
Board of Directors
Date April 23, 2025; 7:30pm
ZOOM Meeting

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Tyrell Burklund, Michele Shaw, Josh Shengle, Julie Schumacher, Britt Kissock-Robinson, Cathy Dekker, Rita Church

National Directors: Tracy Knudson-Brown, Ruth McDonald-Gates, Gary Lynn Olson

Meeting called to order by Board member Britt Kissock-Robinson; President Tyrell Burklund joined meeting later. Michele S. made a motion to approve the amended March 26, 2025 minutes. Cathy. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura reported financial reports electronically and reported an additional deposit and check written. Cathy made a motion to approve the amended financial report as presented. Second to the motion by Rita. Motion carried.

Old Business: None.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Laura reported the Show Committee will be having a meeting in the following week.

NILE: No report.

Membership Services: Rita Church reported that to date there are 91 new or renewed members, 4 of those are new MQHA members, 37 Lifetime members.

Marketing: Julie reported the Big Sky Classic logo is being distributed. Julie also had Laura send an email to members as a spotlight for membership. Hoping to encourage members feel more welcome and encouraged. Britt is hosting the MQHA booth at the All-Breed Show, and the booth will also be at the SSF and the 406 Arena Shows.

Recreational Riding: Julie has contacted Jessica Fryberger at the 406 for the trail ride and would like to utilize the AQHA Affiliate funds allocated for the Recreational Riding and use those funds for trail ride participants to do the trail course. AQHA has a ton of marketing on the website. Julie would like to promote AQHA programs to MQHA members. Josh suggested utilizing the Stillwater County Backcountry ladies group to encourage participants at the Poker Ride.

Amateur: Cathy reported the SSF was recognized as a Top Ten AQHA Level 1 Show for 2024. Cathy is still looking for sponsors. Ruth reported she has been approved as an AQHA Amateur Ambassador and will be available for assistance at the Show. Rita and Tracy Brown are also Ambassadors. Josh reported that Justin Simper is an AQHA Team Wrangler Clinician and would be available as a clinician for the 2026 Show year. Cathy would like information from members at the AQHA Level 1 Championship Shows to post on social media. Britt would also like pictures for the Newsletter.

Youth: Michele reported the Youth had a meeting earlier in the week. The Youth have a second fundraiser, raffle off custom chaps (valued at \$550) with additional work available by the

raffle recipient. Chaps will be made by Dave Iverson, Iverson Custom Saddlery. Tickets will be available at the Big Sky Classic through Convention with drawing at the Convention, will not have to be present to win. The Youth will also have some leftover apparel available for sale at the shows. Further discussion about the Proposed Guidelines that were presented at the last meeting. Discussion regarding the 2.0 GPA listed. Michele explained this was a “passing” grade and wanting any applicants to be able to apply with a “passing” GPA. Applicants will have to be an MQHYA member or if aged out an MQHA member and participate on one Committee. One amendment will be the duplicate indication of the number of meetings.

Breeders/Ranch: No report.

By-Laws: No report.

Legislative: Britt reported she emailed a full report to Laura for Board distribution.

Region 2: No report.

2025 Convention: No new report on the Convention.

Hall of Fame: Ruth reported she has contacted Ryan Jaeger for historical members as possible inductees into the HOF. Ryan has all the past MQHA newsletter. Committee is trying to compile a list from the newsletters for inductees.

New Business: Laura reported she received a phone call from Dan Baker at DA Davidson. The MQHA accounts will be subject to a service fee and offered some options to alleviate this fee; 1) Vanguard Money Market – interest is greater and asset liquidity were the positives to this transfer, 2) CD. Cathy made a motion for Dan to transfer the MQHA accounts into a Vanguard Money Market account per Mr. Baker’s recommendations. Second to the motion by Julie. Motion carried.

Correspondence: AQHA emails regarding the 2025 Convention recap and By-Laws were received and sent onto the Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2025 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – May 28, 2025 – Zoom Meeting 7:30pm

AMENDMENT – LEGISLATIVE REPORT submitted via email

CONCERNING HORSES

THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT - April 8: The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is further postponing the effective date of the Horse Protection Act final rule, other than the training section, to **February 1, 2026**. APHIS is requesting public comments on whether the Agency should further extend the length of this postponement and is also soliciting additional

information to help inform a decision on the appropriate length of the postponement. The docket is currently on public inspection and will be available for comment at the following address beginning on March 21:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/APHIS-2022-0004>.

The comment period will close on May 20, 2025.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/program-update/aphis-further-postpones-effective-date-horse-protection-act-final-rule>

APHIS Stakeholder letter re 2025 show season:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/program-update/aphis-shares-update-2025-horse-show-season>

RE HORSE SLAUGHTER - April 13: S.775 –(NO UPDATE) A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to prohibit the slaughter of equines for human consumption. This bill was introduced to the Senate by Lindsay Graham, read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/775>

March 28: H.R.1661 - To amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to prohibit the slaughter of equines for human consumption. This bill was introduced to the House by Vern Buchanan and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. On 3/28, referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. Action By: Committee on Agriculture

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1661>

CONCERNING PENDING BILLS IN THE MT LEGISLATURE - The following Agriculture, Livestock, Taxation bills have been introduced; status as of March 10, below.

- **HB6: Renewable Resource Grants** – Sponsored by John Fitzpatrick, (H) Returned from Enrolling; 4/22/25.
- **HB 20: Require voted levies to be in dollars rather than mills**– Sponsored by Jaret Coles, (S) (H) *Signed by Governor 4/07/25.*
- **HB27: Remove Automatic Agricultural Classification for Certain Parcels** – Sponsored by Sherry Essmann, (H) 2nd Reading Not Passed as Amended 40-60 3/20/25.
- **HB80: Provide Cash Lease-only Bidding for Agriculture Leases** – Sponsored by Randyn Gregg, (H) *Signed by Governor, 3/27/25.*
- **HB108: Eliminate Reference to Personal Property Farm Manual for Property Tax Purposes** – Sponsored by Eric Tilleman, (H) *Signed by Governor 4/07/25.*
- **HB 119: Establish the Montana Cattle Committee** –Sponsored by Brandon Ler, (S) Tabled in Committee - Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation 7-4, 4/01/25.
- **HB 171: Eliminate Montana Alfalfa Seed Committee** – Sponsored by Eric Tilleman, (H) Returned from Enrolling; 4/14/25.

- **HB 212: Limit Liability of Agricultural Vehicles** – Sponsored by Ed Byrne, (S) Tabled in Committee - Highways and Transportation, 8-0, 3/26/25.
- **HB269: Eliminate the Organic Commodity Advisory Council** – Sponsored by Eric Tilleman, (H) Transmitted to Governor; 4/22/25.
- **HB 356: Allow livestock loss reimbursement for black bear predation** – Sponsored by Eric Tilleman; (H) Sent to Enrolling; 4/18/25.
- **HB390: Provide for Montana right to repair agricultural equipment act** – Sponsored by Paul Tuss, (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal, 3/12/25.
- **HB 401: Prohibit the sale of lab-grown meat in the state of Montana** – Sponsored by Braxton Mitchell; (H) Returned from Enrolling; 4/15/25.
- **SB4: Revise Taxation of Homesite on Certain Agricultural Property** – Sponsored by Becky Beard, (S) Missed Deadline for Revenue Bill Transmittal; 4/07/25.
- **SB78: Revise Laws Related to Marking Hides and Meat** – Sponsored by Josh Kassmier, *(S) Signed by Governor 4/17/25.*
- **SB79: Repeal Laws Related to Inspection of Animals in Feedlots** – Sponsored by Josh Kassmier, *(S) Signed by Governor 4/17/25.*
- **SB 80: Allow for digital copies of required documentation for transport of livestock** – Sponsored by Josh Kassmier; *(S) Signed by Governor 4/17/25.*
- **SB96: Establish Working Animal Protection Act** – Sponsored by John Fuller, Introduced 1/06/25. *(This bill adds a new section stating, “The right to utilize a working animal for the benefit and welfare of the working animal or the individual the working animal serves is guaranteed.”);* ((H) Tabled in Committee – Local Government, 17-0, 3/20/25.
- **SB99: Revise Unrelated Business Taxable Income to Include Certain Rental and Accommodations Income** – Sponsored by Becky Beard, (H) Tabled in Committee (H) Taxation, 2/18/25 (no update from last report).
- **SB 101: Revise laws related to squatting** – Sponsored by Becky Beard; *(S) Signed by Governor 4/17/25.*
- **SB155: Create Food Safety Panel** – Sponsored by Daniel Emrich, (S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal, 3/20/25.
- **SB161: Provide for Regulation and Sale of Aquaculture** – Sponsored by Greg Hertz, (S) Transmitted to Governor, 4/22/25.

CONCERNING AGRICULTURE - April 8: U.S. Senator Steve Daines today spoke with President Trump’s U.S. Trade Representative, Jamieson Greer, in a Senate Finance Committee hearing. They discussed the goals of President Trump’s trade agenda, and Daines highlighted the need to expand market access for farmers & ranchers and to make sure American producers have expanded market access around MQHA – April 23, 2025 Minutes Page 4 of 6

the globe.

<https://www.daines.senate.gov/2025/04/08/daines-ustr-greer-discuss-expanding-market-access-for-farmers-and-ranchers/>

February 28: H.R.774 - PASTURES Act (aka “Protecting Agricultural Spaces Through Effective Ranching Strategies Act”). To limit the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to penalize an owner of livestock for grazing by such livestock on certain Federal lands on which grazing is permitted on or after the date of enactment of this Act and subsequently prohibited, and for other purposes. Ms. Hageman introduced the bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and to the Committee on Agriculture; Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture. Action By: Committee on Agriculture, 2/28/25.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/774>

PRIVATE PROPERTY/WATER RIGHTS - January 24: H.R.726 - Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Amendments Act of 2025. Introduced by Troy Downing, this bill amends the Crow Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010 to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources (*no update from last report*).
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/726>

January 23: H.R.716 - Fill the Lake Act. Introduced by Ryan Zinke, this bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to ensure full pool levels of Flathead Lake in Montana in accordance with certain requirements, and for other purposes. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources (*no update from last report*).
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/716>

MISCELLANEOUS - January 23: H.R. 718 Public Lands in Public Hands Act. Introduced by Ryan Zinke, this bill prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from transferring certain Federal land, and for other purposes. Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry and Horticulture. Action By: Committee on Agriculture, 2/28/25.
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/718>

FROM SENATOR STEVE DAINES OFFICE - April 9: S362 Bill to keep Bull Mountain Mine open is one step closer to becoming law. U.S. Senator Steve Daines today announced that his bill to keep Montana’s Bull Mountains Mine open passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with bipartisan support. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably; 4/09/2025.
<https://www.daines.senate.gov/2025/04/09/daines-bill-to-keep-montanas-bull-mountains-mine-open-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law/>

April 1: U.S. Senators Steve Daines (R-Mont.) and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) as well as Congressmen Ryan Zinke (MT-01) and Troy Downing (MT-02) today sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging a two-year compliance exemption from energy policies to support the continued operation at Montana’s Colstrip Power Plant. If the policies are not reversed, they will lead to increased compliance costs, which will be passed down to the consumer in the form of higher rates or even closure of the plant, which would lead to blackouts across Montana.
<https://www.daines.senate.gov/2025/04/01/daines-sheehy-zinke-downing-encourage-trump-administration-to-reverse-biden-anti-energy-policies-and-support-montana-energy/>

FROM GOVERNOR GIANFORTE’S OFFICE - April 15: EPA Grants 2-years of Relief from an Environmental Rule - With the April 14 announcement from the EPA, Colstrip and other coal plants are no longer required to comply with the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule for two years.

Colstrip is one of nearly 50 plants identified by the EPA that qualify for the two-year exemption.

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

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April 10: Gov. Gianforte Defends Tax Relief Priority

During a press conference at the State Capitol, Governor Greg Gianforte defended his tax relief proposals to lower income taxes for Montanans at every income level and lower property taxes for Montana homeowners “– meaningfully and permanently.”

<https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor-Gianforte-Defends-Tax-Relief-Priorities>

OTHER - April 4: According to the **Montana Motor Vehicle Division, the deadline to get Real ID-compliant license is May 7, 2025.** You are not required to get a Montana REAL ID compliant license or ID; however, a Montana REAL ID compliant license or ID or another acceptable form of identification is required to fly domestically and access federal facilities by May 7, 2025. Alternative options, such as a passport or passport card, are acceptable forms of identification.

https://newstalkkgvo.com/ixp/15/p/big-changes-mvd-montana/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral