

AGENDA: MHIB Board Realignment
Tuesday, January. 13th, 2026, 10AM - Noon, MD Dept. of Agriculture

- I. **Welcome:** Kevin Atticks MDA Secretary of Agriculture & Governor's EO: Maryland Horse Industry Strategic Plan
- II. **Introductions:** MDA Staff, Board Members
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Nov. 2025
- IV. **Overview of MHIB & MDA:** Cassie Shirk, MDA Assistant Secretary
- V. **Government Relations & being an MHIB Board Member:** Cassie Shirk, MDA Assistant Secretary
- VI. **Animal Health** – Dr Jennifer Trout EHV Update
- VII. **Inspections & Licensed Stables**—Ellen James & Peggy Morgan Stable Inspectors
- VIII. **MHIB Mission**—Anne Litz

The Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), as outlined in Article 2-708.1 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, promotes equestrian activities and the use of horses for recreation in Maryland and abroad. It accomplishes this through:

 - a. Promotional efforts that raise awareness and visibility of the equine industry,
 - b. Educational and research projects that benefit the industry,
 - c. Strategic initiatives, such as developing economic impact reports, career programs, stable planning, and marketing incentives to support the local horse economy,
 - d. Advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor regarding industry matters, and
 - e. Acting as the licensing authority for Maryland horse stables.
 - f. MHIB's Vision and Mission:
 - g. Increase public awareness of Maryland's equestrian traditions
 - h. Highlight the positive impact of horses on Maryland's quality of life
 - i. Boost the visibility of equestrian activities statewide
 - j. Serve as a key resource for Maryland horse owners
 - k. Promote high standards of horse care in Maryland through horse stable licensing*, educational programs, and grant funding
 - i. All Maryland stables that solicit the general public, and have ONE or more horses - and either give lessons, board horses, have a rental service, offer Equine Therapy or Therapeutic Riding, or are a rescue or sanctuary stable, are required by the State of Maryland to obtain and maintain licensing through the Maryland Horse Industry Board.

IX. MHIB Ongoing and Current Projects

- a. Maryland Horse Industry Strategic Plan
- b. Touch of Class Submissions Form
- c. The Horse Park System in 2025 – Website Plans
- d. Maryland Horse Farm Tour/Preakness Festival
- e. Horse Discovery Center Network*

- f. Growing Licensed Stable Network
- g. Contractual Hire
- h. Horseland at State Fair
- i. MD Horse Forum: held every 5 years
- j. International Involvement: MD Sister States, EU Farm Tour, Working the Secretary of State, Embassy Night at WIHS and Preakness
- k. MHIB Grants Program \$30,000
- l. 2026 Maryland Horse Industry Career Program addition

X. Committees: Setting the Focus & Assignments

- a. Nominating
- b. Budget Review
- c. Health Advisory Committee
- d. Grants
- e. Equine Welfare
- f. Strategic Planning
- g. Marketing/Horse Pak System
- h. Horse Discovery Centers
- i. Horseland

New Committees

- j. Western Riding
- k. Sport Horse Committee
- l. HOW (Horse Outreach Workshop)

XI. Discussion

- a. Horse Industry Day
- b. [Becoming an American Horse Council Member \\$365 a year](#)
- c. Horse Park Website Plan
- d. Maryland Tourism Council Day
- e. Horse Discovery Center Outreach – Report Survey

XII. 2026 Committees

1. Health Advisory Committee:
2. Marketing Committee:
3. Budget Review Committee:
4. Board Planning Committee:
5. Grants Committee:
6. Equine Welfare Committee:
7. Performance Horse Committee:
8. Nominating Committee:
9. Horse Forum Committee:
10. Horse Discovery Centers Program:
11. Horseland Committee:

XIII. Public Comment

XIV. ADJOURNMENT