

**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.