
Board of Directors
Date September 18, 2024
Zoom Meeting, 7:30pm

MONTANA QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Board members present: Michele Shaw, Josh Shengle, Britt Kissock-Robinson, Julie Schumacher, Michele McGuigan, Lesli Glen, Rita Church, Tracy Tiner

National Directors: Ruth McDonald-Gates, Marilyn Randall, Tracy Brown

Guests: Melissa Ashley, Ashley Quarter Horses, Forsyth, MT

Meeting called to order by Board member Britt Kissock-Robinson (Vice President Josh Shengle joined meeting). Michele S. made a motion to approve the August 14, 2024 minutes. Tracy B. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Finance: Laura distributed electronic copies of the financial report. Tracy B. made a motion to approve the financials as distributed. Second to the motion by Tracy T. Motion carried.

Old Business: Laura reported a Committee member reviewing the new kiosk noticed some discrepancies with the number of fonts used. Laura also reported the producer had some questions regarding photos, the resolution and making sure we had permission to use photos. Producer will also send a final quote and Laura will forward onto the Board. Additions to the layout would be adding Amateur, Versatility Ranch Horse and Recreational Riding. Producer will also make sure the final product is complete for use at the Nile.

Committee Reports:

Show Committee: Laura reported there have been two prospective judges for the Big Sky Classic who have signed contracts awaiting final dates from AQHA.

Nile Committee: Marilyn reported the Nile is expecting an agricultural group to attend the Show. Draft agenda shows the group coming to the VRH Show and then onto some of the surrounding ranches followed by a dinner with a select group from the Nile. Awards have been monogrammed and the invoices submitted to Nile for reimbursement. Hi-Point awards are again Cinch jackets sponsored by Franks Herefords and On-Point Performance Horses. Award bags are being put together for individual class winners. Location of the booth at the Nile will be next to the raffle filly inside the front doors in exchange for selling tickets on the filly. Booth at the Horse Palace will be manned Sunday through Wednesday. Additional help is needed to get the Metra booth in place and manned. YTD approximately \$6,700 pledged for cash sponsorships for the VRH Show. Coolers for the hi selling yearling and weanling have been sponsored and are being embroidered. Marilyn suggested having a couple of bags for raffling with the foreign group coming in for the Show. Rita reported she has some AQHA promotional products coming in for the Show. Britt has volunteered to help at the Metra and will meet with Rita for the manning schedule at the Metra done. Lesli also reported AQHA would like Montana Professional Horsemen as ambassadors at the Show. MT Professional Horsemen Gary Cooper, Tony Jackson, Laura and Marilyn will assist with this. Melissa reported their ranch will be on the foreign agricultural tour. She also will help if needed at the Metra. Melissa also invited anyone in the Forsyth area to join the ranch tour.

Marketing/Membership Services: Rita reported MQHA has 106 annual or renewal members with 36 Lifetime members (3 new with one prospective), and 17 MQHYA. Laura would like the Board to consider offering previous advertisers a discount to re-advertise with the 2025 Directory. Laura will put together a proposal and present to the Board at the October meeting. Suggestions from the Board include; Michele suggested possibly offering a discount for a 3 year commitment. Lesli suggested a 10% discount for past advertisers. Julie suggested a 10% discount at the Big Sky Classic with a paid ad for the 2025 Directory. Melissa suggested display ads that pop-up on the website. Targeted locations were also suggested. Laura will contact Melissa for more details regarding this idea.

Amateur: No report.

Youth: Michele S. reported the response letter has been sent to the Rider family regarding the AQHYA World fees. Laura reported that two \$500 college scholarships have been awarded to Sydnee Wilson and Sidney McCasland for the 2024-2025 school year.

Breeders/Ranching: Lesli reported she attending the AQHA Executive Meet and Greet in South Dakota. Carl Stressman gave Lesli his secretary's phone number to get Montana breeders list. One suggestion Lesli is she would like to do a podcast about Montana Breeders with a Breeder every month or every other month. She is planning on videoing the ranch including their stallions and get for the podcast. Lesli would like to start with the Wold Ranch in Lodgegrass, the donors of the Nile raffle filly. Ultimate goal would be to get those breeders more involved with MQHA. Nile would like to do a Stallion Auction with proceeds going toward Nile horse events. Lesli has a contact to do drone footage for this project. Laura suggested utilizing AQHA Affiliate Funding for this project. Lesli will get financial information to Laura for Affiliate Funding form submission. AQHA Marketing Committee has split into groups. Lesli is part of the Affiliate portion of this Committee. Lesli would like to take this project globally to the remainder of the AQHA Committee. Melissa also volunteered to do some drone footage at their ranch when the International Agricultural group visits Montana during the Nile.

By-Laws: No report.

Legislative: Britt reported she has sent an email to Laura with a full Legislative report which will be an addendum to these minutes. Laura will forward onto the Board. Briefly, Britt reported about the relief program for Miles City and Stevensville as well as some additional agricultural information.

Recreational Riding: Julie reported a portion of the Affiliate Funding will go toward the Poker Ride at the 406 in May 2025. Julie suggested doing this ride at the same time as one of the MQHA functions at the 406. Concerned with a possibility of a lack of assistance for this event. Julie will talk with Cathy Dekker about the Sparks Some Fun if it will again be at the 406 Arena having the Poker Ride in conjunction with that Show..

Awards/Points: Laura reported Michele McGuigan is working on the awards and the points have been tabulated and to the audit committee's compilation.

Region 2: Tracy B. reported she did not attend Region 2 this year but knew that Rita was there and was in charge of the consignment booth at the Show. There has not been a meeting since the show. Julie reported the Show was well attended. Britt thought the consignment booth was well represented and the class sizes were good sized. Laura reported she also was in

attendance and thought that the lack of speakers in the barn was again an issue with some of the contestants. Tracy B. reported that the Region 2 Committee has approached the Fair Board about this concern with no assistance from the Board. Britt reported there were a few issues with the location and she had heard the Show might be moved to Nebraska. Tracy B. will check and report back to the Board at a later meeting.

2024 Convention: Laura reported that Tyrell suggested changing the schedule slightly to include a Member Appreciation hour prior to the MQHA Board meeting Friday evening and moving the General Membership Meeting earlier in the day on Saturday. Ruth indicated the reason for having the General Membership meeting earlier in the day on Saturday would eliminate reports from the Amateur, Youth and Show Committee meetings as well as the vote for President and Vice President of MQHA. Julie related Tyrell also suggested a round table discussion for anyone in attendance at the Convention. Timing for the round table was tabled for the Convention Committee's next meeting.

Hall of Fame: No report.

New Business: Laura would like the Board to consider changing insurance providers utilizing MQHA member Lorna Sheridan with Northwest Insurance.

Laura also mentioned the lack of promotional MQHA materials for the Nile and VRH Show. Suggestions from the Board include pens and Julie sent a picture of a small leatherman with logo. Pizza cutters, etc. Laura will get prices sent to the Board for an email vote. Julie will forward promotional information to Laura and then onto the Board. Michele suggested post-it notes. Via text messages: Tracy T. made a motion to purchase four items from 4Imprint: lip balm, post-it notes, magnet calendars and knives not to exceed \$1,000(+/-) in price. Second to the motion by Britt. Motion carried. Laura will get the items ordered and delivered for the Nile and VRH Show.

Laura reported via an email from Nancy Weaver the horse numbers from AQHA: "I would like to share that the AQHA has 232,162 members, and in Montana, we have 4,800. The national AQHA horse population is 2,635,071, and Montana has 96,732. Nearly as many horses as people in Montana. I also found interesting the total value added to the US economy through the indirect effect of the equine - \$177 billion. Horse enthusiasts' direct contribution to GDP, in their pursuit of horse events and recreation, is over \$74 billion."

Correspondence: Laura has forwarded a email from Shelly Spears at AQHA regarding the PAC.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bakker
2024 Secretary/Treasurer

**Next meeting – October 15, 7:30pm Table Meeting; Miller's
Horse Palace, Laurel, Montana**

Legislative Addendum:

MONTANA PROPERTY TAX REBATE

The Montana Property Tax Rebate claims must be filed by October 1, 2024. If you qualify, file a claim at tap.dor.mt.gov (paper forms will be available at MTRevenue.gov or by calling (406) 444-6900).

This rebate is for eligible Montana taxpayers who were billed and paid property taxes on their principal residence for the 2023 tax year. The rebate is the lesser of \$675 or the 2023 property taxes paid.

FROM GOVERNOR GIANFORTE'S OFFICE

September 16: Governor Greg Gianforte issued two executive orders declaring disasters related to severe weather events in **Miles City, Hamilton, and Stevensville**. The cities, counties, and electrical cooperatives have expended considerable amounts of resources and manpower in taking all possible actions to respond, mitigate, repair, and alleviate the situation. For nonemergency public inquiries on restoration and assistance, please call 406-258-4636.

[https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/executiveorders/View?doc=EO-10-2024 Disaster Declaration Miles City Severe Thunderstorms SIGNED 24091.pdf](https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/executiveorders/View?doc=EO-10-2024%20Disaster%20Declaration%20Miles%20City%20Severe%20Thunderstorms%20SIGNED%2024091.pdf)

[https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/executiveorders/View?doc=EO-11-2024 Disaster Declaration Ravalli County Severe Thunderstorms SIGNED 24091.pdf](https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/executiveorders/View?doc=EO-11-2024%20Disaster%20Declaration%20Ravalli%20County%20Severe%20Thunderstorms%20SIGNED%2024091.pdf)

September 16: Along with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Governor Greg Gianforte announced a **record-setting oil and gas lease sale** on state trust lands, totaling \$2.85 million in revenue. Funds generated by leases on state trust lands contribute to the education fund for the state. Oil and gas leases are comprised of a set annual leasing fee per acre, plus a one-time competitive bid, known as the bonus amount. If the leases are developed and produce oil, they generate additional royalty revenues.

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/News/dnrc-news/2024-Third-Quarter-Oil-and-Gas-Lease-Sale-Results>

September 12: Governor Greg Gianforte issued the following statement in response to an announcement from **Stillwater Mining Company** that it will lay off miners: "Today's decision by Stillwater Mining is a significant blow to hardworking Montana miners, their families, and our communities. The State of Montana will bring to bear every available resource to help these workers and their families. ...The ongoing regulatory assault on mining and natural resources has burdened this critical sector of our economy. The fact is the United States cannot and should not have to rely on our foreign adversaries for energy, critical metals, or other resources. The United States must support these industries, and their workers, with a policy dedicated to making our nation energy and resource dominant and independent."

STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES

September 16: As of September 16, three statewide ballot measures were certified to appear on the ballot in Montana on November 5, 2024:

- **CI-126 The Montana Top-Four Primary Initiative:** This ranked choice voting would amend the Montana Constitution to create a top-four primary system for elections for governor, lieutenant governor, state executives, state legislators, and congressional offices, in which all candidates would run in one primary and the top-four vote getters would advance to the general election regardless of party.
[https://ballotpedia.org/Montana CI-126, Top-Four Primary Initiative \(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_CI-126,_Top-Four_Primary_Initiative_(2024))
- **CI-127 Majority Vote Required to Win Elections:** This initiative would amend the Montana Constitution to require that a candidate for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state legislature, and congressional offices must win a majority of the vote (rather than a plurality) to win the election as provided by law. The state legislature would need to pass a law providing for an electoral system with majority vote winners. Examples of majority-vote systems include runoff elections and ranked-choice voting. Currently, state offices in Montana are elected in a plurality system, where the candidate with the most votes wins, even if the candidate did not receive a majority of the vote.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_CI-127, Majority Vote Required to Win Elections Initiative \(2024\)#Text of measure](https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_CI-127,_Majority_Vote_Required_to_Win_Elections_Initiative_(2024)#Text_of_measure)

- **CI-128 Right to Abortion:** This initiative would amend the Montana Constitution to provide an explicit state constitutional "right to make and carry out decisions about one's own pregnancy, including the right to abortion," and allow the state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, except when "medically indicated to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient." Currently, the Montana Supreme Court has held that the state constitution's right to privacy includes a right to abortion until fetal viability.

[https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_CI-128, Right to Abortion Initiative \(2024\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Montana_CI-128,_Right_to_Abortion_Initiative_(2024))

- **Supporters:** Sen. Jon Tester (D), Candidate Ryan Busse (D), ACLU of Montana, Forward Montana, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana, the Fairness Project, Think Big America.
- **Opposition:** Gov. Greg Gianforte (R), Candidate Tim Sheehy (R), Montana Family Foundation.

OVER 300 FARM GROUPS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS FARM BILL

September 10: Citing worsening economic conditions impacting the nation's farmers, over 300 national and state groups, including groups representing farmers, livestock and specialty crop producers, lenders, and other essential stakeholders in agricultural communities across the U.S., sent a letter to congressional leaders calling on them to pass the farm bill before year's end. The farm bill is typically passed every 5 years and supports the nation's farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards through a variety of safety net, credit, conservation, and other critical programs. The law was originally scheduled for reauthorization in 2023. Last November, Congress voted to extend the existing legislation to September 30, 2024. As the farm bill has faced delays, producers across the country have experienced headwinds, ranging from extreme weather to high input costs to uncertain global demand to supply chain disruptions. Since the beginning of the year, the harvest price of major crops traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and the Intercontinental Exchange have fallen by an average of 21% while total production costs remain near record levels.

<https://www.agdaily.com/crops/over-300-farm-groups-call-on-congress-to-pass-farm-bill/>

LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT

September 13: Through local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices, farmers often enroll in the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) – a tool that delivers economic relief to producers and their families who have been impacted by adverse and unpredictable events that cause cattle deaths and financial losses. However, under current law, LIP payment rates – which cover 75% of the average fair market value of livestock – are only updated once a year, which is a lengthy timeframe that does not accurately reflect volatile market conditions in the livestock industry. This law is especially devastating for small and family-owned cattle operations that do not have the financial flexibility in their budgets. The ***Livestock Indemnity Program Improvement Act*** would cut the annual timeframe down to every 3 months - allowing the free market – not government bureaucracy – to determine the amount that cattle producers can be reimbursed to cover losses out of their control.

<https://feenstra.house.gov/media/op-ed/livestock-indemnity-program-needs-improvements-new-farm-bill-could-provide>