

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

Meeting held by teleconference. Anne Litz served as Call Moderator.

The meeting started at 10:04 A.M.

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

Also present: Marianne Roth, Lisa Challenger, Kim Egan, Mike Hall, Bob Schiewe (new dir. Cloverleaf), Al Martinez, Dr. Marla Stevens, Cricket Goodall, Mike Hopkins, Keith Wills, Stacie Benes, Ray Parker, Susie Husk, Jane Seigler, Marissa Melzer, Cindy Miller, Laura Unsworth, Vicki Carson, Ellen James, Peggy Morgan, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord.

Call to Order: Sheila Curry called the meeting to order.

Introduction of Attendees: Anne Litz conducted a roll call of attendees and introduced **Marianne Roth** and **Lisa Challenger**, representing the Wicomico Horse Center.

Memorial Tribute to former MHIB board member Dorothy Troutman, owner of Glennwood Farm, who passed away at age 101.

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2024 board meeting conducted in person at the MD Dept. of Agriculture.

- On a motion by **Lisa Watts** and seconded by **Neil Agate**, the minutes were approved by the board.

2. Monthly Budget Report:

- The MHIB budget template compiled by MDA Fiscal Services was emailed to the board for review prior to the meeting.

Revenue to Date	\$ 237,405.00 (includes the \$92,971 carryover we started the year with + \$144,434 in Feed & Stable Licensing revenue collected in the first half of FY24).
Expenses to Date	\$ 137,243.00
<u>Total Balance on Hand</u>	<u>\$ 100,162.00</u>

The one time General Fund (GF) appropriation of \$100,000 that we received for FY2024 was applied to our account by MDA Fiscal Services. That appropriation paid for our

salaries for the first half of FY24 so it wipes the slate clean and we start as of Jan. 31 with our \$92,971 carryover from FY23 plus the revenue we've generated of \$144,434.

We anticipate further collection of Feed Revenue of at least \$100,000 during the second half of FY24. MDA Fiscal projects we will have a \$70k carryover going into FY25.

We are in good shape as long as we control expenses. The report was moved into the minutes.

3. Presentations:

- **Status of Wicomico Horse Center (Marianne Roth & Lisa Challenger):** The Wicomico County-owned property in Salisbury is part of the former Winter Place Show Stable, home in the 1970s of such champion hunter/jumpers as Jet Run and Gozzi. It was developed by Ocean City developer James Bradley Caine in 1972. After Caine's financial reverses, it was purchased by the county in 1993. The equestrian component now comprises 18 acres, 50 stalls, and three rings including an irrigated grass ring. It is home to the Eastern Shore Horse Show Association which runs a regional program and weekend shows. "It is a cool venue to show in the summer," said **Marianne Roth**, a WHC official. However, entries are falling short of covering expenses including payment of an annual fee of \$30k to the county. There was discussion how MHIB might help. The group can apply for a grant from the MHIB grants program, although that would be a small grant. **Al Martinez** from the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center suggested looking into partnership possibilities with his organization and trying to promote more entries.
- **Status of Potomac Horse Center:** The main arena and stables have been condemned as structurally unsound and have been closed. The estimate for repairs is \$3-5M The horses and lesson program have moved to the center's other two indoor arenas. The current operator has been requested to submit business and fundraising plans to the center owner, Montgomery County Park and Recreation Foundation, by March 15. MHIB has been requested by Montgomery County Park & Recs to suggest a panel of experts to review the situation.
- **Study of All Breeds Registry/Licensing Program:** It was decided to establish a committee to study adding horse breeding farms to the MHIB licensing program after the Md Horse Council suggested the proposal and discussed it with MDA and MHIB personnel. Folks at the meeting interested in joining the committee include **Kim Egan (MHC Pres.), Sheila Curry (MHIB chair), Connie Sawyer, Jennifer Sulin, Marianne Roth, Vicki Carson, as well as MHIB staff and (not present) Drs. Daryll Insley and Elizabeth Callahan.**
- **Possible Strategic Plan Study of the MD Horse Park System by the MD Stadium Authority/Crossroads Consulting:** Ross suggested applying for a grant from the Rural Maryland Council to commission a strategic plan for the current/future operations of the MD Horse Park System as well as the non-racing sector of the MD horse industry in general. This study would be similar to the current one conducted by MSA/Crossroads Consulting for the state's Thoroughbred racing industry. Preliminary discussion followed.

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **Stable Licensing: FY24:** So far 798 stables have either renewed or applied for new licenses out of 797 licensed in 2023. Nine stables still need to renew their 2024 licenses. Our inspectors/staff are making phone calls and farm visits and sending notices to urge the late renewals to comply. **FY25:** Testimony has been given & prospects look favorable after MDA sponsored a bill to initiate a \$100 late fee in FY25 for stables that are 60 days Past Due in renewing their licenses. Anne, Peggy & Ellen are working with a new **ONE STOP** online state licensing system that will go into effect on June 1 for FY25 stable licensing. Anne gave a report at the meeting.
- **2024 Meeting Schedule:**

A Doodle Poll indicated that board members favor meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We decided to alternate between Tuesdays and Thursdays during the second week of each month. The March meeting will be virtual on Tuesday, March 12. In Person meetings start again in April. We can visit various farms and locations in person throughout the state. Possibilities include **Daily Dose Feed/Celebration Farm**, a new feed manufacturer, in April in Libertytown; **Rancho Los Magueyes Ortiz** rodeo /events site in Odenton in May; **Clarity Farm** in Davidsonville with multi breeds and disciplines in June; **Ironstar Outpost**, a horse bed and barn in Howard County, in July plus many others.
- **The MHIB Health Advisory Committee** meeting is set for Thursday, February 29 at 10 AM by teleconference. **Dr. Justin Sobota** is chair. A meeting notice has been distributed. There was an excellent turn out for the **New Board Member Orientation** on January 30 at MDA. Former board member **Kathleen Tabor** donated copies of her book ***Maryland Equine Law*** to the new members.
- **Trackview Celebration honoring Seven former board members:** Seven of our former board members collectively accumulated over 100 years of public service to MHIB, including **Dorothy Troutman** who recently passed away at age 101. She served on MHIB until she was 94 and is largely responsible for the construction of the Prince George's Equestrian Center. We are hoping her daughters **Sandy Wiseman** and **Diane Hickok** will join in the celebration when we honor **Jim Steele, Karen Fulton, Bev Raymond, Karin DeFrancis, Eli Solomon and Kathleen Tabor**. The event will be at Rosecroft, starting at 5:30 PM on Thursday, March 21 in the Third Floor Clubhouse dining room. The program includes dinner, presentations and a race named in honor of MHIB. Rosecroft is donating the space and helping with expenses. Invitations will soon be distributed. Board member **Lisa Watts** is our generous host.
- **2024 Grants program:** Payments are in the process of being paid to the 35 grant recipients.
- **Horse Discovery Center (HDC) Network:** Anne expects a good turnout to hear **Shari Jaeger Goodwin**, an acclaimed business strategist, executive leadership coach, author and horsewoman speak at the HDC annual meeting at MHLEC on Wednesday, March 6, 2024.
- **MD Horse Park System: Prince George's Equestrian Center:** Washington International Horse Show was named one of the Top Ten Horse Shows in the U.S. in 2023 by the National Hunter Hall of Fame. Congratulations WIHS!! Ross contacted **Steve Carter**, operations manager of MD National Capital Parks & Planning, managers of PGEC, to receive notice when the job is posted

for equestrian events manager at Prince George's Equestrian Center. Steve said he would keep us informed. **Fair Hill: Chris Grieco** has been promoted from "acting" to permanent park manager at Fair Hill. The MARS Md 5 Star at Fair Hill will be held Oct. 17-20, 2024. There will not be steeplechase/flat racing at Fair Hill this year, but meetings are planned with DNR and Fair Hill stakeholders to address issues so that racing can resume in 2025. **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** MHLEC continues to hold a robust schedule of monthly talks and events.

- **MD Horse Park System Tourism Grant Committee: Pamela Sams-Turner**, procurement manager for MDA, will shortly post an RFP (Request for Proposals) to accept proposals from Advertising/Public Relations agencies to work with our marketing committee to brand/advertise/market our Maryland Horse Park System. This opportunity was provided by a \$250,000 grant provided by the Maryland Office of Tourism.
- **2023 American Horse Council Economic Impact Study:** The new economic impact study was released by the American Horse Council on January 31, 2024 and showed that Maryland's horse industry grew 38% between 2017 and 2022, from \$2.1 billion to \$2.9 billion. In addition, the industry's direct contribution to Maryland's GDP grew by 40.5% between 2017 and 2022. The industry is responsible for 28,434 jobs and wages totaling more than \$1.24 billion. Most significantly the Competition Sector grew 37% to \$370M from five years ago and Recreational Riding increased 20.6% to \$461M. Altogether Racing (TB, SB, steeplechasing) accounted for \$869M total economic impact and non racing accounted for \$870M total economic impact, making racing and non-racing equal 50-50 partners in the industry. Additional economic impact comes from "working horses" and "non assigned" sectors of the industry.
- **Maximizing the Good Economic News/2024 MD Horse Industry Day:** MHIB helped lead a meeting of Maryland horse industry partners on Feb 12 to discuss ways to maximize the good news from the AHC economic impact study. MHIB will distribute a news release and stats sheet through MDA Communications; discuss ways with **Cricket Goodall** from the MD Horse Foundation to host a legislative walkabout; and sponsor an informational booth/table at the Rural Maryland Council rally on Lawyers Mall on Maryland Day, March 25.
- **2024 MD Horse Forum:** On Oct. 26, Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds and Anne Litz** conducted a site visit to **McDonogh School**, which has a large riding program and is experiencing unprecedented growth of its equestrian department. Between 500-600 students ride in the McDonogh program and the school is building a third indoor arena. We have a major financial commitment of \$25K from the **Rural Maryland Council** to help fund the one-day event, which has been held every five years since 2004. The co-chairs are working out details with McDonogh officials and are planning to hold the event August 8, 2024. About 300 folks attend the Forum so it requires a large meeting space, catering and parking facilities.
- **Western Riding Committee:** Potential guest speakers at upcoming meetings could include **Johnny Williams** from J Bar W Ranch rodeo in Johnsville; **Elisha Iager** from the Lady Longears Ranch and Arena complex in Woodbine; and **Tina Marie Sherman**, who runs the Western Horse Shows of Harford County (WHSHC).
- **Three Potential Upcoming Summits:** Three MDA departments have expressed interest in partnering with MHIB to hold three one-day summits/conference in the coming year. 1. **MDA**

Marketing is interested in holding a Buyer Grower summit for **Hay and Straw producers**. 2. **Sec’y Atticks, Executive Direction**, is interested in holding a summit for **Maryland’s Latino horse farmers**; and 3. **Nutrient Management** would like to hold a conference to discuss nutrient management plans with horse farmers.

- **Touch of Class Awards**: It’s been suggested that **Ouisha McKinney** paint a Touch of Class plate for each of seven departing board members, who served when MHIB was instrumental in bringing two major international events to Maryland—the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill and WIHS and helped oversee growth from 545 licensed stables in 2011 to more than 800 in 2024. **Isabelle Brockett** is also one of our rising young stars.

5. Stable Reports: See Addendum

6. Administrative Reports

- **At Large (Jay Griswold)**: Jay is Emeritus Chair of the Fair Hill Foundation. He recently met with DNR Secretary **Josh Kurtz** to discuss Fair Hill equestrian operations, including the return of racing. An all hands on deck meeting is planned by DNR this spring to discuss the situation. Jay also expressed his admiration for the irrepressible Dorothy Troutman.
- **Equine Academic Community (Dr. Amy Burk)**: UMD has scheduled several educational sessions at the MD Horse Library & Education Center. There are also four equine seminars planned at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center in Cockeysville.
- **Humane Societies (Erin Ochoa)**: Erin noted there have been several Animal Control county leadership changes in Washington County (**Colin Berry**), Howard County (**Sheri Fox**), Prince George’s (**David Fisher**) and Montgomery County (TBD) & plans to work with all of them. Days End recently held a 5-day animal cruelty course with students from Missouri State University. Erin would also like to reinstate the MHIB Equine Welfare Committee, which formerly was part of the MHIB Health Advisory Committee but will now meet separately.
- **Licensed Stables (Adrian Ford III)**: Adrian operates the Big Easy Stable at Canterbury Farm in Potomac, MD.
- **Licensed Veterinarians (Dr. Justin Sobota)**: Dr. Subota discussed **Fluxergy** (fluxergy.com), a medical diagnostic company, which develops a number of rapid testing procedures for equine diseases, such as EHV-1.
- **MD. Dept. of Agriculture (Ass’t Sec’y Cassie Shirk)**: MDA is sponsoring HB234 and SB278 which includes initiating a late fee for stables that have not renewed their licenses within 60 days of the July 1 deadline. Testimony has been given, but the bills are still in committee.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate)**: MHC is keeping track on a number of bills including one sponsored by **Del. Sara Love** that would require minors to wear helmets while riding horses on public property. The February issue of MHC’s **Equiery** magazine features Year End Awards and the Events issue is published in March.
- **Organized Shows & Events (Sheila Curry)**: Sheila gave another shout out to Washington international Horse Show for being named one of the year’s 10 best horse shows by the National Hunter Hall of Fame.
- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts)**: So far there have been no cancellations and quality racing at the Rosecroft spring meet. The track offered to host the MHIB Trackage Celebration of former board members on March 21 and will schedule track tours and rides in the Starter Car. Lisa felt that among other topics, Sheila and a group from MHIB held a productive meeting to discuss hosting events featuring other equestrian disciplines at the track.

- **Thoroughbred Sector (Jenile Tapscott):** The MD Thoroughbred Racing Operating Authority has announced its Pimlico Plus plan and is preparing to have a bill sponsored in the General Assembly to move it forward.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer):** In order to continue to bolster the industry, Connie feels it's imperative that MHIB concentrate on promoting and giving support to the event venues in the Maryland Horse Park System. It's important that the MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill, Washington International Horse Show and other major events at Horse Park locations commission studies to verify their economic impact.
- **Trails & Recreational Riding (Jennifer Sulin):** Jenn has been attending the MHC Trails Town Hall meetings and hopes she can positively impact discussions concerning issues with bicyclists, adaptive bike users and developing a point person and/or group to meet regularly with DNR to discuss equestrian trail usage.

7. Public Comment:

- The Md Horse Council will hold a social at Loch Moy Farm in Adamstown from 6-8 PM on June 5, 2024.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:32PM

**Respectfully submitted,
Ross Peddicord, Executive Director**

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached