

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

*June 16th, 2022
Via Zoom*

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

Directors Present: Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Doug Pearce, Tanya Dvarishkis and Rob Fraser

Directors Absent: President Cindy Garoutte, Darrell Lee, and Rick Anderson

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the previous BOD meeting were not addressed as this was a special meeting.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Carbon County Proceedings

Vice President Peri Suenram told the Board that several Board members including Rob, Darrell and herself, had been approached during the Dillon show by several MCHA members to acknowledge, via an official letter to the Court, that the funds had been repaid to MCHA and all the historical documents had been returned. Peri drafted a letter and sent it to the Board for comment, there were a total of five (5) responses from the Board, sent via email, all in agreement with the language of the letter. Peri sent the proposed letter to President Cindy Garoutte and spoke with her on the phone. Cindy said she approved the letter and would sign if a majority of the Board approved, which with the responses received the majority did agree. Peri then submitted it to the Carbon County Attorney's office. The letter was brief and only contained factual information regarding MCHA. Rob Fraser said the object of the letter was to have on record a statement from the MCHA Board which had not been done previously.

Vice President Peri Suenram acknowledged a position statement sent by Rick Anderson, since he was not able to attend this meeting, which was read to the Board as follows:

“Unfortunately, I’m out of town and not in a position to participate in the Zoom Board meeting tonight. I would request the following correspondence be read into the minutes:

As part of our June 1st meeting, during the Executive session, the President updated the Board with regards to the status of the Carbon County proceedings. Not one Board member asked a question or raised any issues during this time. Yet, over the course of the next 10 days it appears individual Board members collectively acted in this regard; thereby circumvented the Board as a whole and prevented collaborative discussions that would have taken place during a Board meeting.

Please make no mistake, an email, “polling” board members regarding whether, or not, to send a letter that states a Board position, is not a substitution for a Motion, a First and Second, and

discussion that would have taken place in order to pass a Board resolution that establishes a “Board position”.

This was nothing more than “an end around”, and significantly undermines the creditability of the Board going forward.

In regard to Cindy Garoutte’s resignation, please have the minutes reflect that I am against accepting it. It is my understanding, that in lieu of board members backing the MCHA President and raising concerns as part of a board meeting, during the Dillon show Board members allowed a MCHA member to verbally attack our President in regards to the Carbon County proceedings. This Board owes Cindy a sincere apology, should thank Cindy for handling one of the most difficult issues this membership has ever faced, and ask her to reconsider her resignation.

The bottom line is Cindy caught the misappropriation of funds, and in the end was blamed her for taking the action necessary that resulted in the Association being repaid for the absconded funds. We should be ashamed of ourselves.

Rick Anderson”

Everyone agreed that the MCHA Board of Directors did everything correctly and handled the situation professionally, properly, and in the best interest of MCHA. Rob Fraser said he did attend the arraignment and wanted everyone on the Board to understand that the Court issued a no contact order prohibiting any discussion regarding the case by the Board with the defendant, or vice versa. Tanya Dvarishkis reiterated that the current charges have been out of the hands of MCHA as everything had been turned over to the County attorney.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cindy Garoutte Resignation

Vice President Peri Suenram acknowledged that the Board received the resignation letter from Cindy Garoutte. The Board was sorry to see the letter come and even though they did not want to accept the resignation, felt that they had no choice but to respect Cindy’s wish. The Board discussed the proper procedure with which to fill the vacancy left on the Board, since it is now up to the Board to appoint a person to fill the position. Wylie Fraser noted that he would like to see Peri Suenram remain in the Vice Presidency because he felt it would be important for her to be President next year. The Board all felt it would be important to have someone currently on the Board become the President to fill out the remainder of 2022. Wylie Fraser made the motion for Doug Pearce to be appointed President for the remainder of 2022, seconded by Kelsey Fraser and passed unanimously on a voice vote. This will allow Doug to fill out his complete term on the Board as well.

Newly elected President Doug Pearce said he would like to see the Board come up with some names to be presented at the next meeting and be voted on at that time to then fill the open officer position on the Board. He would like to see that meeting be within the next two weeks.

Wylie and Kelly said they would write a letter to Cindy, thanking her for her service to MCHA, and will get her a thank you gift.

Beaverhead Cutting – Dillon #1

Vice President Peri Suenram wanted to give the Board a quick overview of the Dillon show. She said all bills had been paid except one, which is for sand. Peri said after all is said and done, we may be in the hole around \$1000. She said the feedback was all good and in looking forward to the second Dillon show, she is already receiving stall reservations. Wylie Fraser said there was one thing he would like addressed; he reminded the Board that they all voted and approved “Business Procedures” going forward and those procedures were not followed. Wylie told the Board that there were several checks that were blank and signed left after the show, 22 in total. Peri said she did not know about 18 of those checks but she did know about 4. Kelly said in light of the things that have transpired she is not comfortable with blank signed checks, with her signature on them being out. Peri suggested that Theresa, Kelly and herself get together and go over the handling of checks.

Rob Fraser asked the Board about the hiring of the Judges for shows. He asked if the show committee could get together to discuss the Big Piney judges. Wylie said he would like to have a call soon to go over judges so Kelly could start calling on them. Peri said she would look at her calendar and get back to the show committee for a call, possibly next week.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.