our representative that handles the website for MCHA. After discussion he was able to re write the code to help with the confidentiality of the votes so they will now be received with their NCHA number and not with a name. Unfortunately, he cannot write the code to kick out duplicate votes, it will be the responsibility of secretary Valee Miller and President Michelle Van Dyke to double check the votes for duplicates.

### **Bonina Shows**

It was a unanimous decision by the board to not approve the Bonina shows with the MCHA, we will add their shows to our schedule and give our support to help make their shows as successful as possible. Valee Miller is going to follow up with an email, tactfully declining the approval of their show with the MCHA.

### **Nampa Idaho Approval**

President Michelle Van Dyke introduced the discussion of approving the Nampa Idaho show with the MCHA. Peri Suenram expressed how she feels approving Nampa would be in the best interest of the association as she feels they would support our Dillion show. With Ogden Utah & 2 Wyoming shows being approved it would fit to approve Nampa, Idaho. John Seymour also expressed the approval of Nampa would be in the best interest of the association. Any winnings would be counted to the MT Year End Awards. President Michelle Van Dyke asked for the motion to approve Nampa, Idaho. John Seymour made a motion to vote to approve Nampa into the MCHA shows, Peri Suenram Seconded the motion, which was denied by the vote count of the board.

\*\*\*After further review by the board a new telephone vote was conducted on February 13, 2024 to approve the Nampa, ID March show. The vote was unanimously approved with one member abstaining.\*\*\*

**Show Committee Reports:**

President Michelle Van Dyke opened the floor for any additions not stated in which Doug, Peri & Mike mentioned we had covered the discussion already.

Doug Pearce stated he had been in contact with the Judges for the Deer Lodge, Big Piney & Dillion shows and would touch base with Valee Miller on arrangements for them.

John Delmonte opened the floor to discussion with concern that a couple of the judges have not had anything on their docket for a couple years and would they meet the expectations of the contestants.

Peri Suenram brought attention to the payment schedule for the show judges, double checking that they are getting paid \$500 per day. Doug Pearce stated that one judge from Big Piney expected \$600 per day and we would need to match that for all judges at that show. The board discussed the increase of all things in the last 5 years and Doug Pearce is going to check back with all contacted judges to see if they can make \$500 per show day work for them.

**Sponsorship Committee**

President Michelle Van Dyke asked Valee Miller to check into all the sponsorship steps Kelly Fraiser took, and to continue on the same course. Michelle Van Dkye asked if Peri Suerman, John Seymour & John DelMonte what their plans were as a committee for their plan with sponsorships.

John DelMonte said he will work on getting the committee together to make a plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nampa, Idaho**

This was discussed in old business.

**Other New Business**

None

John Seymour adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.