

MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Minutes of the Board Meeting
June 13, 2024

Meeting held IN PERSON at Clarity Riding, 3395 Davidsonville Rd., Davidsonville, MD 21035
www.clarityriding.com

The meeting started at 10:15 A.M.

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Neil Agate, Connie Sawyer, Lisa Watts, Dr. Amy Burk, Jay Griswold.

Unable to Attend: Erin Ochoa, Adrian Ford III, Jenile Tapscott, Dr. Justin Sobota, Jenn Sulin, Cassie Shirk

Also present: Lauren Umbrandt, Elizabeth Farina (hosts) Alex Abella, Lt. Col. John Cory, Lt. Xena Strench, Kim Egan (presenters), Mike Hall, Bob Zhang, Sailor Endres, Sabrina Dobbins, Stacie Benes, Peggy Morgan, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord,

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

Moment of Silence: in honor of former MHIB member and iconic horsewoman **Trish Gilbert**.

Congratulations: to Board member **Jenn Sulin** (WBAL-TV Preakness coverage program and Howard County Schools honoree); Advisory board members **Bob Zhang**, new international consultant, Howard County Economic Development; and **Susan McQuilkin**, retirement from SMADC.

Introduction of Attendees: Introductions included our hosts **Lauren Umbrandt and Elizabeth Farina**, operators of Clarity Riding; special guest **Alex Abella**, who is leaving our MHIB Advisory Committee and moving to Valencia, Spain; **Lt. John Cory and Lt. Xena Strench** from the MD Defense Force Cavalry Unit; and **Sabrina Dobbins**, new equine representative for SMADC (replacing newly retired Susan McQuilkin).

1. Approval of Minutes from the March 12, 2024 board meeting conducted by teleconference; the April 11, 2024 In Person Meeting at Celebration Farm/Daily Dose Feed at Union Bridge, MD.; and the May 14, 2024 In Person meeting at Wild Kid Acres, Edgewater, MD

- The three sets of Minutes could not be approved since a quorum had not been established at the April and May meetings.
- However, we did have a quorum in June.
- On a motion by **Neil Agate** and seconded by **Jay Griswold**, the board approved all three sets of minutes.

2. Monthly Budget Report:

Board members were emailed the MHIB budget template sent by MDA Fiscal Services through June 10, 2024. We have just about completed FY24 and are in good shape.

Right now this shows:

Revenue to Date \$ 333,641(includes the \$92,971 carryover we started the year with + \$240,670.12 in Feed & Stable Licensing revenue collected so far in FY24).

Expenses to Date \$ 305,798

Total Balance on Hand \$ 27,843

We are still collecting Feed Fund revenue for the Fourth Quarter with approximately another \$20k to come in. We've accumulated about \$25,875 in stable licensing fees so far in June for FY25 and are estimating another \$25,000 by the end of the month for a total stable license carryover of \$50,000. With these estimates and current cash on hand MDA is predicting we'll go into FY25 with \$125,381.

We will ask the Budget Review committee to meet and review projected expenses for FY25 to see what marketing, grants and other programs we can afford to fund in the coming year. Our appropriated budget remains pretty much the same year after year since we only have two major revenue sources--Stable Licensing and Feed Fund--unless we receive a grant, which we have in the past from federal and state sources.

Note: Sheila Curry (Chr.) appointed a 5-person Budget Review Committee at the May meeting composed of: Jay Griswold (Chr.), Neil Agate, Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk and Lisa Watts. The group set June 21, 2024 as a virtual meeting to discuss FY25 expenses including continued sponsorships of the MD 5 Star at Fair Hill, WIHS, and content updates & printing of our two MD trails brochures.

3. Presentations:

- **Overview of Clarity Riding:** After setting up the meeting site on a shady knoll overlooking the barn and lesson ring, **Lauren Umbrandt** emphasized that Clarity is a family friendly riding school and training stable, experienced in all sorts of disciplines from recreational riding, hunter/jumpers, dressage, foxhunting, gaited horses and endurance riding. The operation consists of renting two adjacent farms in Davidsonville and one for retirees in Lothian. Her business partner **Elizabeth Farina** is a USDF Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist and FEI competitor. They also breed Morgan horses and Morgan-crosses.
- **MD Defense Force Cavalry Unit:** **Lt. Col. John Cory** and **Lt. Xena Strench** gave an update about the ceremonial unit that consists of 10 riders and three horses. The unit is also a 501c-3 non profit and accepts donations. There is a need for more horses, riders and horse trailers. The unit's history precedes the American Revolution and performs as a color guard and riderless horse component at ceremonies and events. MHIB sees them annually at the state jousting championships.
- **Establishing a MD Sport Horse Database/Trade Mission to Ireland:** MHC president **Kim Egan** accompanied MDA Sec'y **Kevin Atticks** and MDA international marketing director **Stone Slade** on an equine trade mission to Ireland. The itinerary of the trip and arrangements were made by **Fran Horgan**, MHIB's Irish representative and coincided with the Maryland-Irish young event rider exchange between Loch Moy and Millstreet 4 Star events. Kim's emphasis was meeting with **Horse Sport Ireland**, the national

governing body for equestrian sport and the organization that maintains the Irish horse register. She reported on their strategic program to incentivize breeders and focus on breeding top horses in two disciplines—eventing and show jumping. Their international success has been enormous. Kim is establishing a sport horse database at the MD Horse Council and is keeping track of the competition records of horses bred in Maryland. She hopes this can evolve into a Maryland Sport Horse registry modelled after the Irish program.

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **Stable Licensing:**

FY24: We had 814 stables license, a new record and an increase of 17 stables from the 797 licensed in FY23.

Stables in Non Compliance FY23 and FY24: There was one stable (**Four Winds Farm in White Hall**) in non compliance in FY23 and one stable (**Stockbridge Manor in Glen Arm**) in non compliance for FY24 for failure to renew their licenses. Both were contacted by phone, email and regular and certified mail, and failed to respond. After consultation with our Assistant AG, both have been fined \$500 plus their \$125 licensing fee. Each owes \$625. Their accounts have been turned over to MDA General Collections.

Suspended License: After a meeting with Ass't AG **Justin Hayes** on June 7, **Granite Springs Stable in Warwick**, which has failed numerous inspections, will have one more opportunity to pass inspection. If the stable fails that inspection, the owner, **Bryan Bradley**, will be notified to attend an administrative hearing. His license could be suspended, depending on the outcome of the hearing.

Anne Litz filed this Update on the New ONESTOP Licensing System:

The new OneStop MDA Portal opened early for the Vet Board and the Horse Board on May 28th. The MHIB asked the 40 HDCs to give the system an early test run to work out any issues. About 1/4 of them stepped right up to help. We also had a good response from the large postcard mailed out alerting them to renewals at the end of May.

All 812 Stables received an email from Salesforce to renew on June 1st and one from GovDelivery on Monday June 3rd.

Overall the Software is working well, and most issues are user-error, that can be worked through one by one. The Software Issues are being handled in a timely manner by Maddie Ravielle, our leader and support. We are very grateful to work with her and how responsive and helpful she has been through a challenging process.

As of June 7th, 207 Stables have renewed, 1/4 of our stables, which is close to last year and impressive with the new system.

The main issues we are seeing so far.

1. Stable Operators not creating a new account in OneStop
2. Not being able to see the Stable Operators name on the application process
3. Stable Operators using a new email address that is not associated with their current stable account
4. Stable Operators not being able to find the Renewal Button on the Dashboard***
5. Confusion on the payment confirmations coming from the Vet Board

***This is one of the larger problems a bunch of stables then apply as a New Stable, and while that is fixable on the backend, it takes a lot of time to correct each one. Anne & OneStop are working on how to make the Renewal easier to find.

- **Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule:**

Tuesday, July 9	10 AM	TRRC (Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center) , Glenwood
Thursday, Aug. 15	4 PM	Ocean Downs , Berlin: Local Eastern Shore farm tours can be held before the meeting: Wicomico Horse Center (Salisbury), Layfield Farm Event Center (Princess Anne) Races & dinner after the mtg.TBC
Tuesday, Sept. 10	10 AM	Rutledge Ridge Farm , Fallston. Bridleless demo Melanie Ferro-Wise
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	Oak Spring Equestrian , Woodbine Working Equitation demo, TBC

- **Re-Establishing Committees That Need to Meet: Budget, Equine Welfare, Sport Horse Registry, Western Riding. Grants: BOARD MEMBERS--Please let Sheila know if you would like to join one or more of these committees**

Budget: JAY GRISWOLD, (Chr.), Neil Agate, Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk, Lisa Watts

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

Sport Horse Registry: SHEILA CURRY (Chr.), Connie Sawyer, Kim Egan, Jane Seigler, Kirsten Green (RRP) needs to meet and be established

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

Grants: LISA WATTS (Chr.), Sheila Curry, Neil Agate, Dr. Amy Burk, Dr. Justin Sobota

Other Board members with Committee Chairs: **MD Horse Forum**—DR. AMY BURK, (Co-Chair); **Horse Park Tourism Grant:** CONNIE SAWYER, (Chr.); **Health Advisory**—DR. JUSTIN SOBOTA (Chr.)

- **Survey To Establish Break-Out Session Topics at the 2024 MD Horse Forum:** Co-Chairs Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds and Anne Litz met the week of June 3 to review the 400 survey responses and to gauge which topics that attendees would most like to see discussed at the August 8, 2024 MD Horse Forum at McDonogh School, Owings Mills. We have a major financial commitment of \$25K from the **Rural Maryland Council** to be presenting sponsor. Ross is in the process of also contacting a number of industry organizations and companies to ask about sponsorships and several—**MD Sports Commission, Rosecroft, MD Horse Breeders' Association** and **SMADC**—have already signed on.

Committee meets June 17: TO DO LIST: Invite Guest Speakers (Gov., Lt. Gov, Sec’y Atticks, Balto. Co. Exec., Steuart Pittman, MTROA), Entertainment (T58, Will Wright), Awards (My Racehorse MD Preakness winners), Youth (WIHS Youth Committee, TB Career Advancement group)

- **MD Horse Park System Tourism Grant Committee:** Two companies, **eDesign Interactive** from New Jersey and **Marriner Marketing** from Maryland—responded through the state procurement process to an RFP for MHIB to hire a firm to brand/market the MD Horse Park System. MHIB has worked with MDA Procurement Manager, **Pamela Sams-Turner**, on this process. 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, Jeff Newman plus Anne & Ross**) has reviewed the RFPs and had one-hour long virtual discussions with representatives from each company. Both are excellent contenders. The subcommittee hopes to make a recommendation to the larger grants committee by June 14 so that the contract can be awarded and funds encumbered by FY24 closeout.
- **New MD Trail Riding Guides**—**Dianne Dougherty** of Trail Rider’s Path (TrailRidersPath.com) submitted a proposal to develop new print and online guides for public access riding trails and public trail riding stables in Maryland similar to the ones she produces in Pennsylvania. Our committee met with her on April 8. It was decided to divide the state into three sections—Western Maryland, Central and Southern Maryland, Eastern Shore Maryland—and develop guides for each section. The proposal to produce those guides—similar to the quality that Dianne produces for Pennsylvania—came in at \$60K. Even if we sold advertising for \$10K and 250 guides at \$30 each for each region, we’d only produce \$32,500 to pay for the project. And there is no guarantee that we could sell that many ads or guides. Fortunately, we conferred with Dianne, who does remarkable work, and she agreed to work with MHIB to update our two current trails brochures—**Saddle Up Maryland** and **A Guide to Maryland Horse Trails**—for \$10K including her work in content, graphic design and printing. This is a doable figure for MHIB’s FY25 marketing budget, depending upon approval by the MHIB board. Both current guides/brochures are between 7-9 years old.
- **MD Horse Park System: Prince George’s Equestrian Center:** 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. **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** MHLEC continues to hold a robust schedule of monthly talks and served as host site for the **MD Thoroughbred Career Advancement Program** June 3-7. MHIB gave a presentation and hosted the 5-person group for lunch on June 3. Four out of the five attendees are eventers and two of them are affiliated with two of our HDCs—**Talbot Run and Graham Equestrian Center**. During the week, the group visited equestrian sites all over Maryland, including two of our other HDCs—**Foxie G Horse Rescue** and **Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding**.
- **Maryland/Ireland Rider Exchange Exceeds Expectations!** MHIB helped sponsor a Maryland-Irish rider exchange between the Maryland International 4 Star at Loch Moy in Adamstown, MD and Millstreet International Horse Trials in County Cork, Ireland. The top young rider (age 25 and under) from Loch Moy 2023, **Madison Temkin**, traveled to Ireland May 28. Maddie finished in the Top 10 after **Caroline Pamukcu** and **Kelley Hutcheson** provided her with a horse to compete in the Young Event Horse competition. Maddie not only got to spend the week at Millstreet and meet with FEI officials, she was able to immerse herself in Caroline’s operation. Caroline has since been named on the U.S. Event Team for the Paris Olympics. **Godfrey Gibbons**

was selected at Millstreet to represent Ireland at Loch Moy July 5-7. He might be able to ride one of Caroline's horses at Loch Moy. **Equestrian Trade Mission to Ireland:** Kevin Atticks, MD Sec'y of Agriculture, and Stone Slade, MDA International Marketing Director, received a USLGE grant to travel to Ireland and visit many equine organizations and events. Fran Horgan, MHIB's Irish representative, planned the itinerary and helped chauffeur Kevin and Stone around Ireland. They represented Maryland's Standardbred industry at the **Irish American Harness Racing Festival** and also attended the Millstreet International Horse Trials among many other stops.

- **Horse Discovery Center (HDC) Network:** The June/July HDC Newsletter has been published and centers are now gearing up for the summer fairs and festivals, including Horseland at the Maryland State Fair on three consecutive weekends: Aug. 22-25, Aug. 29 – Sept. 2 and Sept. 5-8.
- **May 17 Celebration of Western MD Licensed Stables.** We partnered with the **National Pike Wagon Train Festival** and honored centenarian **Evelyn Mae Adams, Regal Willow Farm** at the opening night Gathering of the Festival in Clear Spring on May 17. Touch of Class plates were presented that evening to Mrs. Adams for being the oldest licensed stable operator in the U.S. at 103 years of age; and at **Dovecote Stables** in Davidsonville to honor EQUUS Film Festival national award winner **Alex Abella** before she moves to Spain.
- **Touch of Class Awards:** Upcoming—48 Maryland Partners of My Racehorse win the Preakness! Present the award at MD Horse Forum
- **2025 Grants program:** MHIB will start to accept FY25 grants applications on August 1.

5. Stable Reports—see Addendum

6. Administrative Reports

- **Academic Equine Community (Dr. Amy Burk):** Dr. Burk was recently honored by the National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics (NAEAA) for her outstanding service to the U.S. horse industry. As an anecdotal reference to the scarcity of equine veterinarians, she reported that at the University of Pennsylvania only 5 of 100 incoming veterinary students plan to concentrate on equines. UMD has three Equine Grazing Schools planned: June 19—2-hour virtual; June 22—In person, 40 registrants so far; June 27—Pasture Walk at Clarksville site
- **At Large (Jay Griswold):** Jay plans to set up a virtual meeting of the budget review committee on June 21.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate):** The June issue of *The Equiery* features lesson programs and horses. The MHC quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 24. Congressional polo is planning an MHC fundraiser on July 19.
- **Organized Shows & Events (Sheila Curry):** Sheila is heavily involved in planning the August 8 MD Horse Forum as well as other upcoming meetings and initiatives.
- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts):** Harness racing is now being conducted at Ocean Downs up to 4 days per week and on Sundays. When live racing returns to Rosecroft Oct. 3- Dec. 19, the track will transition from its Tuesday-Thursday format to Monday-Wednesday nights. The Potomac Pace is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 17.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer):** Connie recently returned as a member of the FEI site selection team to build new arenas at Santa Anita Park racetrack for a November 2024 World Cup Grand Prix Qualifier. As MD Horse Park Marketing Grant committee chairman, she reported

on the efforts of MHIB to hire Marriner Marketing. She said that usage of AI is coming to the horse industry in many forms. ClipMyHorse.TV is live streaming both of Maryland's 5 Star events at Fair Hill and WIHS.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:30 PM followed by a cake and champagne farewell to Advisory Board member ALEX ABELLA for her many contributions to the Maryland horse industry and to wish her the best of luck in her new life in her native Spain.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Peddicord, Executive Director

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached