

MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Minutes of the Board Meeting
March 12, 2024

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

The meeting started at 10:03 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, Jenile Tapscott, Cassie Shirk

Unable to Attend: Adrian Ford III

Also present: Nicki Milbourne (Farm Credit), Travis Gorleski, Gina Maybee, Kim Egan, Carolyn Mackintosh, Carolanne Sharpe, Mike Hall, Al Martinez, Cricket Goodall, Mike Hopkins, Stacie Benes, Ray Parker, Susie Husk, Jane Seigler, 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.

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 15, 2024 board meeting conducted by teleconference.

- On a motion by **Neil Agate** and seconded by **Dr. Amy Burk**, 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	\$ 273,653.00 (includes the \$92,971 carryover we started the year with + \$180,653 in Feed & Stable Licensing revenue collected so far in FY24).
Expenses to Date	\$162,797.00
<u>Total Balance on Hand</u>	<u>\$ 110,827.00</u>

We anticipate further collection of Feed Revenue of at least \$60,000 during the remaining third and fourth quarters of FY24. We will have enough of a balance at the end of the year that \$28k can be allocated for a new Chevy Equinox small SUV for our inspector Ellen James. MDA Fiscal projects that we will still have a \$50,889 carryover going into FY25.

We continue to be in good shape as long as we control expenses.

3. Presentation/Discussion on MHIB Stable Licensing Program:

- **ACTION ITEMS DISCUSSED**

1. Seek legal advice to establish a **SUSPENDED LICENSE PROGRAM** to address stables that repeatedly fail inspections. EXAMPLE: Granite Springs-has failed 9 inspections & Animal Control has seized a horse. BUT if MHIB doesn't license, cannot go on the property. These ideas were generated by board members **Lisa Watts & Erin Ochoa** and attendees **Mike Hall and Carolanne Sharpe** among others:
 - a. Put stables on **PROBATION** for various violations
 - b. Publish the Probation List online
 - c. Charge a fee for additional visits by inspectors
 - d. Establish an Emerging Stable list and educate these stables on best practices
 - e. Suspension is the key and a certified letter should be sent to the Animal Control office in that area and notified that a certain stable is suspended.
 - f. Ross will consult with our Ass't AG Justin Hayes to see if these suggestions can be legally enacted by MHIB
2. Enact **TOUGHER STANCE on Stables in Non Compliance**
 - a. Board member **Connie Sawyer** said MHIB is not doing its job unless stables are held accountable for failure to comply.
 - b. Ross is sending certified and regular letters to the 8 stables still in non compliance for not renewing FY24 licenses and two new stables that have ignored MHIB notices to license
3. Discussion of **New ONESTOP Database**
 - a. **Anne Litz** is overseeing this new state licensing initiative along with **Nathan Boan** from the Vet Board and the inspection team
4. **Adoption of Late Fee In FY 25**—tied up in proposed legislation and won't take place if adopted until FY26
5. **Prorated License Fees**—Address this issue in possible FY25 legislation
6. **Strengthen Partnership with Animal Control Agencies**—continue to send our inspectors to Days End equine welfare workshops and build relationships with Animal Control offices

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **Stable Licensing: FY24:** So far 802 stables have either renewed or applied for new licenses out of 797 licensed in 2023. Eight stables still need to renew their 2024 licenses. If comfortable, it would be great if a board member would volunteer to each call one of the stables that has not renewed, ask them why—and request that they comply. For a list of the stable and phone numbers please contact Ross. These stables will also be sent Letters of Agency Action.
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 could go live shortly and will be in effect on June 1 for FY25 stable licensing. Anne will give an update at the March meeting and other stable licensing issues will be discussed.

- **Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule:**

Thursday, April 11	10 AM	Daily Dose Feed/Celebration Farm , Libertytown
Tuesday, May 14	10 AM	Wild Kid Acres , Edgewater
Thursday, June 13	10 AM	Clarity Farm , Davidsonville (TBC)
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 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

- **March 21 Trackview Celebration honoring Seven former board members:** 34 have rsvp-ed to attend to honor seven of our former board members who 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. Her daughters **Sandy Wiseman** and **Diane Hickok** will join in the celebration with **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. New board member **Lisa Watts** is our host.
- **March 25 Maryland Horse Industry Annapolis Rally: to Spread the Good Economic News:** With our MD Horse Industry Partners MHIB will sponsor an informational table at the Rural Maryland Council rally on Lawyers Mall from 4-6 PM on Maryland Day, March 25. We are awaiting Gov. office approval to distribute a news release and stats sheet through MDA Communications about the positive Maryland data from the American Horse Council economic impact study. An **Anne Litz**-designed Evite is being sent this week.
- **April 1 Survey for 2024 MD Horse Forum:** Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds and Anne Litz** have prepared a survey to gauge topics that attendees would like to see discussed at the August 8, 2024 MD Horse Forum at McDonogh School, Owings Mills. They are planning to start distributing the survey April 1. 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, but will need additional funding from potential sponsors and Maryland horse industry partners. About 300 folks attend the Forum.
- **Three Annual Meetings & 2 Festivals Held:**
MHIB MD Horse Discovery Center Annual mtg held 10 AM - 1 PM Wed., March 6 at MHLEC
50 people attended; speaker **Shari Goodwin**;
Anne Litz organizer

MD Council for Equestrian Therapies (MCET)

hybrid mtg. held Wed., March 6 at 1-3 PM
MHLEC In person & virtual
Reorganizational mtg. led by **Nancy Heller**,
New President 20 attendees incl MHIB;
Audrey Buoniconti (Buoniconti Stables) new
Secy; **Rachel Neff (PromiseLanding Farm)**,
new Treas.

MHIB-HEALTH Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday, March 7 by teleconference, **Dr.
Justin Sobota**, chair. 13 attendees

**Horse World Expo, Harrisburg, PA Feb 28-
March 2**

MHIB sponsored a booth. Thanks to
volunteers **Becky Remsberg**,
Rachel Grassick, **Jeanne Schnell**,
Chris Merz, **Evie Hickman**, **Ellen Jordan**, **Jen
Reynolds & Elaina Thomas** for helping man
the booth.

**Chinese Lantern Festival, Gaithersburg,
March 2**

MHIB sponsored a booth with the
EquestrAsian Sports Assoc. Thanks to
volunteers **Stacie Benes**,
Peggy & Chris Morgan, **Linda Macklin**, **Lara
McPherson** and organizers **Mark Xu** and **Bob
Zhang** for setting up and manning the booth.

● **New Projects:**

a. **Meeting with Amy Phillips, Oldfields School.** Glencoe about equine certificate/job training programs in farm management, elite grooms, therapeutic riding certifications, etc. Oldfields is focusing on several equine educational programs.

b. **May 17 Celebration of Western MD Licensed Stables** in Washington, Allegany and Garrett counties, honoring **Evelyn Mae Adams**, **Regal Willow Farm** and the **National Pike Wagon Train Festival**, at the opening night Gathering of the Festival in Clear Spring.

c. **New MD Trail Riding Guides**—Meeting in April with **Dianne Dougherty** of Trail Rider's Path (TrailRidersPath.com) to discuss developing new print and online guides for public access riding trails and public trail riding stables in Maryland. We met Dianne at Horse World Expo and admired the fantastic guides she produces in Pennsylvania.

- **Horse Discovery Center (HDC) Network:** Anne is collecting data from the 42 centers to compile the 2023 HDC Annual Report.

- **MD Horse Park System: Prince George's Equestrian Center:** No notice yet when the job is posted for equestrian events manager at Prince George's Equestrian Center. **Steve Carter** said he would keep us informed. **Fair Hill:** DNR is planning a post-legislative session meeting for Fair Hill stakeholders to discuss future plans for the facility. **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, posted an RFP (Request for Proposals) on **eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)** online site to accept proposals from Advertising/Public Relations agencies to work with our

marketing committee to brand/advertise/market our Maryland Horse Park System. Update to follow. This opportunity was provided by a \$250,000 grant provided by the Maryland Office of Tourism.

- **Western Riding Committee**: Potential guest speakers at upcoming meetings could include **Johnny Williams** from J Bar W Ranch rodeo in Johnsville; **Elisha Lager** from the Lady Longears Ranch and Arena complex in Woodbine; and **Tina Marie Sherman**, who runs the Western Horse Shows of Harford County (WHSHC).
- **2024 Grants program**: Payments continue to be paid to the 35 recipients.

5. Stable Reports: See Addendum

6. Administrative Reports

- **At Large (Jay Griswold)**: Jay continues to be involved with the future of the Fair Hill facility, is meeting with various state and local officials and serves as Chair Emeritus of the Fair Hill Foundation.
- **Equine Academic Community (Dr. Amy Burk)**: Dr. Burk is involved in a lot of activities including co-chairing the 2024 MD Horse Forum. Surveys for suggested topics/break out sessions will soon be mailed. **Dr. Amanda Grev** at UMD is planning her pasture school for early summer. UMD is holding an equine conditioning session March 21 at the Baltimore County Agricultural Center and has held other in person seminars at the Foxhall Vet Center and the MD Horse library & Education Center. Four candidates have been interviewed to be hired as new Department Chair for Animal Sciences at UMD.
- **Humane Societies (Erin Ochoa)**: The good news is that it has been a fairly quiet winter for neglect/abuse cases. Days End has been working a lot with West Virginia and Pennsylvania officials that don't have Animal Control agencies but work instead through Sheriffs' offices. Days End will be holding a workshop this fall on investigating abuse/neglect cases with Exotics.
- **Licensed Veterinarians (Dr. Justin Sobota)**: Dr. Justin suggested that **Dean Moses T. Kairo** of UMES school of Agricultural and Natural Sciences be invited to our August meeting at Ocean Downs to give an update on the UMES vet school proposal. **Cricket Goodall** recently met with UMES **Provost Rondall Allen**, VP of Strategic Initiatives, about the project.
- **MD. Dept. of Agriculture (Ass't Sec'y Cassie Shirk)**: The bill that would allow MHIB to charge a late fee for stable licenses 60 days overdue passed the House, crossed chambers and is now in committee in the State Senate.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate)**: Neil has to leave early but before he did he gave this report: MHC holds its next quarterly meeting on March 18 and then is holding a social at Loch Moy on June 15. **Jane Seigler**, head of MHC's legislative committee, gave a very thorough and interesting report on 11 of the bills that MHC is following ranging from riders being required to wear helmets in public spaces to protection for livestock from fireworks displays.
- **Organized Shows & Events (Sheila Curry)**: The horse industry is looking forward to National Capitol Parks & Recs posting the job opening for equestrian manager at PGEC.
- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts)**: Cloverleaf SB owners association and Ocean Downs/Rosecroft are taking part in the Aspire/Junior Achievement program on the Eastern Shore. The state's harness industry is seeing a lot of interest and participation from young people in the 25 year-old age range as drivers and trainers. The industry also made a significant donation to help driver **Declan Donoway** who is recovering from recent brain tumor surgery.

- **Thoroughbred Sector (Jenile Tapscott):** The thoroughbred industry is still waiting for legislation to be introduced to fund the Pimlico Plus plan. Jenile will be honored at the Thoroughbred industry's Renaissance Awards on April 17.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer):** The FEI plans to release its global economic impact of the horse industry in the next few weeks. Connie also took note of the expansion of Western riding activities and that there is a "hole in the Maryland Horse Park System" plans that doesn't include facilities for the Western riding disciplines. There has been discussion about developing Rosecroft as a site for multi-use equestrian disciplines. Connie will be in Ocala at the World Equestrian Center and Live Oak Plantation for their winter equestrian shows. There are facilities like J Bar W Ranch that needs work to its arena and Lady Longears Ranch which is privately owned and only available for limited use.
- **Trails & Recreational Riding (Jennifer Sulin):** Jenn continues to work with MHC and its trails committee to advocate for equestrian use of our trails network.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:12 PM

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

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached