

MINUTES:DRAFT
MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
MHIB Board Meeting: June 17th, 2025 10am VIRTUAL
Tuesday, June 17 · 10:00am – 12:00pm
Time zone: America/New York
Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tvj-puqj-egg>
Or dial: (US) +1 401-375-9336 PIN: 514 509 490#

Meeting held over Google Meets

The Meeting started at 10:05am

Meeting Start: Call to Order: Sheila Curry, Chair ~ Call Moderator: Anne Litz

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Jenile Tapscott, Connie Sawyer, Erin Ochoa, Lisa Watts, Cassie Shirk(MDA), Dr. Kathleen Anderson, and Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane

Unable to Attend: Adrian Ford III, Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Jennifer Sulin, Carolyn Mackintosh

Also in Attendance: Stone Slade (MDA), Laura Lane Unsworth (MHC), Nancy Heller, Scot Evans, Christopher Weldone, Jennie Towners, Win Lewis, Myles Monroe, Christine Reter, Rachel Jones (MDA), Susanne Richards, Katie Hasse, Cricket Goodall MHBA, Neil Agate Laura Land Unsworth, Nathan Boan MDA, Al Martine, Eli Solomon, Harrison Palmer (MDA), Laura Hannan, Megan Tchinas, Ellen James & Peggy Morgan Stable Inspectors, Anne Litz, Executive Director MHIB

I. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes from the April 17th 2025, Connie Sawyer made a motion to approve, seconded by Jenile Tapscott. The board approved

II. PRESENTATIONS:

Laura Hannan Executive Director of the Fair Hill Nature Center

Originally from North East, MD, Laura Hannan has been Executive Director of the Fair Hill Nature Center since Jan 2022. Each year, the Fair Hill Nature Center serves 7,500 public elementary school students for hands-on environmental science field trips, inspiring stewardship and a love for the natural world.

Horseland Updates: Mini Horseland is on the move! – Christine Reter

Horseland has been busy the last few weeks spreading knowledge and joy about horses. Horseland has participated in several Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) events in conjunction with the Maryland State Fair. The BCPL kick off saw over 1000 people! Horseland also was involved in a training with Equine Rescue Ambulance. In this training we taught firefighters about horse behavior, and they worked on putting emergency halters on the minis. This was a great hands-on experience for them. We have many more events scheduled for this summer and look forward to continuing to spread knowledge and introduce people to horses.

Scot Evans with Green is the New Blue:

Creative Director R. Scot Evans has an extensive background in the equestrian world. Along with a training and coaching career, he was an “R” judge in the hunter, jumper, and equitation

disciplines for over 40 years, judging such major events as the ASPCA Maclay Finals and numerous other championship shows.

Beyond the show ring, Evans has worked in Sponsor Relations for Stadium Jumping, Inc., the Winter Equestrian Festival, and the Hampton Classic. Additionally, he was the producer of the Three Masters and American System of Forward Riding video series. Evans currently serves on the boards of the Aiken Horse Foundation and the Equestrian Aid Foundation, of which he was a founding member and past president.

Scot shared his background as a lifelong Marylander and horseman, with over 40 years in judging, clinics, and philanthropy. He co-founded Green is the New Blue, an initiative promoting environmental sustainability in equestrian sports, starting with reducing single-use plastics through the "Bring Your Own" campaign. The movement has gained national traction, especially among youth through partnerships with IEA and IHSA, and has drawn interest from broader environmental groups.

He highlighted opportunities to grow the initiative at Maryland's key equestrian events in October, including the Capitol Challenge, Fair Hill Three-Day, and Washington International Horse Show, aiming to inspire both environmental responsibility and greater public engagement with horse sports.

Saddle Up Scholars: www.saddleupscholars.org

Co-Founder, Executive & Managing Director Jennie Towner, Ph.D. and

Co-Founder, Educational & Development Director Win Lewis:

Unbridling Potential. Harnessing Education. Empowering Youth

Saddle Up Scholars provides educational services to young riders in existing equestrian outreach programs. Their mission is to make a direct and immediate impact in the lives of young horse enthusiasts from underserved backgrounds by harnessing the skills they gain from horses and channeling that into academic success. They gave the overview of their youth equestrian program, active in five cities: Baltimore (Schuster Foundation Riding Program and Charm City Polo), Philadelphia (Work to Ride), Memphis (BridgeUp GiddyUp), Albany, NY (Great Strides Equestrian Foundation), and Ocala (Second Chances Youth Program). They serve over 50 students, offering tutoring, academic tracking, and equestrian experiences, primarily targeting Baltimore youth. Maryland partners include five farms and Charm City Youth Polo, with outings to events like Pimlico and the Maryland 5 Star. Thanks to a Maryland Horse Industry Board grant, four top students are attending summer camp at Full Moon Farm. Slide Presentation was giving.

Sheila Curry requested a meeting about including Prince George's County in their reach and what steps that would take. Susanne Richards of MAEF also requested a meeting to explore partnerships.

The Maryland Jockey Club Update:

Dr. Anderson was congratulated for her recent appointment to the board of the new The Maryland Jockey Club. She shared that the board is currently focused on establishing governance, bylaws, and oversight for racing in Maryland, including the Pimlico rebuild and the training center. Dr. Anderson, who serves on the Facilities Committee, noted that construction plans are still being finalized but may be available to share within 30 to 60 days. She agreed to help facilitate a presentation to this group once the plans are public.

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES & DISCUSSION – Executive Director Reports –

1. Stable Licensing Update: FY26 Renewals: Opened June 1st

- a. 820 Stables are 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.

273 Stables have renewed as of June 13th.

For Stables that have not renewed, email reminders will go out every 2 weeks with the reminder of the Late Fee being applied as of Sept 1st. Anne is working with OneStop and all the stables for as smooth a process as possible.

Peggy Morgan has stepped up to help enter paper applications, she is going above and beyond to help this June runs smoothly

Stable Inspector Reports:

- b. **Peggy Morgan** – Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since April 17th, she has inspected 69 Stables. Eight new stables were inspected and approved. Heleg in Montgomery County is seeking boarders, and Circle H Ranch passed inspection though the owner has significant work ahead to meet his long-term plans. Stillwater Refuge in Calvert County offers a large facility with trails and plans for equine-assisted therapy for abuse survivors and veterans with PTSD, with an emphasis on a low-key, supportive environment. Red Farm on the Eastern Shore provides equine therapy and youth mental health services. Marlboro Ridge was inspected following complaints, but no issues were found and the HOA was notified. Wide River Meadows in Queen Anne's County has been renovated with new fencing and run-in sheds. Happy Haven Pet & Equine Services in Pasadena offers pet care and riding lessons for children. Bravo Equestrian at Sunset Hill and a neighboring stable are pending follow-up inspections. Little Bennett Stable has been relicensed and is expanding, and From Farm remains a well-maintained, family-run facility focused on recreational riding for older adults.
 - c. **Ellen James** - Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since April 17th, she has inspected 35 stables. Ellen completed several stable inspections, mostly routine change-of-ownership checks with no significant issues. An update was provided on Misty Manor: In March, the facility failed inspection due to horses in poor condition, with significant weight loss reported. Animal Control intervened, working with the veterinarian to assess and treat the horses. A follow-up inspection in late April showed all remaining horses had gained weight and improved health, with one elderly horse humanely euthanized. The facility has since been approved but will continue to be monitored with at least four inspections per year.
2. **New Hire Process:** Contractor Position: State is on a hiring and spending freeze. Cassie Shirk reported on the States Hiring Freeze and Hiring Process. Sheila Curry requested a Budget meeting regarding FY2026. Cassie responded that she and Anne will meet next month to finalize the new position description, which will then be submitted to the Maryland Department of Budget and Management for classification. Once approved, the job will be posted publicly for two weeks, with promotion through MDA channels, MHIB social media, and shared with the board. The position will be funded through the Maryland Horse Industry Board budget. A separate meeting with the budget and finance committee will be scheduled to review the overall budget and discuss how this position fits within it.
 3. **Upcoming Meeting Schedule:** July Leadership Meeting- Baltimore Ag. Center July 23rd , August 21st 10am In-person Maryland State Fair, September – No Board

meeting, Committee Meetings, October Thursday, 16th – Fair Hill – in person, November -TBD Virtual. December – Grants Committee

4. **Preakness Festival & Preakness Recap** –Sheila Curry: The Preakness Festival was a huge success, with First Lady Dawn Moore leading efforts to re-energize the state around the Preakness and the future rebuilding of Pimlico. Events and celebrations took place across Maryland leading up to Preakness Day on May 17. There was significant enthusiasm and participation, with many organizations and farms eager to be involved, though time constraints limited some activities. The goal is to continue growing the festival annually, including possible events at Laurel Park, leading up to the grand opening of the new Pimlico facility. Special thanks were given to Janelle for her excellent work organizing the popular sunrise tours at Pimlico in the week before the Preakness.

Sunrise Tours: Jenile Tapscott: Reported that the Preakness Sunrise Tours started slowly due to rain but ended with very high attendance, especially on Thursday and Friday. Final attendance numbers are not yet available, but an estimated 500 local elementary school students participated over two days following the tours. Overall, the 2025 Preakness saw strong results, with betting reaching \$110 million—the second-highest total ever—and an 11.18% increase over last year, despite no Derby winner participating. Attendance was slightly down, but the event was still considered a success with plans to continue building on the momentum.

5. **Horse Farm Tours —**

- a. Preakness Festival Horse Farm Tours: The Preakness Festival Horse Farm Tours, sponsored primarily by Cricket Goodall, the Maryland Horse Breeders, and the Maryland Horse Foundation and supported by Maryland Racing Commission, Maryland Department of Labor and MHIB, were a huge success. Thanks were given for their financial and promotional support from within the industry. Building on that success, there are plans to organize a broader, statewide horse farm tour in September to celebrate all sectors of the horse industry, including lesson barns, therapeutic programs, performance horses, and breeding operations, leading up to Maryland Horse Month and the Maryland Million in October.
- b. An LOI for funding has been submitted to the Rural Maryland Council. Organizing the Spring Tour with 16 participating farms required significant time and resources, so expanding the tour would require additional support, clear planning, and local farm participation for tasks like signage and logistics. Tours would be free to the public, strictly for outreach, with no direct revenue. The ability to execute the expanded fall tour depends on staffing, funding, and realistic resource assessment after license renewal season. Further updates will be provided once more details are confirmed.
- c. Dr Anderson Recommended a Point person in each county

Sheila Curry asked Cassie was asked to for more details on state restrictions on receiving grant funds, including why certain grants cannot be awarded directly to the Horse Industry Board and whether partnerships with outside organizations, like the Maryland Horse Foundation, could help access future funding. This will be added to the agenda for the upcoming budget meeting.

6. **Equine & Education Workforce Meeting:** Susanne Richards – MAEF: In response to the Horse Forum Report, the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation requested a meeting with MHIB to emphasizing high school prep on college and career readiness. Current needs of the Horse Industry interns of Education and

Workforce were discussed and explored. Suzanne Richards provided an update on how Ag Tag funds support educational programs. She discussed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a major education reform focused on workforce readiness, including in agriculture and the horse industry. MAEF is gathering input on industry-recognized credentials needed to better prepare students for careers in various agricultural sectors. Suzanne thanked MHIB for helping convene a recent meeting and encouraged further feedback from the horse industry to share with the State Department of Education.

7. **U.S. Equestrian Federation:** Maryland International and Horse Trials at Loch Moy Farm in Adamstown, Maryland, has been chosen to host the 2026-2027 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships (CCI1*-Intro, CCIYJ2*-S, CCIU253*-S). The championships will be held June 25-28, 2026, and June 24-27, 2027.

8. **Grants FY2025**

- a. Reports are due by June 30th, 2025, 16 received
 - b. July Meeting to update Grant Process
9. **MD Horse Park System: Mariner Update** – Brand & Logo, Website – Connie Sawyer: Connie Sawyer, Chair of the Horse Park System Marketing Committee, provided an update on progress with Mariner, the firm assisting with branding and promotion. A logo and identity have been developed, and the next phase includes building the Horse Park System website and advertising materials. The website framework has started, with a goal to launch by September, followed by a small advertising campaign in October for Horse Month. The website will showcase key venues—Prince George's Equestrian Center, Fair Hill Special Event Zone, the Maryland Horse Library, and Pimlico—and eventually expand to include other public equestrian venues and events. The project aims to unite the horse community and tourism under one digital platform. Despite some challenges translating horse industry needs to Mariner, progress remains on track.
 - a. **Prince Georges Equestrian Center**—MD Horse & Pony Show, Capital Challenge, WIHS
 - b. **Fair Hill and Fair Hill Special Events Zone-** Maryland 5 Star, Hopeful for Fair Hill Racing in August, galloping and schooling on the turf course has gone very well so far.
 - c. **Maryland Horse Library Education Center** – MTCP Program, Bender Series. Cricket Goodall reported on the MHLEC The Maryland Horse Library continues to host monthly talks, including a recent discussion focused on women returning to riding. Efforts are underway to rebrand and expand the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program into the Maryland Horse Career Program, aiming to involve a broader range of industry partners and highlight diverse equine career paths. Recent events included a successful book and art sale before the Preakness and participation in the farm tours. A notable milestone was the first Maryland-bred winner of a steeplechase race at Laurel Park in 25 years. The library remains open and available for meetings during weekdays, with flexible scheduling for evenings and weekends. Additionally, a Celebrating Excellence Party will be held Friday night to honor Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred magazine's recent national award for General Excellence.
 - d. **Pimlico Race Course** — Preakness 2025. Racing at Laurel until the rebuild. Pimlico is being emptied, auctioning of chairs and memorial, demolition to follow. Importance of supporting Laurel Park where all racing will be

10. **French Delegation to Maryland: October 2025:** There is an ongoing collaboration between Maryland and the Hauts-de-France region, located just north of Paris. Given this relationship and recent connections, notably through Dr. Kathy Anderson, it was suggested this is an ideal time to organize a joint initiative involving both regions' equestrian sectors. The goal is to create opportunities for French participants to visit Maryland, share expertise, and foster mutual exchange between the French and Maryland horse industries. It was also noted that the Vice President of the Hauts-de-France region, though not specifically tied to the horse industry, is supportive of these efforts. The Hauts-de-France Horse Council is eager to pursue collaborative activities and having the Vice President visit Maryland during October. This meeting is intended as the starting point for ongoing exchange and partnership. Discussions and Planning with International Affairs, Office of the Secretary of State, Hauts de France for an Equine Delegation, Potential Seminar, and overlap of visit of DECOSTER François, Vice President in charge of culture, heritage, regional languages and international relations who will be visit to strength an MOU. Dr. Claire Scicluna, a college of Dr. Anderson, planning a Seminar or Panel to discuss new advancements in veterinary medicine.
11. **PATH Region 2 Conference – July 2025 at TRRC** – Nancy Heller The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) Region 2 Conference is scheduled to take place at the Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center (TRRC) in Glenwood, Maryland July 11th-July 13th. As of Saturday, 51 participants are registered, with a goal of reaching 100. Registration closes June 28. Currently, 11 volunteers are signed up, with more needed. Set-up will take place the weekend of June 28. Roxy Baldwin is organizing the silent auction, and donations are welcome. Sponsors are still being sought to help offset costs for the luncheon, which will be catered by Mission Barbecue. The luncheon will feature Region 2 Awards and a keynote speaker discussing adaptive riders at the Olympics. There will be 32 presenters, with half delivering demonstrations in the main arena and the other half providing PowerPoint presentations. Appreciation was expressed to all who have contributed so far.
12. **Upcoming Outreach**
 - a. The Prince George's County Tour 2025 - Including Equestrian History June 14th
 - b. October Horse Month Horse Farm Tour Sept. 2025
 - c. MD HORSE INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP GROUP July 22, Ag Center
 - d. PATH Intl. Region 2 July 11th
 - e. SADDLIN' UP FOR BREAST CANCER Saturday, September 20, 2025 8:30 am - 3:30 pm Tuckahoe Equestrian Center: Board is invited
 - f. Maryland Horse Month Meetings – Monthly

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Introductions from Industry Sector Board Members:

Humane Societies: Erin Ochoa:

There are no major issues to report, which is positive. A recent large animal rescue training was very successful, with officers from across Maryland and out of state participating to improve their emergency management skills.

An ECI (Equine Crisis Intervention) class is scheduled for tomorrow, with several officers attending to refresh their horse handling skills and build confidence in assessing animals they may not frequently encounter.

Preparations are also underway for a busy summer of educational camps focused on teaching children about horses and animal care.

Standardbred Sector: Lisa Watts

The Standardbred horsemen are currently racing at Ocean Downs, where the summer meet began on May 25. Races are held three days a week — Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays — with Tuesdays added to the schedule in July. The Ocean Downs meet attracts many tourists and provides a fun atmosphere to experience harness racing.

Additionally, all Standardbred associations, racetracks, and the Maryland Racing Commission are collaborating with the U.S. Trotting Association to support efforts aimed at addressing and removing problematic trainers from the industry. These initiatives are intended to strengthen and improve the integrity of Standardbred racing overall. No further updates were provided.

Thoroughbred Sector: Jenile Tapscott:

Jenile reminds everyone Laurel is the New Pimlico until Pimlico is rebuilt, so visit!

At Large: Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane:

Looking over MHIB Bylaws for updates and keeping an eye on the industry at large.

MD Horse Council: Carolyn Mackintosh

Could not speak for a report but invites everyone out to Loch Moy for the Maryland International and Horse Trials 2026-2027 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships (CCI1*-Intro, CCIYJ2*-S, CCIU253*-S). The championships will be held June 25-28, 2026, and June 24-27, 2027.

Organized Shows & Events: Sheila Curry - no further report

Equine Academic Community: Dr Amy Burk – could not attend

Licensed Stables: Adrian Ford III – not able to attend

MD Department of Agriculture: Cassie Shirk – no report

Licensed Veterinarians: Dr. Kathleen Anderson: - no further report

Trade & Support Industries: Connie Sawyer: Most updates have already been covered, particularly regarding the Maryland Horse Park System, which is expected to significantly benefit the state's horse industry. One additional item to note is that the FEI Jumping World Cup Finals will be held in the U.S. next year, taking place April 8–14, 2026, in Fort Worth, Texas. This major international event presents valuable opportunities for vendors, sponsors, and industry groups to engage with the global equestrian community. Efforts also continue nationwide to bring more Olympic-discipline events to the U.S. in preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:42 PM by Connie Sawyer, second by Jenile Tapscott. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Litz, Executive Director

ADDENDUM on Request: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports

Trails & Recreational Riding _____
Humane Societies _____
Standardbred Sector _____
Thoroughbred Sector _____
At Large _____
MD Horse Council _____
Organized Shows & Events _____
Equine Academic Community _____
Standardbred Sector _____
Licensed Stables _____
MD Dept. of Agriculture _____
Licensed Veterinarians _____
Trade & Support Industries _____

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PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT