

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

*August 2nd, 2022
Via Zoom*

President Doug Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors Present: President Doug Pearce, Vice President Peri Suenram, Kelsey Fraser, Wylie Fraser, Roy Oliver, Darrell Lee, Rick Anderson, and Tanya Dvarishkis

Directors Present Via Proxy: Rob Fraser (Kelsey Fraser)

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

The minutes of the June 16th and June 29th BOD meetings had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and were approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Beaverhead Cutting #2 – Dillon, MT

President Doug Pearce asked Peri to give the Board a recap on the show. She said that in looking at the numbers there will be a profit somewhere between \$10,000 and \$12,000, which will offset the loss on the previous Dillon show as well as the Deer Lodge show. She said it was a huge success. Peri said she had spoke with John Seymour and he was not in favor of having two shows in Dillon for 2023 and she wanted the Board to be aware of that going forward. Peri said she had been approached by several people regarding hosting the NCHA weekend in Dillon, for the June 2023 show. She has concerns about the facility supporting that size of show. She said we need to realize what the facility can hold and not expect more. There is a possibility that the Fairgrounds may put in some additional stalls, she and John will talk with the Fair Board and encourage that avenue. Doug asked if there was possibility to bring in portable stalls to the Arena, Peri said there just isn't the infrastructure to handle portable stalls, like water availability. She said there was a total of 140 stalls used at this show and hypothesized that the show could still be profitable at 120 stalls sold if we set that goal for 2023. Doug asked about the fresh cattle practice; Peri said there wasn't the turnout that was expected, and trainers did not practice their three-year-old's like what was anticipated. Peri appreciated all the support the show had and was very happy with the success of the show and the profit.

Big Piney

President Doug Pearce asked the Board if they had all had a chance to review the management contract he had agreed to with Andi James. He said this contract spells out exactly what is expected of both Andi and MCHA. Doug asked Peri if there was a cattle contract signed yet. Peri said they are still working through some things, but they did agree to a price of \$40/head. They are trying to work on a deal for the cattle supplier to give a discounted price of \$30/head on the re-run cattle classes. Peri said they did get the contract signed on the portable stalls and we

will be getting 160 stalls. She has asked Andi to manage those stalls very closely. She, Andi, and Theresa are working on language for an eblast that should be ready to go out in the next couple days. The Fairgrounds are already working on setting up the pen and will be ready for final set up next week. Kelly Fraser said she has spoken to Andi regarding the set-up help and Andi would like a cash advance so she can pay those workers cash instead of writing several checks to everyone. She said Andi asked for \$2700 to be sent to her. Peri agreed that this was the easiest way to handle paying those individuals helping to set-up. The Board agreed to send Andi \$2700 for the set-up help; for the tear down help Andi could get a check from Theresa to pay those helpers.

Vaughn, MT – Year End Show

Vice President Peri Suenram said the show is still planned and she has spoken to Jessica at the 406 Arena, they are currently building stalls and are hoping to have all 60 stalls ready in Sept. Roy Oliver said he wants to make sure the arena and the flag area have sufficient sand, the Board agreed. Peri noted the challenge is the cattle. Wylie said the cattle found so far will cost \$35/head but with the trucking it may add up to \$50/head. He said this year the trucking is simply going to hurt but they are having to go further away from Great Falls to find the cattle. The best estimate the Board has on cattle numbers will be around 500 head needed.

Business Procedures

Peri asked the Board their thoughts on the Procedures being more of a “guideline” instead of actual Business Procedures. Wylie Fraser said Rick Anderson was adamant that they should be Procedures and Wylie agreed with Rick. He felt that these Procedures should be set and adhered to. Peri said she agreed to a point but wanted the show management to have some flexibility. Kelly Fraser said that Peri had added language to the Business Procedures that would allow for that. Peri would like to get through Big Piney with these Procedures and perhaps revisit and adjust as may be needed. Wylie said he still wants to leave them as Procedures, he made the motion to adopt Peri’s revised Business Procedures, motion was seconded by Peri and passed on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Secretary/Treasurer Position

President Doug Pearce said the Board needs to start thinking about the qualifications required to fill the MCHA Secretary/Treasurer position. Kelly Fraser noted that after the last hiring process, it is imperative that the Sec./Tres. have a bookkeeping background and not simply someone who is willing to learn. Peri asked Kelly if she was indeed leaving the position, Kelly said she may be willing to stay on, but it would be dependent on certain factors. Darrel asked if Kelly would be willing to consider waiting on a decision until after the fall election. She said she would as long as the Board was ok with that time frame. Kelly said she would stay on as Sec./Tres. no matter what, until a qualified person was hired for the job. Darrel said the job requires someone to be very detail oriented and able keep on top of the paperwork. Roy and Kelsey both said the

person to fill the position will need to have the drive to stay on track, must want the job, and be proud of their work. Peri noted there has already been an outline of duties described in the Business Procedures for the Sec./Tres. that can be used for the hiring process. Rick Anderson said that there was also job description drawn up that states QuickBooks knowledge is a must. Doug wants the Board to keep all of this in the back of their minds, so they are prepared when the time comes to hire.

Elections 2022

President Doug Pearce said that at the 2021 GM meeting the by-laws were changed to require a third party to oversee the elections, and 2022 will be the first time this will be in place. Kelly said she reached out to Tom with Big Sky Internet Designs to get his suggest for conducting the election. Tom said the easiest would be to provide them with the email list of the current membership, which is available through Constant Contact. We would also supply him with our election ballot and then he would email the ballot out and receive the results. Once the voting was finished (30 days allowed) he would furnish the election committee (or whomever the Board whished) with the final spread sheet of the results. The email addresses would not be shown so all votes would be anonymous. Darrel said he felt confident in Big Sky handling the ballots and doing a professional job for MCHA. Peri said in order for everyone to be protected, the email list should be shared with the President and Vice President before being sent to Big Sky. The Board all agreed this was the best and simplest process for our 2022 elections.

Membership Survey

President Doug Pearce said there was a survey sent out to the membership in the fall of 2021. That survey limited the responses, and some members were not able to give their feedback to the Board. Doug feels that every year there should be a survey sent out to the membership, he would like the Board to think about questions that should be asked of the membership. Darrel asked if Kelly could send to the Board the questions and responses on the 2021 survey. He said if some of the questions could be worded different, perhaps it would encourage some more participation and better responses. Kelly said she would work on getting it out to the Board.

Wells Fargo Bank Account

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the Board Cindy Garoutte had removed herself from the MCHA bank account, currently Kelly is the only person on the account which needs to be updated as soon as possible. Kelly said she would like to see Peri added to the account since that would then carry over to 2023, and Doug could be added as well for the remainder of 2022. Darrel made the motion to add both Doug and Peri to the account, seconded by Rick Anderson, and carried on a voice vote. Kelly said she would contact the banker at the Billings Wells Fargo branch and get the paperwork started in adding both Doug and Peri.

MCHA Banner

President Doug Pearce told the Board that our current MCHA banner needs to be replaced. Roy Oliver suggested updating the banner and changing the color scheme as well. Darrell nominated Kelsey Fraser to create a new banner for MCHA. She said she would get some options together and submit to the Board via email for approvals.

President Doug Pearce adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.