Board of Directors
Date September 23 26, 2026
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Tyrell Burklund, Josh Shengle, Julie Schumacher, Cathy Dekker, Michele McGuigan, Rita Church, Lesli Glen, Britt Kissock-Robinson
National Directors: Gary Lynn Olson, Nancy Weaver, Tracy Brown

Meeting called to order by President Tyrell Burklund. Julie made a motion to approve the August 26, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Britt. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura emailed the financial report and supporting documents. Cathy made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Julie. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:
Show Committee: Big Sky Classic: Tyrell has talked with Peggy Lucas about taking over the Big Sky Classic duties. Tabled for October meeting.

Nile VRH Show: Laura reported for Marilyn that the Nile VRH Show sponsorships are up from 2025, Sponsors have been invoiced. Discussion regarding the space and contract. Josh reported all the Hi-Point jackets have been received. The kiosk will need to be picked up from Julie. Tyrell reportedly will pick that up and deliver to Nile. Discussion regarding man power needed to man both the VRH Show and Metra. Discussion regarding a scooter raffle. Also discussed raffling off tickets to an event.

Membership Services: Laura reported there are 93 renewed – 3 are 2027 members MQHA members, 42 lifetime members and 22 MQHYA members with 1 youth aging out in 2027.

Marketing: Julie reported she was on the AQHA marketing zoom meeting which was similar to the meeting at AQHA Convention. Social media material is available on the AQHA resource page. AQHA encouraged affiliates to print off material and order swag from AQHA. Discussion regarding the Director and Calendar and providing previous advertisers a discount for purchasing advertising in both publications. Julie would like Calendars done before Convention to save on postage. Discussion regarding the discount percentage. Josh made a motion to give previous advertisers a 20% discount if they purchase an ad in both the Directory and Calendar. To be reevaluated for future discounts. Second to the motion by Britt. Motion carried.

Amateur: No report.

Youth: Laura reported for the Youth, nothing new. Youth have a meeting in October and Michele Shaw will report at the October Board meeting. Linda Reed and Michele Shaw are working on awards.

Breeders: Lesli reported she has something working. Britt would like a list of MQHA members who are breeders and reach out to them for the Newsletter and recognition.

Ranch: No report.

By-Laws: Tyrell reported he does not have any current By-Law revisions and would like it posted on social media. Tyrell will work with Gary Lynn to get that done.

Legislative: Britt has emailed a full legislative report to Laura which will be an Amendment to these minutes. Facebook post about Horses In Our Hands about horses as companion animals. Actual USDA page is for dogs not horses as companion animals.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported there is a poker ride in Helmville October 17, 2026. Several postings from the AQHA 250 Challenges have been forwarded to MQHA members with resources on the AQHA website.

Region 2: Rita reported the Show had great attendance. Overall numbers are not available currently, and will be reported on when available. English Versatility Class was well received. Tracy reported the schedule was revised so the nights were not as late. Good vendor attendance. The clinician had two classes with Ranch horse and core AQHA classes and well received. The Committee made the Fairgrounds personnel regarding leakage in one of the barns.

Hall of Fame: Laura and Ruth Gates have several inductees: Leninger Ranch, Joe Bird Rattler, Lois Hill and Smart Little Scam owned by Gary Lynn Olson. Ruth will be working on contacting the inductees

Convention: Tyrell reported the Friday evening will be an hoers d'overs in lieu of a formal dinner. Convention meeting the first week of October.

New Business: Discussion regarding nominations for a vacancy on the Board. General membership will be emailed the forms for anyone wanting to become a Board member. AQHA National Director Alternate position will also be open and on the ballot for voting.

Michele McGuigan reported on the awards and presented some new sculptures a bronze type of artwork for Board consideration. Michele will forward photos of his artwork to the Board.

Correspondence: Laura shared a fundraising idea that was mailed. Also an email from Melissa regarding blankets.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2026 Secretary/Treasurer

Next meeting – October 21, 2026 ZOOM Meeting; 7:30pmPM

AMENDMENT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT 9/23/2026
RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS
Each spring, AQHA holds a convention to review AQHA rules and policies. During the convention, member-submitted rule changes and suggestions are also reviewed. The opportunity to propose new rules or changes allows members to voice their ideas and help continue to improve AQHA for future generations. If you are an AQHA member, you can submit a suggestion for a rule change for the AQHA Official Handbook. All proposals are due by December 31 of each year. To submit a rule-change proposal, go to the below site:
https://www.aqha.com/-/rule-change-proposals-1 CONCERNING HORSES CURRENT LEGISLATION
Current legislative bills regarding horses include the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, which aims to permanently ban horse slaughter for human consumption and prohibit the export of horses for slaughter. Additionally, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act seeks to strengthen protections against the cruel practice of soring in the horse industry. I could not find any updates on either bill.
OREGON PETITION COULD CRIMINALIZE EQUINE BREEDING (No Updates on Initiative Petition 28 (IP28))
HORSES IN OUR HANDS REPORTS USDA INCLUDES HORSES AS COMPANION ANIMALS
Sept. 21: Horses In Our Hands reported on Facebook that the USDA includes horses in the newcompanion animal welfare effort. However, when clicking on the article HIOH provided, horses arenot specifically mentioned: "Having delivered two dozen animal welfare priorities, the Administration, through APHIS, is taking new steps to strengthen dog and fellow companion animal welfare …"
The article continues with the accomplishments of the current administration re animal welfare, but again, there is no mention of the horse being included as a companion animal.
https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/09/21/usda-announces- actions-marking-new-era-animal-welfare EDCC STATISTICS
The following number of cases were reported from July 1 – August 30:

• Eastern Equine Encephalitis
o Florida – 4
o Georgia - 1
• Equine Herpesvirus – Respiratory
o Wisconcin – 1
• Equine Herpesvirus – Neurologic
o Ontario - 2
• Equine Infectious Anemia
o Alberta – 1
o British Colombia – 1
o Florida – 1
o Minnesota – 1
o Nevada – 3
o Texas – 3
o Washington - 2
• Equine Influenza
o Michigan – 2
o Nebraska – 2
o Oregon – 1
o Wisconsin – 1
• Pigeon Fever
o Montana – 5
o Oregon – 2
o Wyoming – 5
• Potomac Horse Fever
o Alberta – 1
o Tennessee - 4
o Wisconsin - 2
• Strangles
o Alberta – 2
o California – 1
o Florida – 6
o Idaho – 1
o Michigan – 4
o Montana – 1

o Nebraska – 1
o North Dakota – 1
o Ontario – 1
o Oregon – 2
o Washington – 3
o Wisconsin - 12
• West Nile Virus
o Arizona – 1
o California – 7
o Georgia – 2
o Idaho – 1
o Indiana – 1
o Kansas – 2
o Louisiana – 1
o Minnesota – 2
o North Dakota – 1
o Ontario – 2
o Oregon – 2
o Utah – 12
o Washington – 2
o Wyoming - 2
https://equinediseasecc.org/news/article/EDCC-July-2026-Statistics
CONCERNING AGRICULTURE
TEXAS RELEASES NWS INFESTED ZONES
Sept. 21: The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has released one New World screwworm (NWS) infested zone in Texas and modified another, with concurrence from USDA's Animal andPlant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). These actions come after State and Federal subject matter experts confirmed that the areas met requirements outlined in APHIS' New World Screwworm Response Playbook (884.59 KB) for zone release. https://www.aphis.usda.gov/news/agency-announcements/texas-releases-new-world- screwworm-infested-zones
VALUE ADDED AGRICULTURE
Sept. 18: USDA Rural Development is awarding of over $26 million to farmers and agricultural producers across the country through the USDA

Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) Program. Entities can use these grant funds to develop value-added agricultural products, conduct market research, and implement business and marketing strategies. Applications for the Value-Added Producer Grant program are typically accepted for processing from agricultural producers between January and May, depending on when program funding is allocated. https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2026/09/18/usda-invests-americas-beef- and-ag-producers-funding-value-added-agriculture

EXECUTIVE ACTION FOR AMERICAN RANCHERS

Sept 4: President Trump took executive action to support ranchers, including these key provisions:

• Combat Predation (for ranchers to protect the cattle they raise)
• Country of Origin Labeling
• Advancing Competition and Accountability (in livestock & meat markets)
• Expanding Market Access for Meat Products

https://www.usda.gov/ranchers-first

USDA RANCHERS FIRST INITIATIVES

Sept 4: Secretary Rollins announced an additional four actions for the Ranchers First Initiative to that further support American ranchers. 1. New Tools to Support Heifer Retention 2. ECP and Grassland CRP Maximization (disaster recovery support) 3. Continuing to Revitalize American Local Processing 4. Prioritizing American Beef in Federal Spending 5. Supporting Beginning and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

Aug 31: Secretary Rollins announced the Ranchers First Initiative which is a sweeping package of actions to continue rebuilding the Great American Cattle Herd and put America's ranchers back at the center of our nation's food supply. https://www.usda.gov/ranchers-first