

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

*August 3rd, 2023
Via Zoom*

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

Directors Present (Via Zoom): President Peri Suenram, Vice President Michelle Van Dyke, Rob Fraser, Darrell Lee, John Seymour, Doug Pearce, Mike Hoffman, and Clayton Miller

Directors Absent: Josh Keimig

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser told the Board there had been updates to the Treasurer's Report of 6/26/23. After completing the 6/30/23 bank reconciliation there were some checks that were not accounted for as of the 26th. The Minutes of the 6/26/23 BOD meeting reflect the corrected balances as well as the exact amount of interest collected from the original CD.

Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser gave the Treasures Report as of 8/3/23. She said the current bank balance in QuickBooks was \$88,222.93 and \$70,000.00 in the CD. Kelly noted that there were some expenses that were for Dillon #2, which included the cost of sand, that showed in the YTD P and L distributed to the Board. John Seymour said the Horsemanship Center will work with MCHA on the cost of the sand and will carry over a credit to us for our 2024 Dillon show. Kelly said currently that amount is on the Dillon #1 show but would like to make notes for the GM meeting so the membership understands we will have some credit for next year. There will also be a carryover of awards that were slated for Dillon #2 which we will save and give out for Dillon 2024.

President Peri Suenram asked what the current sponsorship income was, Kelly said to date she has collected \$8100.00 in sponsorship money. Peri noted that Mike Wood is donating his clinic to MCHA as part of their sponsorship and would like that reflected in our sponsorship thermometer for the website.

The minutes from the June 26th meeting had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting and approved on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MCHA Year End Show – President Peri Suenram noted that many of the Board had discussed putting in for the Big Sky Circuit Finals to be held at the October Miller's show, however South Dakota had indeed put in and were approved to hold the finals. That being said, the October show will go on as our Year End Show. As previously discussed, Mike Hoffman and Clayton Miller would be working together to put on a clinic the Sunday following the show, October 15th. Mike and Clayton said the clinic would be for beginner cutters and the hope is to draw some Ranch Horse Versatility riders that would be attending the NILE. Mike said the word is already

out that there would be a clinic and some interest has been expressed. Clayton said he would like to do a half day clinic and he would like to work with Mike to get the details set regarding how many participants and the cost. He would like some help with advertising and logistics of the clinic. Kelly Fraser said she would be willing to help with the advertising. She would also like the NILE to help get word to their competitors that we will be having the clinic. Clayton said he had spoken with the Equine Director of the NILE and she was excited and wanted to know where they could help. He said we need to get them the clinic flyer and then they would help us promote it. President Peri Suenram also volunteered to help wherever needed on the clinic.

President Peri Suenram said notice for the GM Meeting would need to be given out no less than 30 days prior to the meeting date. Kelly Fraser asked the Board to clarify when they would like to hold the meeting and if it would be the same day as the Calcutta/Bridle-Less Cutting. Peri said she would like to plan for the GM meeting on Friday October 13th and is going to try to hold it to one hour. Clayton suggested the meeting be advertised to start one half hour after the conclusion of the show but not before 6:00 pm. Following the GM meeting we will have a Calcutta for our Bridle-less contestants and our Social.

Year End Banquet – President Peri Suenram asked Rob Fraser and Doug Pearce what ideas they have for the Banquet. Rob said he had not yet worked on it but would start getting some ideas. The suggestion from the Board would be to see what options around Laurel there may be, perhaps the golf course. Peri asked Clayton if he wouldn't mind helping Rob and Doug with locations since he is local. She asked if they would all report back to the Board with their plan going forward. Rob asked what the budget may be, Peri said it would be dependent on the venue of the Banquet and the Board would trust their judgement. Kelly said for 2022 the room rental cost was \$250, the meal cost \$2300.00 with a gratuity of \$400 and the bar fee of \$75, this would be some comparison for them to work off of.

Big Piney Silent Auction – President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke to present her idea on the silent auction for Big Piney. Michelle said she is suggesting that all Board Members have some connection with individuals in their area and if they could please reach out to them and request a silent auction item for Big Piney. The auction at Big Piney has been a great fund raiser for MCHA. Michelle feels that if the Board reaches out personally to the membership for items there would be a better response, rather than an eblast. She also said that the Board members offer to pick up the item, if the member is not planning on attending Big Piney. Peri noted that Andi James has an activity planned for every day at Big Piney and is going to have a Banquet this year. There are around 380 stalls reserved currently for the show. Peri said Big Piney will be a premier event for our area and competitors are really looking forward to the show this year. John Seymour said that anyone attending the Banquet must have a ticket. The ticket must be purchased the day before the dinner either by cash or added to your show settlement. He said that Andi has a plan for controlling the banquet and he encouraged any Board member present at Big Piney to help out in any way as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NCHA Weekend 2024 – President Peri Suenram asked the Board if there was interest in MCHA producing NCHA Weekend at Deer Lodge May 31 to June 2, 2024. She said if it is something that MCHA wants to produce we should be looking at getting the application in as soon as we can. Peri noted that if this is something the Board decides, Darrell Lee does not want to manage the show. He feels that after the first Deer Lodge show in May it would be too much for him to manage. Peri said that the Board will need to step in and manage NCHA Weekend. Darrell said the sand for the show pen should carry over and that will help with some expense of a second show. He said he has been working with Ryan Kelly to source cattle at \$36/head delivered. John asked if the show pen would have to be taken down, Darrell said that is something that will have to be negotiated with the Arena. John also had questions regarding stalling for the show. Darrell said that they are working on additional stalling at the Fairgrounds, there is additional stalling at Mountain View and there is a ranch about 10 miles away that would possibly have stalls available for us. Currently there are around 125 stalls at the Fairgrounds. Darrell also suggested additional areas at the Fairgrounds where we could possibly set up panels. Rob brought to the Boards attention that since we are talking about 2024, we would be looking at Montana and Wyoming being their own circuit. With that, NCHA Weekend would be affecting those two states for Big Sky. Rob suggested to the Board that Peri reach out to Wyoming on their thoughts for NCHA Weekend and if they would be ok with MCHA producing that show in Deer Lodge. He would like to see MCHA and WYCHA work together in determining their show schedule and would like their input on this show in particular. Clayton agreed with Rob and wants Wyoming brought into the conversation before we move forward. Peri will call Justin Johnson and discuss with him thoughts regarding this show, and she will get back to the Board.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.