

AGENDA
MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
MHIB Board Meeting: August 21th, 2025 11am In-Person
Maryland State Fair

The Meeting started at 10:05am

Meeting Start: Call to Order: Sheila Curry, Chair

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Cassie Shirk(MDA), Jenile Tapscott, Lisa Watts, Jennifer Sulin, Carolyn Mackintosh and Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane

Unable to Attend: Adrian Ford III, Erin Ochoa, Connie Sawyer, & Dr. Kathleen Anderson

Also in Attendance:, Dr. Jennifer Trout(MDA), Fran Burns, Bob Raymond, Bev Raymond, Kathleen Tabor, Katherine Rizzo, Jane Siegler, Sabrina Dobbins, Cindy Miller, Ann Merryman, Aheshamak Dahn, Mike Reuter, Christine Rete , Cricket Goodall MHBA, Eleanor Alberts, Becca Tucker, Maryanna Skowronski, Alexandria Lui, Trish Brown, Fritz Widaman, Harrison Palmer (MDA), Tara Cullen, Nyasia Burton Ellen James & Peggy Morgan Stable Inspectors, Anne Litz, Executive Director MHIB

Welcome by Fran Burns:

Fran Burns, President of the Maryland State Fair, welcomed attendees and shared updates. She highlighted this year's 144th Fair, noting seven days of live racing, including the Shine Again Stakes and a memorial race honoring Mr. Costa Sr., whose family restaurant now operates in the Grandstand. The Fair continues its nonprofit mission, welcoming over 500,000 visitors annually and awarding scholarships on College Day.

She reported on facility updates, including construction of a new Farm & Garden Building (opening November), temporary relocation of exhibits to the Cow Palace and 4-H Building, and the launch of the ULearn Center featuring a "HorseLand" section. Burns emphasized Thoroughbred Day's focus on aftercare and the Fair's unique role as the last fair-based Thoroughbred racetrack east of the Mississippi. She encouraged attendees to explore the many agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, and the recently signed museum in the Miller Moser Building.

Horseland:

Anne Litz praised the leadership of Christine Reter, and Michael Reuter in Horseland and for taking it to the next level without reach events throughout the year. Christine and Michael invited everyone to visit Horseland after the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes from the June 17th 2025, Lisa Watts made a motion to approve, seconded by Jennifer Sulin. The board approved

Tribute to Beverly Raymond read by Kathleen Tabor, written by Ross Peddicord – Attached

MDA Report from Assistant Secretary Cassie Shirk:

Cassie notes she and Steve Connelly will be meeting with the MHIB Budget Committee next month to address budget-related questions. Dr. Burk asked about updates on the new UMES Veterinary School. Dr. Trout and Cassie reported that conversations are ongoing with Dean Dr. Robertson to create partnership and internship opportunities, including student rotations at the Salisbury Animal Health Lab for poultry and large-animal necropsy training. Maryland will participate in the Farm Journal Foundation's rural vet shortage study program, with Dr. Trout and Nathan from the Vet Board assisting. A new pathologist has been hired in Salisbury (joining from Washington State), enabling the lab to resume necropsy services.

STABLE LICENSING:

FY 26 Licensing Renewals. New Stables: 820 Stables were up for renewal FY2026, and the Renewal Period opened June 1st 2025. Emails from OneStop went out on June 1st and from MHIB's Gov Delivery on June 2nd. 77 Paper Applications were sent out to the stables that paid by Check last year.

751 Stables have renewed as of Aug 18th.

For Stables that have not renewed, they have been send multiple emails and a letter to those that paid by check. with a reminder of the Late Fee being applied as of Sept 1st.

The Late Fee has been successfully deployed the changes related to the late fee and the Horse Stable SKU descriptions into Production this month and will apply \$100 to any stable that renews past Aug. 30th

Stable Inspector Reports:

Peggy Morgan – Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since Aug. 18th,, she has inspected 64 Stables

Bay View Farm: Relocated from Carroll County to Anne Arundel County. Previous property possibly sold. Posh Pony Trails: Formerly Posh Pony Riding in Brookville; now relocated to Burtonsville. Initially reported closed but re-licensed after advertising trail rides. Bachelor Equestrians: All horses in good condition. Seven Acre Farm (St. Mary's County): Newly inspected, well maintained, positive review. Weldon Farms: Recently purchased, still in progress. Needs fence and barn improvements; planning pony operation. Family also purchased another farm previously owned by a cancer patient (now deceased) and will seek licensing. WestBrooke Horse Farm (Brian Westbrook, Brandywine): Restarted operations with summer camps for children. Positive engagement noted, especially with grandparents enrolling participants. Plans to expand programming. Little Drummer Farm (Dorchester County): Well-maintained, positive report. Little Horse Farm (Montgomery County): Up and running, planning to board horses and offer lessons.

Complaint Inspection:

Lost and Found Donkey Rescue: Complaint investigated (from a former volunteer via Vet Board and Animal Control). No violations found. Facilities and animals (including older pony, donkeys, and wild BLM burros) in good condition. One severely foundered donkey humanely euthanized; another improving with farrier care. Presence of geese tied to a rescued donkey; managed appropriately. All animals appear healthy, with proper vaccinations and hoof care. Vet Board dismissed complaint; operation in compliance.

Ellen James - Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since Aug. 18th, she has inspected 38 stables:

Inspection Updates Summary

Ray Anne Farm – Previously had unsafe stall mats; owners leveled them within 60 days. Good compliance. Young Man's Fancy Stables & Rum Shaker Farm – Initial inspections showed no salt provided for horses. Rum Shaker: Now provided salt in 10 of 12 stalls (photos sent); two stalls still pending confirmation. Young Man's Fancy: No photo evidence provided yet; owner injured and unable to place salt blocks—encouraged to seek help from boarders. Still unresolved. These Acres (Street, MD) – New small boarding farm. Conditions looked very good. Still Pond Stables – Recently licensed. Installed new shelter in a previously unsheltered field. Now compliant. Logan's Legacy (Darlington) – New small boarding farm. Approved without issues. Just a Dream Farm (Frederick County) – Small therapy farm, not a boarding operation. Approved without difficulty. Blue Bottom Farm – Issues with fencing (down to one strand, below standards). Directed to add another strand within 30 days. Also required to clean built-up manure from run-in shed. Reinspection scheduled. Breezy Hill Stables – Large rescue with 300+ horses. Only minor issue: some disintegrating stall mats needing replacement. Overall positive. Buck Forest Farm – Major concern. Found two thin horses and one emaciated horse with a severe hoof crack. Veterinary checks ordered; awaiting records or confirmation of treatment. Follow-up required.

New Hiring Process

State is on a hiring freeze. Competitive Contractual Hire for MHIB, Registrar/Administrator/Outreach Position, Work with the MDA's HR to update and post the position, Timing is to be determined

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE 2024:

- September – No Board meeting, Committee Meetings, invitation to attend MARYLAND HORSE AND PONY SHOW 14900 Pennsylvania Avenue Upper Marlboro, Maryland, MD 20772 Dates: 9/10/2025, 9/11/2025, 9/12/2025, 9/13/2025, 9/14/2025 Location: Prince George's Equestrian Center & Show Place Arena
- October - Thursday, 16th – in person, Dr. Anderson & MD 5 Star
- November -TBD Virtual
- December – Grants Committee

Event Report – Bender Series Panel

Title: In Case of an Equine Emergency: Emergency Preparedness for Horse Owners

Date & Location: Thursday Aug 7th, Maryland Horse Library & Education Center

Hosts: Maryland Horse Foundation, University of Maryland, Maryland Horse Industry Board

Sponsor: Bender Series

The Maryland Horse Industry Board, in partnership with the University of Maryland and the Maryland Horse Library & Education Center, welcomed Animal Health for an outstanding and well-attended panel on equine emergency preparedness. This session was the most popular of the Bender Series to date, drawing strong community interest and participation.

Animal Health's presentations provided valuable insight into the Maryland Department of Agriculture's critical role in safeguarding the state's equine ecosystem during emergencies, while highlighting ways the public can contribute to preparedness efforts.

Program Highlights:

- Barn Safety – Prevention Starts Here: Stable Inspectors Peggy Morgan and Ellen James shared the most common safety violations found in Maryland stables, offering practical "simple fixes" to prevent major problems.
- First Aid & Triage: Dr. Brooke Harper outlined essential contents of a barn's emergency medical kit and key indicators for calling a veterinarian, emphasizing the importance of daily observation.
- Capacity Building – Maryland's Animal Emergency Network: Karen Clark detailed how horse owners can join, train, and assist in statewide equine emergency response efforts, including evacuation coordination and mutual aid.
- Equine Ambulance Response: Evie Hickman explained when and how an equine ambulance is deployed, showcasing specialized rescue equipment and concluding with a live trailer demonstration.

Special thanks were extended to Dr. Heather Dearie, Lori Russ, and Olivia Huber for transporting and setting up the Animal Health trailer, enabling attendees to explore the equipment firsthand.

The program's success has generated requests to bring the panel to Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Dr. Trout, Karen Clark, and Anne meet to discuss expanding the series and have sent out a survey to gauge interest.

Maryland State Fair - Christine Reter, Michael Reuter and Evie Hickman invited guests to visit Horseland after our Board Meeting. over est. 50,000 (MD State Fair est) people come through the Horseland Tent to meet the horses, make stick ponies, learn about horse anatomy as well as horse disciplines and ride our very own "Little Secretariat". The fairgoers also got to learn more about the horse industry and how to get involved with horses. The Horseland Tent is in addition to the seven days of Thoroughbred racing, race track tours, daily horse and breed shows, rodeo, horse pulling contests, and the pony and mule shows already featured at the state fair. We have some of our Horse Discovery Center's participate in helping people discover their love of horses. Visitors of all ages make 2,000 MHIB Stick horses – year after year.

USLGE Germany Trip 2025 – Stone Slade & Cindy Harris: Harris Paints. Under an USLGE Grant that was submitted in 2024 and granted in 2023 for travel will take Stone Slade of International Marketing and Cindy Harris of the famous Harris Paints to Germany for the European Paint Horse Championship this week to market Paint Horse Genetics internationally.

October 2025 Hauts-de-France: Equine Panel/Seminar

"The Future is Now" – International Horse Veterinarian Panel. Monday Oct 20, 3–5 PM at Prince George's Equestrian Center Exhibitor's Lounge, with reception to follow. Speaker and topic planning underway with Dr. Kathleen Anderson and Dr. Claire Scicluna. Integration with Vice President Decoster's visit; Sister States coordination on broader delegation schedule.

Alexandria Liu reported on Maryland's sister state, Hauts-de-France, will send a delegation to Maryland this October during Maryland Horse Month. The visit, led by the region's Vice President, will include economic, diplomatic, educational, and horse industry engagements. Highlights include attendance at the Washington International Horse Show and participation in an International Veterinary Forum, where Maryland and French veterinarians, including Dr. Kathleen Anderson and Dr. Claire Scicluna, will collaborate and showcase Maryland's leadership in veterinary innovation and international equine connections. In addition, separate itineraries are planned for higher education and K-12 delegations, with the possibility of an equine contingent undertaking industry visits. Maryland stakeholders may also be asked to host aspects of the delegation during their stay.

2025 GRANTS PROGRAM: The FY2026 Grants Cycle is open and online! We have 6 submitted for far and it closes Oct 4th. Grants Committee will meet in late Nov or early Dec. to review and award grants. MHIB will most likely have to award less in grants monies this year with State Budget cuts and rising costs. Funding for these grants and the Maryland Horse Industry Board is provided by the Maryland Feed Fund, which collects \$6 on every ton of horse feed sold in the state. Since the fund was established in 2002, the Board has awarded nearly \$700,000 in grants to more than 450 projects.

MD HORSE PARK SYSTEM UPDATES:

Marriner Update:

The Horse Park System Website is in the works and should be live by the end of September. While there have been some unforeseen issues, we are moving forward and hope to launch time for Horse Month. We have requested care packages from 3 different vendors to ensure stability in the site moving forward. Print Ads and Digital will run as well.

- The Equiery (October 2025 & March 2026 issues)
- American Eventing Championship Magazine (October 2025 issue)
- The Chronical of the Horse (October 2025 & April 2026 issues)
- Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred (October 2025 & April 2026 issue)
- 2026 Destination Maryland Guide

Prince George's Equestrian Center: MD Horse & Pony Show Dates: 9/10/2025, 9/11/2025, 9/12/2025, 9/13/2025, 9/14/2025, Capital Challenge September 25 - October 5, 2025, WIHS October 20-26, 2025. Sheila Curry reports that PGEC is making additional improvements to the center and compliments the staff for embracing and learning about the horse industry. Update from Sheila Curry: Proceeds from the 2025 Maryland House and Garden Tour in Prince George's County will fund a memorial at the Equestrian Center honoring Dorothy Troutman, who was instrumental in the Center's founding and passed away at age 101. The memorial is still being planned, with options including a mural, plaque, or artwork in the Showplace Arena lobby. The Maryland House and Garden president and CEO recently

presented the donation check to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, who were enthusiastic about supporting the project. Completion is anticipated within the next year.

Fair Hill: Maryland 5 Star October 16-19,

Trish Brown provided an update on upcoming special events, highlighting the fifth Maryland 5 Star in October and new racing opportunities. On August 30, racing will return to the turf course in the special event zone with free entry, sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association. The card currently lists five races, with the possibility of splitting the fifth if entries allow, for a total of six; all races will be a mile and a half on the turf with a flag start. Pari-mutuel wagering will be offered, providing access to purses and marking an important step toward the future use of the racetrack after a five- to six-year effort. The event will serve as both a milestone and an opportunity for industry and attendee feedback, with gates opening at 11:00 a.m. and post time at 1:00 p.m., and planning already underway for an expanded Memorial Day race meet next year.

<https://www.racesatfairhill.com/>

GATES OPEN 11am FIRST RACE – 1:00 P.M. TOTAL PURSES \$150,000

ENTRIES CLOSE 11:00 A.M. – MONDAY, AUGUST 25.

SCRATCHES BY 11:00 A.M. – TUESDAY, AUGUST 26.

There will be 40-45 minutes in between each race

- a. MD Horse Library & Education Center: The Maryland Horse Library & Education Center has a full schedule of upcoming programs. In September, a talk entitled Ponies: You Have to Love On October 11, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Maryland Million, there will be an exhibition and programming to honor founder Jim McKay, followed later in the month by a Halloween-themed talk on Sagamore's famed Gray Ghost, Native Dancer. In November, Dr. Carl Mellow from the University of Maryland will speak on the history of the horse in warfare, timed with Veterans Day. December will feature the annual holiday open house the week before Christmas. Additional programming in development includes a vendor series on taxes, as well as a reimagined Maryland Horse Career Program with broader scope and new collaborations to better serve students and young people exploring equine-related careers. Updates will be posted on the Library's website, social media, and email list.
- b. Pimlico Race Course: Preakness 2025. Racing returns to Laurel Sept 5th. until the rebuild. Pimlico Ceremonial Demolition Event Aug 21st. the Maryland Jockey Club service managing Laurel for the Stronach group until the new tracks up and running

October Horse Month – Cindy Miller from Tourism is looking forward to working with the Maryland Horse Park System as the website launches. She has support Horse Month from the start and looks forward to creating more Scenic Byways, and joining up coming meetings as Future October Horse Month Meetings to be merged with Horse Park System Meetings

The Proclamation request sent into MDA.

Green Advocates Group

Request for this group came from the last leadership meeting to advance environmental best practices in equine facilities; stakeholder list compiled.

EQUUS

Mustang Summits – Aug. 28th -31 Bel Air, Sept. 19 – 25th Wild Kid Acres, EQUUS Film Festival – MD Horse Library & Pikesville Cinema Nov. 13th-16th, Potential Iberian Horse Alliance event to PGEC in July 2026. Board approved small sponsorship of \$500 total.

The quorum of Maryland Horse Industry Board Members approved the current sponsorships.

Event/Sponsorship	Amount Asked Fy2026	Amount Given
WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE	\$7,500	\$ 7,500.00
MD 5 STAR AT FAIR HILL	\$7,500	\$ 5,000.00
HORSELAND/MD STATE FAIR	\$5,700	\$ 4,000.00
MARYLAND MILLION	\$4,700	\$ 4,700.00
GREAT FREDERICK FAIR	\$1,500	\$ 1,500.00
MD INT'L HORSE TRIALS (LOCH MOY)	\$1,500	\$ 1,500.00
MD HORSE & PONY SHOW	\$1,500	\$ 1,000.00
MD TOURISM CONFERENCE	\$1,650	\$ 1,337.50
MD HORSE BREEDERS ASSOC.	\$500	\$ 500.00
FAIR HILL INTERNATIONAL	\$1,100	\$ 600.00
CELEBRATION OF THE HORSE	\$1,000	\$ 1,000.00
MD HISTORIC HORSE TRAILS (Eastern)	\$630	\$ 630.00
SMADC BUY LOCAL	\$300	\$ 300.00
The Races at Fair Hill	\$1,000	\$ 1,000.00
Total	\$36,080	\$ 30,567.50

The MHIB Board still welcomes any sponsorship requests from other groups be sent Anne for MDA, & MHIB consideration.

1. Committee Meetings (12):
2025 Committees

- Health Advisory Committee: This committee is comprised mostly of equine veterinarians who meet bi-annually to discuss horse health issues. Dr. Kathleen Anderson(Chair), Carolyn Mackintosh, Adrien Ford III, Dr. Amy Burk. Sheila Curry (ad hoc) Representatives include: MHIB—Licensed Veterinarians, MD Racing Commission, Equine Academic Community, Racetrack Veterinarian, MHIB/License Stables, MD Horse Council, MD Veterinary Medical Association, USDA/APHIS, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, MDA—Office of the State Veterinarian and others as suggested by the Chair. Met March, 13th 2025
- Marketing Committee: The Marketing Committee is responsible for advancing the initiatives of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) by promoting awareness, engagement, and growth within the state's equine industry. Comprised of MHIB members and a diverse group of representatives from across the state, the committee convenes as needed to develop and implement marketing strategies, foster partnerships, and support programs that enhance the visibility and impact of MHIB's mission. Connie Sawyer (Chair), Erin Ochoa, Lisa Watts, Carolyn Mackintosh, Sheila Curry (ad hoc) Meeting almost weekly to developed the Horse Park System. Last met Wed Aug 20th to discuss website.
- Budget Review Committee: Comprised of three MHIB members only, they meet with the Executive Director on an as-needs basis to discuss the operating budget and set monetary priorities for MHIB initiatives. Lisa Watts (Chair), Jennifer Sulin, Dr. Amy Burk, Sheila Curry (ad hoc). To meet Sept 22nd with MDA.
- Strategic Planning Committee: This committee is responsible for guiding the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) in setting priorities and defining long-term objectives. Comprised of MHIB members, the

committee evaluates industry needs, assesses opportunities, and makes recommendations to the Board on strategic initiatives to pursue and support throughout the year. Through careful planning and alignment with MHIB's mission, the committee ensures that the Board's efforts are focused, effective, and impactful. Genevieve Macfarlane (Chair), Connie Sawyer, Lisa Watts

- Grants Committee: Once a year, the grants group meets to assess annual grants applications and make recommendations to the board about who will receive MHIB grant monies. Lisa Watts (Chair) Dr. Amy Burk, Dr. Kathleen Anderson. Meet in Dec.
- Equine Welfare Committee: This committee, which includes MHIB members, is responsible for promoting and ensuring the humane treatment, health, and overall well-being of horses within its jurisdiction. Erin Ochoa (Chair) Jenile Tapscott, Jennifer Sulin,
- Performance Horse Committee: This committee which includes MHIB members helps promote performance horses of all disciplines and their careers in Maryland. Jennifer Sulin (Chair), Connie Sawyer, Carolyn Mackintosh, Lisa Watts, Jenile Tapscott
- Nominating Committee: This committee meets as needed to elect board chairs.
- Horse Forum Committee: The Maryland Horse Forum serves as a day, every five (5) years, to hear from the entire Maryland Horse Industry. The Horse Board invited you to share your thoughts and solutions to current Industry concerns. Dr. Amy Burk (Chair)
- Horse Discovery Centers Program: This committee consists of two board members and inspectors to inspect and oversee the approval of new HDCs and review of yearling HDC reports and meetings.
- Horseland Committee: This committee is overseen by the MHIB Executive Director and is responsible for running Horseland at the Maryland State Fair.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTREACH/SPONSORSHIPS

- a. Horseland at the Maryland State Fair: August 21 - 24 | August 28 - September 1 | September 4 - 7
- b. European Paint Horse Championship: August 23 to 30, 2025, Germany
- c. The Races at Fair Hill – Aug 30th
- d. Maryland Horse and Pony Show: September 10th -14th 2025
- e. Great Frederick Fair: SEPTEMBER 12-20,
- f. Capital Challenge: September 24 - October 5,
- g. Loch Moy "Maryland International: Oct. 3-5th
- h. Tuckahoe Celebration of the Horse: Oct 11, Tuckahoe Equestrian Center
- i. Maryland Million LLC: Oct. 11, Laurel Park
- j. Maryland 5 Star Oct. 16-19, 2025 Fair Hill
- k. The Future is Now" – International Horse Veterinarian Panel. Oct 20th
- l. Washington International Horse Show: Oct 20-26, 2025 Prince George's Equestrian Center
- m. Maryland Outdoor Rec Summit: October 28-30, 2025,

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

From Industry Sector Board Members:

Equine Academic Community: Dr Amy Burk

The University of Maryland's Department of Animal and Avian Sciences is welcoming its largest incoming freshman class in two decades, reflecting growing student interest in equine and animal sciences. With seven teaching horses on campus and a newly hired assistant farm manager, the program is well-positioned for growth. Leadership, including the new dean and department chair, are supportive of expanding the current four-acre campus farm into a future Equestrian Center, a vision backed by letters of support from the Maryland Horse Council and Horse Industry Board. In addition, a strong wave of students applying to veterinary school are expressing interest in large animal medicine, further underscoring the program's momentum.

Thoroughbred Sector: Jenile Tapscott: Jenile encourages everyone to watch racing at the Big T during the fair and she will be sponsoring grooms awards. And she looks forward to Pimlico updates

At Large: Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane: Thanks everyone for all the events coming up and looks forward to working together.

MD Horse Council: Carolyn Mackintosh : Carolyn asked Jane Seigler to give a report to represent the MHC. Jane reported that the Maryland Horse Council recently welcomed new leadership, with Laura Lane Unsworth elected as president and a full slate of new officers effective July 1. The Council remains focused on legislative and regulatory issues, including active opposition to transferring jurisdiction over Sunday hunting from the legislature to DNR due to concerns over transparency and public access. Their PAC (Political Action Committee) continues to provide visibility in Annapolis, and members were encouraged to donate or engage directly with legislators, as personal outreach has strong impact. During the 90-day General Assembly session, the Council reviews all 2,500–3,000 bills, meeting weekly to determine positions and provide testimony on issues affecting the horse industry. The Council also noted ongoing attention to liability waiver legislation, which previously sought to exempt equestrian facilities and agritourism but has not advanced. Overall, the Council reiterated its role as the statewide trade association serving all sectors of the industry.

Assistant Secretary Cassie Shirk, made a note that the Horse Council does not always reflect the MHIB, as they are under MDA. The Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) must remain separate from the Horse Council when it comes to legislative advocacy because MHIB is a state program within the Department of Agriculture. Board members cannot represent MHIB when lobbying or voicing support/opposition on bills, since the agency itself does not take independent political positions. Instead, MHIB's legislative director will provide guidance each session on what roles board members can take. Members are encouraged to connect with legislators in a personal capacity or on behalf of other organizations they represent, but not to speak as if they are representing MHIB.

Organized Shows & Events: Sheila Curry looks forward to all the events to come

Trails & Recreational Riding: Jennifer Sulin

Jennifer highlighted recent outreach efforts, including a presentation at the Potomac meeting where they clarified the distinction between the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) and the Maryland Horse Council, explained licensing processes, and addressed suggestions such as considering oversight for farriers and massage therapists in the future. Attendees also expressed strong interest in advocating for a full-time state or contractual employee dedicated to equestrian needs, potentially funded through grants. Additionally, the speaker attended the first meeting of the new Barn Banter Club of Central Maryland, which drew 42 participants for a community networking and education event. Congratulations were extended to the Maryland High School Rodeo Association junior high team, which earned the Division 5 National Championship—a proud milestone for Maryland's youth riders.

Standardbred Sector: Lisa Watts:

The Standardbred sector reported that live racing at Ocean Downs concluded September 3, with horses returning to Rosecroft for the fall meet beginning September 15. Rosecroft's signature event, the Potomac Pace, will be held

November 2 at 2:00 PM post time, marking its 10th year; previous editions have included world-record performances. Maryland-bred stars such as Call Me Goo, the nation's top-earning trotter, were highlighted for their recent successes. Rosecroft also announced a new community partnership with the Fort Washington Food Pantry, which will relocate its operations to the track's former print shop space, strengthening ties between the horse industry and local community needs.

Humane Societies: Erin Ochoa: Could not attend, Licensed Stables: Adrian Ford III – not able to attend ,

Trade & Support Industries: Connie Sawyer: Could not attend, Licensed Veterinarians: Dr. Kathleen Anderson: Could not attend

Public Comment:

Harrison Palmer, Executive Secretary for the Maryland Agricultural Commission, Agricultural Fair Board, and Young Farmers Advisory Board, highlighted the importance of equine representation within the Maryland Agricultural Commission, where Ann Merryman provides valuable insight linking the horse industry to broader agricultural policy discussions. He emphasized that the commission's role is to represent industries, not individuals, and thanked Anne and the Horse Board for their collaboration. Palmer also reported on the Maryland Agricultural Fair Board, which receives \$1.5 million annually from the Horse Racing Special Fund, with \$800,000 distributed to support premiums, awards, and trophies at 54 fairs and shows statewide, including funding for the Maryland State Fair, Great Frederick Fair, and Pocomoke Fair. He noted outreach efforts such as the MDA's educational "True or Poo" game at the Cow Palace, designed to engage the public on agricultural topics. Palmer closed by thanking the equine community for its partnership and reaffirmed his role managing appointments for 143 boards and commissions within the department.

Sabrina Dobbins:

Sabrina from the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission reported that work is underway to update the Southern Maryland Equine Extra Guide, a directory covering barns, lessons, trail riding, therapeutic riding, hay producers, photographers, and other horse-related services across the five Southern Maryland counties (Prince George's, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Calvert, and Charles). Flyers are available for those interested can be sent.

Ahesahmahk Dahn:

Mr. Dahn spoke to his long involvement with the Horse Council and shared updates from City Ranch, highlighting its growing homeschooling program that combines outdoor horse activities with indoor academic learning. A major priority is the planned purchase of land currently leased for 5–6 years, with a fundraiser scheduled for November 9 to support the acquisition. The speaker also issued a strong challenge to the horse industry to become more engaged in Baltimore City, noting the opportunity to reach tens of thousands of children within a population of 500,000. Sheila Curry made note to follow up with a City Committee.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:40 PM by Amy Burk, second by Jenile Tapscott. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Litz, Executive Director

ADDENDUM on Request: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports and Bev Raymond's write up

FRIENDS & ASSOCIATES CELEBRATE
BEV RAYMOND AT AGE 85

Beverly Raymond, who earned recognition from three Maryland governors as well as national acclaim as a pioneer in equine welfare issues and the creation of organizations to improve horse industry conditions, turned 85 this year at her Orwell Farm in Upper Falls, Maryland.

In retirement she and her husband, Bob Kipp, still tend to three horses and their beloved dog Bailey at their 12-acre Baltimore County home, situated adjacent to the Gunpowder Falls State Park.

"Bev represents a long line of celebrated Maryland horse people like Col. Donald Thackerary, Elizabeth Madlener, Dorothy Troutman and Trish Gilbert, who devoted their lives to the betterment of our state's equine industry," said Kathleen Tabor, a longtime friend who served with Raymond as a member of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB), a program in the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

Raymond, in retirement, was not only appointed by Maryland Governors Martin O'Malley and Larry Hogan to consecutive 4-year terms on the board, but served as its state inspector for 33 years and was instrumental in 1984 in founding the Maryland Horse Council (MHC), the industry's umbrella organization representing all aspects of the equine industry, and MHIB itself in 1998. In the board's early years, she served as its volunteer executive director until Rob Burk was hired as its first fulltime paid director in 2003.

In creating those organizations she worked successfully to enact legislation that made malicious cruelty to animals a felony instead of a misdemeanor, to create MHIB as an equine commodity board and to establish its funding through industry contributions from feed manufacturers. She also developed programs to create the first Equine Volunteer Mounted Patrols in state and local parks and to expand the definition of agriculture in state regulations to include all horse operations.

For these efforts and for tirelessly serving as a leading advocate for setting standards in equine welfare, rescue and adoption programs and promotion of the industry, Raymond received the Maryland Horse Council's Anne and Gilbert Pumphrey "Unsung Hero" Award in 1999, was named MHC's Horse Person of the Year in 2011 and then in 2013 was presented the prestigious national Van Ness Award by the American Horse Council. Former governor Parris Glendening once named her one of "Maryland's Most Beautiful People" in a "Maryland You Are Beautiful" program.

In recent years she and Tabor certified stables to be part of MHIB's Horse Discovery Center program, a network of 42 horse establishments in 18 counties that welcome the general public to learn about and experience horses.

"Beverly quietly, consistently and persistently has worked to better the horse world in Maryland with no regard for personal recognition or monetary reward. Just for her love of horses, ingrained in her as a child, and for its horse people and traditions. If it were not for Beverly, there would be no Maryland Horse Council and no Maryland Horse Industry Board today. Period," said Crystal Pickett, founder and former publisher of *The Equiery*, a leading horse industry publication.

The late Rich Wilcke, first Maryland Horse Council president, wrote "Bev was the one constant presence throughout the years of the Maryland Horse Council being formed even as it went through significant changes in its structure and bylaws to become a more effective and representative organization. No one was ever more loyal, more appreciative of everyone who gave his or her time and more trustingly open to different ways to move the organization forward."

Wilcke also noted that "The public awareness of animal welfare related to horses has risen dramatically since MHC and MHIB were founded, as has the involvement of both private groups and state governments. Instances of tensions and accusations have also grown in proportion. In my view, Bev has been the model of how individuals in this field can be compassionate, knowledgeable and reasonable."

Added Jim Steele, former MHIB president, "Bev is the epitome of the lifelong, dedicated horse person. She grew up riding and working in what was then called 'hack stables' to owning her own lesson barn and becoming a certified

veterinary technician. Then she took that knowledge and experience and turned it into public service. She's done it all and along the way helped numerous people. Horses and horse lovers would be better served if there were more Beverly Raymonds."

Ross Peddicord, MHIB executive director from 2011-2024, said, "Maryland has been fortunate to have such leaders as Bev Raymond offering their vision and commitment. Bev was ahead of her time in bringing attention to equine welfare issues and laying the foundation for our organizations. Many changes occur over the years and it's important to remember and acknowledge her efforts."

Whatever Bev's role--as a trail rider, trainer, instructor, stable inspector, equine advocate, mentor, advisor, her family's foster sister, mounted volunteer, gardener on her own farm and chef—friends have always enjoyed Raymond's personal touch, especially when she provided refreshments at meetings from fried chicken feasts to homemade cakes.

"For over many decades, Bev has been the backbone of Maryland's equestrian community," Tabor said. "We just want everyone to know how much we love and respect her."

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