

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

September 26th, 2023
Via Zoom

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

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser

President Peri Suenram asked Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Fraser to report on the current bank balance and P and L report provided to the Board prior to the meeting. Kelly said there was a current balance in QuickBooks of \$141,210.05 for the Wells Fargo checking account. MCHA has a \$70,000.00 6-month CD with Edward Jones. Kelly noted in the P and L that there is a balance under sponsorships of \$14,750 but when you include the clinics and show sponsorships, we have over \$22,000 collected for the year, exceeding our goal by over \$2000.

President Peri Suenram said that since the show year is complete, we have a balance in the checking account that could be put into another 6-month CD. She said that Kelly would like to wait until after the September bank statement is reconciled to decide an amount to be invested. President Peri Suenram asked the Board if they would like to purchase another CD. The Board felt that would be the best way to gain some interest income for the Association. There was discussion on the amount to be invested and the possible current interest rate. This new CD would come due prior to the first MCHA produced show, allowing for a significant amount of the checking account to be invested. It was agreed after the September bank statement is reconciled that Peri and Kelly will work together in determining an appropriate amount to invest in a 6-month CD.

The minutes of the August 3rd and September 15th BOD meetings had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Vice President Michelle Van Dyke moved to approve both minutes as written, seconded by Doug Pearce and passed on a voice vote.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Big Piney Show Recap – President Peri Suenram asked Vice President Michelle Van Dyke to give the Board a recap of the Big Piney, WY show. Michelle said that in looking at the P and L the show was an obvious success. She pointed out that Andi James did an exceptional job in organizing and running the show. Michelle said that after the show, she, Andi, Peri, and Theresa Nelson had a video conference to go over possible improvements for 2024. The Big Piney facility is now at its maximum capacity with the show. They discussed, with the success we have had, putting some additional added money into the LAE portion of the show, leaving the weekend classes as is. The aged event may need an additional day added and we could shorten the weekend show by one day. This year the length of the aged event meant classes ran into the

late evening/early morning. It was too long for the competitors and too long for the judges. Michelle noted that the Big Piney show was originally organized as an aged event and perhaps getting back to its roots would have a positive result for MCHA. Michelle noted that going forward we need to make sure the same judge is not there for the entire seven days, it is simply too much. One idea was to have one judge for the weekend classes and then bring two judges in for the aged event portion. With regard to the stalls, it may be necessary to put a deadline on reserving stalls and once they are full, we are done with reservations. Michelle said that not only is the facility at its capacity, but the town is also at capacity considering the hotels and restaurants. The takeaway is that the show does not need to grow bigger, we just want it to be better. President Peri Suenram said that in 2024 MCHA will have to work with the Fairgrounds to replace all the sand. She said there were some issues with the portable stalls set up on the cement, it may be possible to move those stalls to the back of the grounds. Mike Hoffman said one of the things that made the show long, was dragging the pen after each class. With new sand this will help and cut down on length of the show. For the 2024 show Theresa Nelson will work on some fee adjustments to present to the Board for approval. Rob also wanted to note that the silent auctions were very successful and if we have good food vendors at the show it will help all the contestants. Peri said this year was a vast improvement to prior years and it will continue to improve.

President Peri Surenram asked Kelly Fraser to go over the Big Piney P and L. Kelly said the total profit was \$47,000.00. The Board discussed a way to thank Andi James for the hard work, Rob Fraser moved that MCHA give Andi James a one-time \$2500.00 bonus, seconded by Doug Pearce, and passed on a voice vote. Peri will send a card to Andi thanking her for all the hard work and note that this will not be an expectation but a one-time bonus.

Year End Show – President Peri Suenram asked Rob Fraser and Doug Pearce to update the Board on the Banquet. Rob said unfortunately, Roy Oliver’s band will not be able to play at the Banquet, but Roy will bring his guitar and play for us. He said there will be karaoke and we should have plenty of entertainment for the evening. Rob said the venue will set everything up for us. Nancy LaCounte has volunteered, from the Wyoming Board, to help with table decorations or anything that may be needed, Rob will reach out to Nancy for some WyCHA input.

In prior meetings the Board had discussed having a Bridle-less Cutting and Calcutta in conjunction with the GM meeting. Kelly Fraser said that in looking at the length of the September show we may be too short on time to have both the meeting and the cutting. Clayton Miller said from his standpoint as the producer, he is maxed out. He does not feel like there is going to be the time on Friday to make the Bridle-less happen. If it is anything like the September show everyone is going to be quite tired from the long day and getting the meeting in by itself is going to be hard. Peri said this is a great problem to have, we would rather have a great cutting. Mike Hoffman said people are going to be too tired after a very long day of showing to participate. Clayton made the motion to abandon the Bridle-less cutting at this time, seconded by Mike Hoffman and passed on a voice vote.

Year End Awards – President Peri Suenram asked John Seymoure and Josh Keimig to update the Board on the awards for this year. John said the awards consist of Leather Jackets, Buckles,

Spur Straps, Headstalls, Reins, and Loping Hackamores. Not all the jackets will be available at the ceremony, but we will have six for people to try on and order from. Peri said the placings will be given down to 5th place, she said people have been very excited to know they may be close to winning an award. Kelly Fraser asked if Cindy Fraser or Peri would be available to help compile results on Saturday during the show. Rob said that Cindy said she would help, between Cindy, Kelly and Peri they will calculate the final year end results.

Beginner Clinic – Clayton Miller told the Board that unfortunately the clinic will not be possible this year. The NILE has scheduled something on Sunday October 15th which leaves no room for a MCHA clinic. Clayton would like to do a clinic at another time and will look at possible alternatives. Peri said the clinics have been very successful in getting new cutters, if we can get something put together, MCHA will support it. Mike noted that it is always easier to have a clinic before or after an event so things are set up.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee – President Peri Suenram noted that the nominating committee consists of Doug Pearce, Clayton Miller, and Darrell Lee. Peri said at this time there are several people interested in all the Board positions available. She asked that prior to the GM meeting, Doug, Clayton, and Darrell have a small meeting of their own and bring the nominations to the GM meeting. Peri said after the nominating committee has brought their candidates to the membership there will then be nominations taken from the floor.

Kim Asay Award – President Peri Suenram told the Board they need to be thinking about nominations for the Kim Asay award recipient. She said this is an award that is voted on by the Board and nominees are brought forward by the Board members. She would like for each Board member to email, text or phone Kelly with their nominations and the reason why they should be nominated for the award. The Board members will remain anonymous, and their nominations should be in by Saturday September 30th, Kelly will then create an electronic vote for the Board on those that are nominated.

Non-Pro/Amateur Horse of the Year – President Peri Suenram told the Board the Non-Pro/Amateur Horse of the Year is to be voted on by the general membership and the vote will include the top horse in each Non-Pro and Amateur class including LAE classes. The question that was asked of the Board was if that horse was chosen as of the standings after the September Miller's Show. It was decided that Peri and Kelly would look at the current standings and see how close some of the classes were. The Board wants to make sure all the membership is included in the vote or is able to vote. Peri and Kelly will work together and create a plan for a fair determination on the horses to be included and a fair vote for the membership.

President Peri Suenram adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.