

MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Minutes of the Board Meeting
August 15, 2024

Meeting held by Teleconference

The meeting started at 10:06 A.M.

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Jay Griswold, Connie Sawyer, Neil Agate, Lisa Watts, Dr. Justin Sobota, Jenile Tapscott, Jennifer Sulin, Cassie Shirk

Unable to Attend: Erin Ochoa, Adrian Ford III

Also on the call: Donna Hill, Christine Reter, Stone Slade, Kim Egan, Jane Seigler, Streett Moore, Travis Gorleski, Lexi Danielson, Cricket Goodall, Quinn Reed, Fran Horgan, Sabrina Dobbins, Lara McPherson, Al Martinez, Keith Wills, Ali Sippel, Laura Unsworth, Maryanna Skowronski, Vicki Carson, Jim Steele, Eli Solomon, Sean Hubbard, Katie Hasse, Anne Torregrosse, Mei Collins, Ellen James, Peggy Morgan, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord.

Call to Order: Sheila Curry (Chr.) called the meeting to order.

Introduction of Attendees: **Donna Hill**, MDA Executive Associate who is lending support to the FY25 stable licensing process; **Stone Slade**, MDA International Marketing Director; **Christine Reter**, Co-Chair Horseland at the MD State Fair; and **Anne Torregrosse, Mei Collins and Ali Sippel** from Marriner Marketing.

1.Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2024 and July 9, 2024 meetings.

- On a motion by **Sheila Curry** and seconded by **Neil Agate**, the board approved both sets of minutes.

2.Monthly Budget Report:

- The board was emailed the MHIB budget template sent by MDA Fiscal Services. This is the Closing Report for FY24. Our carryover going into FY25 is **\$69,607**. That does not include the First Quarter FY25 Feed Fund revenue of approximately \$50,000+ and ongoing FY25 stable license fees that are currently being collected. So that additional funding is available. During FY24 we spent the \$104,000 that we received from the State in unexpected General Funds. It was used to pay for salaries and an inspector's new car. It could not be carried over to FY25 so it was necessary to spend the total amount in FY24.
- On a motion by **Neil Agate** and seconded by **Sheila Curry**, the board voted to move the financial report into the record.

3. Presentations:

- **STONE SLADE, MDA International Marketing Director, Presentation on Irish Trade Mission:**
Stone attended the 7-day trade mission with **MDA Sec’y Kevin Atticks** on a grant from USLGE. **Kim Egan**, President of the Md Horse Council, also attended but funded her own trip. Highlights included meeting with the Irish Secretary of Agriculture; Sport Horse Ireland officials; the Irish American Harness Racing Festival in Northern Ireland; officials from County Cork, Maryland’s Irish Sister State; and the Millstreet International 3-Day Event, which offered a rider exchange with the Maryland International 3-Day event at Loch Moy Farm in Adamstown, MD. Stone thanked **Fran Horgan**, MHIB’s Irish representative, for compiling a full and extremely beneficial itinerary; and serving as tour ambassador throughout the mission.
- **SHEILA CURRY, adding Pimlico Race Course as the 4th Pillar to the MD Horse Park System:**
Although this addition was not defined in the Maryland Horse Park System (MHPS) study released by the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) on August 31, 2015, board chair **Sheila Curry** felt it would be invaluable to add the newly-imagined Pimlico venue to help us continually grow, market and promote Maryland’s horse industry.
This initiative followed a conversation with Governor Wes Moore’s staff at the 2024 Preakness Stakes and a subsequent meeting with **Greg Cross** and **Marc Broady** of the Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority. At that meeting on July 18, MHIB expressed the desire to work collaboratively with the Thoroughbred racing sector when possible to promote horses in Maryland. We then formally invited MTROA to join the Maryland Horse Park System at the Pimlico site if approved by the MHIB board at its August 15 board meeting.
Sheila made the motion, it was seconded by **Connie Sawyer** and approved unanimously by the board. MTROA has accepted the proposal. Ross is contacting the MD Stadium Authority so they are aware of this initiative.
- **ROSS PEDDICORD, MHIB executive director since Jan. 5, 2011** formally notified the board that he is retiring Dec. 31, 2024. **Sec’y Kevin Atticks** and **Ass’t Secy Cassie Shirk** have been notified and approved the move. Board chair **Sheila Curry** will now meet with MDA officials to determine next steps.
- **CHRISTINE RETER, Co-Chair with Evie Hickman and Mike Reuter** of Horseland at the MD State Fair, gave an overview of preparations for Horseland. Complete details are included in the Committee update section of the minutes.
- **DR. AMY BURK, JEN REYNOLDS & ANNE LITZ, Co-Chairs of the 2024 MD Horse Forum:**
The Co-Chairs gave a debriefing of the August 8 event which, despite poor weather due to a tropical storm/hurricane, drew approximately 250-275 attendees to the day-long conference at McDonogh School. The event went smoothly during 12 break-out sessions, was well attended and provoked thoughtful discussion on strategies for the industry to address during the next five years. The Co-Chairs are working on a very complete and thorough written report which will be presented to constituents, industry and public officials this fall.

- **KIM EGAN, MD Sport Horse Registry and Licensing Discussion:** Kim Egan, President of the MD Horse Council, gave a thorough overview of the MDA equine trade mission meeting with Sport Horse Ireland officials and the many initiatives they have adopted to register, sustain and market Irish-bred sport horses throughout the world. Kim said there are many ideas that could be adopted in Maryland to recognize the state’s sport horse breeders and elevate the industry. She urged MHIB to convene its Sport Horse Registry Committee to discuss these initiatives; and for MHIB to include sport horse breeders in its licensing program.

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **STABLE LICENSING:**

FY 25 Licensing Renewals. New Stables: So far **671 Stables have renewed (618 online, 53 hard copy)**. Donna Hill at MDA is processing hard copy licenses.

FY25 Licensing Still Need to Renew: We have **33 closed** that were due to renew in 2024; and **147 that have still not renewed from FY24.**

FY25 Licensing Review meeting: August 23,2024

Stable Inspectors Peggy & Ellen, Registrar Donna, Ross, and Anne will meet August 23rd to review stables that have still not renewed and any new ones in the pipeline. The ones in non-compliance from FY24 have been sent a hard copy postcard and 3 Email Notifications and there has been a hard copy mailing to all of those who renewed on paper last year. In addition, the team will discuss stables that are facing possible penalties and/or suspension for failing inspections and other infractions. Recommendations will be brought to the board after the August 23rd meeting.

FY26 Proposed Licensing Legislation:

MHIB will submit legislation to add a Late Fee (starting Sept 1st, 2026) which is in line with MDA's legislative priorities for FY 2026 and has been supported by Ass't Sec'y Cassie Shirk and MDA legislative director Rachel Jones. This legislation is similar to an MDA bill that was proposed in FY25.

- **PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Due to holding virtual meetings this summer, we are rescheduling TRRC for Sept & of course keep the 5 Star in Oct. The other farms Rutledge Ridge & Oak Spring, which were initially on the schedule, can be moved to next year.

Thursday, Sept. 12	10 AM	TRRC (Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center), Glenwood
Thursday, Oct. 17	10 AM	Fairhill Equine Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Kathy Anderson (in conjunction MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill), Elkton TBC
Tuesday, Nov. 12	10 AM	Virtual– Google Meets Teleconference
December 2024 – Grants Committee Meeting		

Rutledge Ridge Farm, Fallston Bridleless demo Melanie Ferro-Wise and Oak Spring Equestrian, Woodbine Working Equitation demo, TBD in FY25

- **MD Horse Park System Updates: Prince George's Equestrian Center:** WIHS tickets are now on sale. MHIB is helping to sponsor the Groom's Party at the MD Horse & Pony Show at PGEC on Sept. 11 – 15. **Fair Hill:** Tickets for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill Oct. 17-20 went on sale May 20. DNR held a well attended listening session on July 16 concerning the future of the Fair Hill Special Events Zone (SEZ). DNR plans to hire a manager to oversee SEZ. **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** MHLEC continues to hold a robust schedule of monthly talks and has lined up a presentation about MHIB on September 16.
- **UPDATE on Committee Meetings (10): MHIB Health Advisory; Budget; Grants; MD Horse Forum; HOW; Tourism Grant; Equine Welfare, Sport Horse Registry, Western Riding BOARD MEMBERS--Please let Sheila know if you would like to join one or more of these committees**

CURRENT ACTIVITY: (7)

MHIB Health Advisory—DR. JUSTIN SOBOTA (Chr.)—*Met on March 7, 2024 for annual mtg.*

Budget: JAY GRISWOLD, (Chr.), Neil Agate, Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk, Lisa Watts – *Met on June 21, 2024 to review FY25 budget*

MD Horse Forum—DR. AMY BURK, (Co-Chair with Anne Litz & Jen Reynolds)—*Forum held August 8, 2024—next Forum 2029*

HOW (Horse Outreach Workshop)—DR. AMY BURK (MHIB representative)—*HOW meets monthly*
Horse Park Tourism Grant: CONNIE SAWYER, (Chr.) Sheila Curry, Cricket Goodall, Sandy Turner, Kristin Hanna (Anne & Ross staff) plus Marriner team. *Meets August 15, 2024 and August 22, 2024*

Horseland 2024 MD State Fair: Christine Reter, Evie Hickman, Mike Reuter (Co-Chairs) with help from industry partners/sponsors MTHA, MHIB, MHBA, Cloverleaf/Rosecroft and Don Litz, Hope Birsh, Bobby Lillis, Elaina Thomas, April Smith, Ahesamahk Dahn, and HDCs Renee Dixon, Roxy Baldwin, Candy Cole and Brenda von Rautenkrantz.

Grants: LISA WATTS (Chr.), Sheila Curry, Neil Agate, Dr. Amy Burk, Dr. Justin Sobota – *Annual Meeting in Dec 2024*

MEETINGS TBD: (3)

Equine Welfare: ERIN OCHOA (Chr.), Peggy Morgan, Ellen James, needs to be re-established; has not met since pre-Covid – Meeting TBD

Sport Horse Registry: SHEILA CURRY (Chr.), Connie Sawyer, Kim Egan, Jane Seigler, Kirsten Green (RRP), Peggy Morgan, Ellen James, needs to meet and be established— Meeting TBD

Western Riding: JENNIFER SULIN (Chr.), Sheila Curry, Jessie Flores, Annie Trice, Dee Dee Bandy, Lynda Arnold, Ellen Schultz, Lyn Fick, Corey Jackson, Julie Murphy, Cindy Harris, Chad Walker, Tina Sherman, Ray Parker, Morris Hall, Robin Vandervoort, Ellen James, Peggy Morgan – Meeting TBD

- **Horseland at 2024 MD State Fair: CHRISTINE RETER filed this report:**

Horseland preparations are well underway and we are about 10 days away !

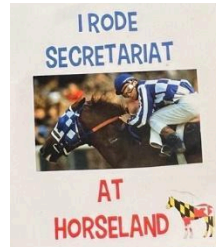
We are back in the big tent (60*90) with new and exciting things.

Horseland will run 10am-6pm August 23rd-25th, August 30th- September 2nd and September 6th-8th.

Horses will be provided by Maryland Miniatures, City Ranch and HDC's; High Ridge Farm, Rolling Hills Ranch, Sweet Rock Stables, and vR Growth and Learning Center

Horseland Activities

- Betting Corner- New sponsor shirts for first time bettors!
- Secretariat- Visitors can ride the Equicizer modeled after Secretariat. This area also provides information on Secretariat and this year we have fun stickers that say "I rode Secretariat at Horseland"
- Learning Centers
 - One area will be dedicated to different types of tack and equipment
 - One area will be dedicated to horse disciplines as well as parts of the horse, teeth etc. We will have our horse and foal skeleton back this year as well!
- Stick Pony Making- Always a crowd favorite, we will once again do stick ponies. We offer for visitors to make them with us or offer kits that they can take home with them. We will make/give away about 2,000 horses!
- Track Tours- We will again offer behind the scenes track tours 3 times a day on race days. Sign up has already gone out and people have begun to sign up. This is always very popular, and we have had to move from 1 golf cart to 2!
- Booths- MHIB, Maryland Horse Breeders, and Equine Rescue Ambulance
 - New this year we have a Standardbred exhibit coming with life-size horse and virtual reality harness racing.



New this year we have also increased our signage through the fair! We will have Horseland signs at every main entrance. Signs by kiddie land directing them to Horseland and Horseland signs up high so people know where to find us. In addition, we have partnered with the U-Learn Center to cross advertise. We will have a Highland Cow and Llama in Horseland directing people to U-Learn to see more animals and they will have signage to come see horses at Horseland. Lastly we will be taking the minis on walks with their custom saddle cover that says "Follow me to Horseland". We also can't forget our brand NEW Horseland temporary tattoos!

We are looking forward to a great 3 weekends!

- **MD Horse Park System Tourism Grant Committee: Marriner Marketing** from Maryland has been awarded the contract. This opportunity was provided by a \$250,000 grant provided by the Maryland Office of Tourism. The Horse Park executive tourism grant committee (**Connie Sawyer, chair; Sheila Curry, Kristin Hanna, Cricket Goodall, Sandy Turner, plus Anne & Ross**) meets with the Marriner team for introductory meetings August 15 and 22.

- **MD Horse Forum De-Briefing:**

The fifth MD Horse Forum on August 8 at McDonogh School had **350 RSVPs with 250-275 attendees** – the weather caused by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Debby was a detriment to attendance, but there was still an excellent turnout throughout the day. About 100 people attended the Post-Forum reception which featured a mower giveaway by Equine Equipment. Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds & Anne Litz** organized the event.

Speakers included:

- **Amy Burk**, Vice-Chair of the Horse Board
- **David J. Farace**, Headmaster of McDonogh School
- **Charlotte Davis**, Executive Director Rural Maryland Council, presenting sponsor
- **Kevin Atticks**, Secretary of Agriculture
- **Kim Egan**, President of the Maryland Horse Council
- **Julie Broadway**, President American Horse Council
- **Lisa Watts**, MHIB Board Member & Director of Operations, Rosecroft & **Gina Maybee**, Executive Vice President Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assoc.
- **Jeff Newman**, CEO the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill
- **Marc Brody**, MTROA Executive Director, give update on Pimlico Plus and future of MD racing
- **MyRaceHorse, Theresa Wiseman** representative for the Touch of Class Award
- **Cricket Goodall**, Executive Director of the MD Horse Breeders, MD Million and MD Horse Foundation
- **Emma Owens Equine Equipment** who reminded folks about the B&D Builders Reception
- **Miranda Grabill, McDonogh Equestrian Program**
- **3 Moderators from UMD, 6 scribes, UMD Students**

Each of the 12 sessions had a representative number of attendees and ensuing discussion. The Forum Report will hopefully be ready by the end of September, but with everyone's workload, it is too soon to set a date. But the goal is by October Horse Month.

- **New MD Trail Riding Guides—Saddle Up Maryland**, a directory of 22 Maryland Public Trail Riding stables is at the printer. Content and design was provided by **Dianne Dougherty** of Trail Rider's Path (TrailRidersPath.com). It will also be available online. A total of 8 MD Welcome Centers and a dozen Maryland tourism offices/centers have requested copies. Dianne's next project is updating the **Guide to Maryland Horse Trails**, providing a map and contact information for approximately 105 Maryland public access horseback riding trails.
- **October Horse Month:** MHIB is working with Maryland Tourism to promote October Horse Month activities and once again have **Gov. Wes Moore** proclaim October as Maryland Horse Month. New developments this year: Debut of new Public Trail Riding Stable brochure; completion of self-guided driving tour of public MD equestrian sites; immersion of **Marriner Marketing** into the Horse Month activities. Possible issuance of 2024 MD Horse Forum report.

- **2025 Grants program:** MHIB started accepting FY25 grants applications on August 1. Due date is Oct. 4, 2024. So far, we have received one grant application.
- **Touch of Class—Jessica Flores Johnston, (MHIB licensed stable) Rusted Star Ranch, Berlin, MD:**
Jessie is a 2024 national ladies champion of the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA). The award will be made at the Celebration of the Horse on Oct. 5 at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center.

The two titles she won at the 2024 CMSA Jeffers National Championship were:
2024 CMSA Reserve National Champion Cowgirl on Better Built, a 12 year old dun gelding
2024 CMSA AQHA Ladies Open Division Champion on Katie Star Time, a 5 year old sorrel filly

Additional wins she secured this year on these two horses include:

BETTER BUILT

Northeast Regional Reserve Overall & Overall Cowgirl Champion (Moosup, CT)
Connecticut State Championship Reserve Cowgirl Champion & Top 3 (Moosup, CT)
Virginia State Championship Overall Cowgirl Champion (Doswell, VA)
Maryland State Championship Top 10 (Dillsburg, PA)
Save the Tata's Benefit Shoot Cowgirl (Doswell, VA)
Warmer Winter Pasture I Shoot - Overall Shotgun & Reserve Cowgirl (Green Cove Springs, FL)

KATIE STAR TIME

Connecticut State Championship Overall Shotgun Winner (Moosup, CT)

5. Stable Reports—see Addendum for Full Reports

6. Administrative Reports

- **At Large (Jay Griswold):** Jay continues to advocate for a return to racing at Fair Hill and also sits on the event committee of the MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill.
- **Equine Academic Community (Dr. Amy Burk):** UMD will be in full operational mode at the MD State Fair. Jen Reynolds oversees a lot of the 4-H, youth and various departmental activity. School begins soon on the UMD campus. Then October Horse Month starts in full swing.
- **Licensed Veterinarians (Dr. Justin Sobota):** Dr. Sobota was recently named to the State Vet Board. He now sits on two boards—MHIB and the Vet Board. He said he is fine serving in both capacities as long as it is OK with MDA and the Governor's Appointments Office. He encouraged folks to vaccinate their horses for Potomac Horse Fever. There have been two cases in Maryland this summer. The vaccine isn't perfect, but it will protect horses for 3-4 months.
- **MD Dept. of Agriculture (Cassie Shirk):** MDA is preparing legislation for the FY25 session, including a provision for MHIB to adopt a late licensing fee. Cassie attended the MD Horse Forum and praised the organizational committee for a job well.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate):** The upcoming Photo Issue of *The Equiery* is one of the most popular of the year. The July 19 polo match at the Seneca Polo Club had a good turnout and raised funds for the MD Horse Council. Once again, the *Retired Racehorse Makeover* will be

contested in Kentucky during Maryland's October Horse Month, but has drawn at least a dozen Maryland competitors.

- **Organized Shows & Events (Sheila Curry)**: Sheila hopes for a good turn out of entries for the horse shows at the Maryland State Fair. She is working with **Lexi Liu** from MD Sister States to host an "International Night" reception for the DC diplomatic community and other dignitaries on Oct. 26 during the Washington International Horse Show.
- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts)**: The Standardbred community enjoyed being a major sponsor of the 2024 MD Horse Forum and appreciated a sense of collaboration between different sectors of the industry. Lisa recently set up a call with **Jenn Sulin** of the MHIB Western Riding Committee and **Connie Sawyer** to explore Western riding opportunities at Rosecroft. Harness racing is now taking place at Ocean Downs. The Rosecroft Fall meets starts Sept. 16. Racing will be conducted on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The Potomac Pace is set for Nov. 17.
- **Thoroughbred Sector (Jenile Tapscott)**: Jenile has been serving as the primary caregiver for her mother who has been in ill health. But she is keeping up to date on Thoroughbred racing activities. Pimlico Race Course will be shuttered for training starting Sept. 1 to accommodate razing barns and construction of new facilities. All horses will now be stabled at Laurel for the foreseeable future. There is no word yet on site selection for a new Thoroughbred training center.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer)**: Connie served as an effective industry expert during break out sessions of the MD Horse Forum. She is an integral part of planning and organizing the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill.
- **Trails & Recreational Riding (Jennifer Sulin)**: The MHIB board meeting on Sept. 12 will held at the **Therapeutical Riding & Recreational Center (TRRC)** in Glenwood. Jenn leases part of the facility for her **Plot Twist Farm** lesson, boarding and training operation. We will be able to visit her stable and learn more about her operation.

7.PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Former MHIB board chair **Jim Steele** called in and complimented the new board members for doing "a great job" and complimented the organizing team for presenting an excellent fifth edition of the MD Horse Forum.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Peddicord, Executive Director

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached