
Board of Directors
Date April 17 24, 2024
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Cathy Dekker, Britt Kissock-Robinson, Michele McGuigan, Tracy Tiner, Lesli Glen, Michele Shaw, Tyrell Burklund, Josh Shengle

National Directors: Gary Lynn Olson

Meeting called to order by Board Member Cathy Dekker (President Tyrell Burklund joined meeting later). Lesli made a motion to approve the March 24, 2024 minutes. Michele M. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura distributed a financial report electronically. Britt made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Tracy T. Motion carried. Laura also informed the Board the 2023 taxes have been completed. Discussion regarding sponsors for the Big Sky Classic. Tabled for report from Tyrell.

Old Business: New kiosk was tabled for May meeting.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Tyrell reported the he has no new updates on the Big Sky Classic. He will be checking with the facility about shavings sale by the Youth.

Nile Committee: Laura reported for Marilyn she is working on sponsorships with an increase from a sponsor as well as a new sponsor she has solicited. The contract with the Nile has been received and signed. Lesli reported there are participants coming from overseas, not knowing if they are coming for the show or the sale and the contestant party will be adjusted when the committee knows when these folks are coming in.

Marketing/Membership Services: Laura reported we have 81 regular (1 new MQHA member) or renewal members, 37 Lifetime members and 17 Youth members. Discussion about any increase in memberships compared to 2023. Laura reported she thought they were up for this time last year.

Amateur: Cathy Dekker reported the clinic is the following weekend and all the spots are full. The Kirks are donating shavings for the clinic as well as the facility. More sponsors for the Sparks Some Fun show. Cathy wanted to share you can digitally submit your AQHA Level 1 application on-line.

Youth: Michele reported the Youth will have a meeting the following week. Financial support for the L1 and World Show was approved by the MQHYA in attendance. Three L1 participants and 2 for World. Ice cream social is still in the works depending on the level of participation by the members. Selling shavings at the Big Sky Classic was also approved and will be in the works with enough members helping with this fundraiser. Laura is contacting Keith at Ranch Supply in Billings to see about the cost. The facility will also have to be contacted to allow the Youth to sell shavings.

Breeders/Ranching: Lesli reported she has been reaching out to a few breeders she knows to inform them about the opportunities with MQHA.

By-Laws: No report.

Legislative: Britt Kissock-Robinson reported she sent a full report to Laura. Laura will forward her email onto the Board.

Recreational Riding: No report.

Awards/Points: Michele reported she is still getting award ideas from texts and emails.

Scholarship: Tabled until financial viability.

Region 2: No report.

2024 Convention: Laura has sent a deposit to reserve the facility.

Hall of Fame: No report.

New Business: Laura reported the only new business was the 2023 taxes being done.

Correspondence: None.

All agenda items have been satisfied. Britt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second to the motion by Tracy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2024 Secretary/Treasurer

**Next meeting – May 22, 2024 – Zoom Meeting
7:30pm**

AMENDMENT - LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Britt Kissock-Robinson

2024 AQHA RULE CHANGE STATUS

April 9, 2024: During American Quarter Horse (AQHA) Convention March 15-18 in Las Vegas, the rule-change recommendations from all the standing committees were reviewed by the Board of Directors. Those recommendations approved by the BOD go to the AQHA Executive Committee for review, modification and/or approval at the April meeting. The AQHA Stud Book and Registration Committee discussed 23 proposed rule changes. The recommendation that generated the most discussion addressed by the Stud Book Committee was delaying the implementation of digital registration certificate until January 1, 2027, with several resolution (listed in last month's report). The additional eleven standing committee reports will be reviewed by the AQHA Executive Committee, and approved rule changes will be released at a later date. Additionally, rule-change recommendations from the AQHA Animal Welfare Commission will also be reviewed by the AQHA Executive Committee in April. <https://www.quarterhorsenews.com/2024/04/aqha-registration-rule-changes/>

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL - 2024 NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM

The 2024 American Horse Council Conference and National Issues Forum will be in Washington, DC, June 9-12. Attendees can expect to get the most current and relevant information on topics affecting the equine industry. The event will wrap up with organized agency and congressional hill visits. For a list of topics and tentative schedule, go to: <https://horsecouncil.org/annual-meeting/american-horse-council-2024-conference/>

2024 "MINIBUS" APPROPRIATIONS PACKAGE

Last month, Congress passed the Minibus Appropriations Package funding agencies including the USDA and Department of the Interior, affecting the nation's animals as follows:

- The bill includes language that **prevents horse slaughterhouses** from operating within the United States for another year.
 - This means tens of thousands of American Equines will still be trucked across the borders to be slaughtered in Canada and Mexico.
 - ASPCA lobbyists are promoting **Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act**, which would add equines to an existing law that bans the slaughter of dogs and cats for meat.
- **Wild horses and burros cannot be killed or sold to slaughter** as part of managing wild herds.
 - BLM received funding to carry out a long-term, sustainable plan for fertility control with strategic removals, holding facilities and adoptions.
- The bill calls for stronger enforcement of the **Animal Welfare Act (AWA)** through better inspections, accurate recording & reporting of violations.
- The bill allocates \$3M to the **Protecting Animals With Shelter (PAWS)** grant program, which provides resources that enable domestic violence survivors to shelter with their pets.
- \$3.5M allocated for the **Horse Protection Act** to support enforcement of the federal law against horse soring.
- \$6.5M for the FDA to **reduce animal testing**, and directing the EPA to publish information re its work to reduce and replace animal testing.
 - An additional \$7M for Cosmetics Regulation Implementation (although the US hasn't passed a federal law to end new animal testing for cosmetics).

<https://www.aspc.org/news/congress-just-passed-massive-spending-bill-heres-how-it-protects-animals>

<https://www.humanesociety.org/blog/us-funding-package-animal-welfare>

2024 STATE LEGISLATION TO WATCH

AZ SB 1237: A city, town or county may not enact any ordinance, resolution or policy that prohibits or unduly restricts a person from using a working animal in lawful commerce for an animal enterprise.

ID S 1302: Adds to existing law to provide for the protection of working animals.

NY A 575: Prohibits certain acts in rodeos, imposes penalties for the violation of such acts.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION RE K9S

S 4033 – GOLDIE’S ACT OF 2024

The USDA provides licenses to commercial dog breeders and protects the animals kept in these facilities. This legislation would require the USDA to conduct more frequent inspections, confiscate animals that are suffering, impose monetary penalties for violations, and share inspection information in a timely manner with local law enforcement.

<https://www.goldiesact.org/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1788?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+1788%22%5D%7D&s=1&r=3>

HR 1624 – PUPPY PROTECTION ACT

The Puppy Protection Act includes requirements including the following: prohibitions on breeding a female unless pre-screened by a vet, breeding restriction based on an animal’s size or age, enclosures to a run in which the dog can reach a running stride, yearly dental exams and kennel temperature requirements. Proponents are seeking to add it to the 2024 Farm Bill.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1624/text?s=9&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR1624%22%5D%7D>

HR 1184/S 502 – HEALTHY DOG IMPORTATION ACT

The Healthy Dog Importation Act, would require owners/importers of all dogs imported into the US to submit a valid health certificate which would show the dogs are microchipped and fully vaccinated. Unlike the current CDC rule, this measure focuses specifically on individual health status rather than country of origin.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1184?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22healthy+dog+importation%22%5D%7D&s=10&r=1>

HR 5041/S 2555 – THE BETTER CARE OF ANIMALS ACT

Currently, the USDA has jurisdiction over breeder licensing. Provisions of this bill allow the Attorney General to bring a civil action (e.g., restraining orders, injunctions, seizure of animals & penalties) in federal district courts. It could also potentially remove current licensing exemptions for groups such as hobby breeders.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5041?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+5041%22%5D%7D&s=2&r=1>

HR 6950/S 2414 – THE WORKING DOG HEALTH AND WELFARE ACT

This act would ensure implementation of protections/standards of care for US Government working dogs.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6950?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%22HR+6950%22%7D&s=2&r=1>

HR 1480/S 759 – BEAGLE BRIGADE ACT

The National Detector Dog Training Center (operated by USDA APHIS) trains dogs to inspect passenger baggage, cargo, mailed packages and vehicles to detect foreign pests and diseases that threaten domestic agriculture and

natural resources. This act would provide statutory authority to the center, provide more efficient funding and require APHIS to report to Congress on current and emerging threats to domestic agriculture.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1480>

HR 7830 – PET FOOD UNIFORM REGULATORY REFORM (PURR) ACT

This act would update the authority of the FDA to ensure national uniformity of pet food labeling and marketing.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7380/text>

FROM MT GOVERNOR’S OFFICE & MT ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE

NATIONAL TIKTOK BAN APPROVED BY CONGRESS

April 24: “I’m glad to see that Congress finally acted and followed Montana’s lead to ban TikTok. The dangerous application is a spy tool for the Chinese Communist Party that poses a serious threat to our national security and puts the privacy of Americans at risk. I hope President Biden keeps his promise and signs the bill into law.”

<https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsens-statement-on-national-tiktok-ban-approved-by-congress/>

LAWSUIT AGAINST BIDEN’S EV MANDATE

April 19: Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, along with 24 other attorneys general, filed a lawsuit against the Biden Administration’s electric vehicle (EV) mandate. The EPA emissions rule puts standards on passenger cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty vehicles and pressures auto manufactures to produce enough EVs to account for 70% of vehicle sales in less than a decade. Last year, Ford Motor Company lost nearly \$5B on EVs and is projected to lose more this year.

“President Biden’s electric vehicle mandates just won’t work in Montana. We need vehicles that can get us to and from our destination when it’s -40 degrees outside,” Attorney General Knudsen said. <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-files-lawsuit-against-bidens-ev-mandate/>

LAND BOARD ASKED TO TAKE UP PRIVATE WATER RIGHTS ISSUE

April 17: At a Land Board meeting April 15, Knudsen and the other commissioners heard from farmers and ranchers who are concerned by the DNRC’s decision to take water rights from landowners who utilize their private water on public land they are leasing from the state to irrigate state land or provide water for their cattle. For example, in one case before the Montana Supreme Court, Schutter v. the Montana Board of Land Commissioners. DNRC’s position is that since the Schutters were using private water on state-leased land (to irrigate their potato crops), the state could claim the private-water rights. Attorney General Knudsen’s proposal before the commissioners would require the DNRC to get approval from the Land Board before making any decisions regarding the water rights of private landowners. “After extensive public comment during Monday’s meeting it’s clear the Land Board needs to exercise greater oversight regarding the DNRC’s actions regarding private property rights,” Attorney General Knudsen said. <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-asks-land-board-to-take-up-private-water-rights-issue-at-next-meeting/>

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS

April 15: Governor Greg Gianforte announced the deadline to apply for Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP) and the Montana Disabled Veterans (MDV) Property Tax Assistance Program would be extended to June 1 to give Montanans with a substantial hardship extended time to apply for relief.

https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor_Gianforte_Announces_Deadline_Extended_for_Property_Tax_Relief_Programs

EPA’S NEW AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

April 11: Governor Greg Gianforte joined 21 governors in criticizing an effort by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mandate new air quality standards that ignore concerns from western states and raise costs for Montana businesses and families. Gov. Gianforte said, “While we can all agree reducing dust in the air is a worthy

goal, the new regulation ignores progress and regional concerns from western states... To require a 25 percent reduction in fine particles without adequately recognizing the largest source of pollution [wildfires] does not create a workable framework for all of our states.”

https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Gov_Gianforte_Bidens_New_Dust_Rule_Belongs_in_the_Dustbin

LAWSUIT AGAINST BIDEN’S STUDENT DEBT RELIEF PLAN

March 29: Attorney General Austin Knudsen, along with 10 other attorneys general, filed a lawsuit last month against the Biden administration’s student loan forgiveness plan.

In 2022, President Biden and the Department of Education tried to unilaterally cancel student loans for millions of borrowers through the HEROES Act, but the Supreme Court ruled they didn’t have the authority. Now with a new name, and a different authority, his administration is once again trying to take the same unlawful steps with the “SAVE Plan.”

<https://dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/SAVE-plan-lawsuit.pdf>

BIDEN’S BAN ON LNG EXPORTS

March 25: Attorney General Austin Knudsen, along with 15 other attorneys general, filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration’s ban on new liquified natural gas (LNG) exports. In January, President Biden and the Department of Energy halted all new approvals of LNG exports to non-Free-Trade Agreement countries. This decision will have a big impact on Montana’s economy. The ban slows down the shale gas boom that has provided more than 13,000 jobs for Montanans and contributed more than \$7.4 billion dollars to the state’s economy in 2023. Last year, the three export pipelines paid more than \$11.5 million dollars in taxes.

The ban does not align with the Natural Gas Act of 1938, which established that natural gas exports are in the best interest of the public.

<https://dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/LNG.pdf>

April 23: Governor Greg Gianforte joined 24 of the nation’s governors in a call to Biden to lift his pause on new liquified natural gas (LNG) export approvals. “As governors, we are very concerned by the Biden Administration’s move to pause approvals of new liquified natural gas export projects, especially after Iran’s attack on Israel last week,” the governors stated. “The United States is the world’s leading exporter of LNG, and the decision to pause new approvals undermines our economic and national security, and the security of our allies.”

<https://news.mt.gov/Governors->

[Office/Governor_Gianforte_24_Governors_Oppose_Bidens_Latest_Attack_on_Energy](https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor_Gianforte_24_Governors_Oppose_Bidens_Latest_Attack_on_Energy)