

MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Minutes of the Board Meeting
May 14, 2024

Meeting held IN PERSON in the Main Barn Market Room, Wild Kid Acres, 731 Central Avenue East, Edgewater, MD 21037 www.wildkidacres.org

The meeting started at 10:10 A.M.

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Neil Agate, Connie Sawyer, Lisa Watts, Cassie Shirk

Unable to Attend: Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Adrian Ford III, Jay Griswold, Jenile Tapscott, Dr. Justin Sobota, Erin Ochoa, Jenn Sulin

Also present: Gerardo Martinez & Jessica Uriol (hosts), Deputy MDA Sec’y Steve Connelly, Deputy Secretary of State Michael Lore, Kirsten Green (Retired Racehorse Project), Rayna Erasmus (Retired Racehorse Project), Shelley Garrett (Anne Arundel Co. Ag Business Dir.), Lexi Liu (Md. Secretary of State Special Assistant), Deana Tice (Enticement Stables), Xena Strench (Dodon Farm), Al Martinez, Christie Rauch, Stacie Benes, Ellen James, Peggy Morgan, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord and various Wild Kid Acres students and instructors.

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

Introduction of Attendees: Introductions included our hosts **Gerardo Martinez** and his wife **Jessica Uriol**; **Deputy Secretaries Steve Connelly (MDA) and Michael Lore (MSS), Kirsten Green (Dir. Retired Racehorse Project)** and attendees from around the table.

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

- The two sets of Minutes could not be approved since a quorum had not been established at the March or April meetings.

2. Monthly Budget Report:

Through April 30, 2024:

Revenue to Date \$ 322,457(includes the \$92,971 carryover we started the year with + \$229,485.67 in Feed & Stable Licensing revenue collected so far in FY24).

Expenses to Date \$ 270,414

Total Balance on Hand \$ 52,043

We are still collecting Feed Fund revenue for the Fourth Quarter with approximately another \$40k to come in. Three major encumbrances have already been accounted for--\$28,800 in grants (we still owe \$750 in grants), \$28,024 for Ellen's new car and \$8,519 in fees owed for costs associated with the OneStop database. We still owe MDA \$30,043 in Fixed Costs.

MDA is projecting, with those expenses paid, we will have \$24,436 carryover by the end of FY24

Note: Sheila Curry (Chr.) appointed a 5-person Budget Review Committee at this meeting composed of: Jay Griswold (Chr.), Neil Agate, Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk and Lisa Watts.

3. Presentations:

- **DEVELOPMENT OF WILD KID ACRES**—Gerardo Martinez, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, bought the land in 2019. In 2020 he largely built the house himself for he and his family. Then in 2021, by popular demand, Gerardo opened up the 5-acre farm, stocked with various farm animals such as sheep, goats and a horse or two, to the community. He had 6,000 visitors the first year. In 2022, backed by **State Sen. Sarah Elfreth**, he obtained a \$250,000 bond bill, to expand the facility, mainly for the purchase of building materials and to develop the farm as a center for Latino and African American children and farmers. The barn was built by volunteers and the operation itself is largely run by volunteers. Spanish is spoken to teach folks about Latino culture and to build a community around the immigrant dream.

The farm is now the only bilingual education farm on the East Coast.

During the last two years Gerardo also hosted and organized two agricultural environmental conferences, supported by the MD Dept. of Agriculture and featuring the countries of Mexico and El Salvador.

Currently, Gerardo has been appointed the international director of **GALA** (Global Alliance of Latinos in Agriculture), representing approximately 80,000 Latino farmers.

Wild Kid Acres is now the headquarters of GALA, which has taken ownership of Gerardo's agricultural environmental conferences.

In the fall of 2024, GALA, in conjunction with the Latino Trade Association, will present **GALACON**, a nearly week long conference, exposition and horse show Nov. 14-16 at the Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro. Over 10,000 attendees, including construction and farm workers and students, are expected to attend. Through the generosity of MHIB board member **Lisa Watts**, Rosecroft and MHIB, have offered to consider hosting a welcoming reception for United Nations officials and delegates to the conference. A large percentage (est. at up to 95%) of the workforce in the equine industry is comprised of Latino immigrant workers.

Rodeo is a large component of Latino equestrian horse sport. There are approximately seven Latino rodeo venues in the region including the **J Bar W Ranch** in Johnsville (Frederick Co.) and the **Ortiz Ranch** in Odenton (Anne Arundel Co.) as well as various rodeos held at the MD State and local county fairgrounds.

- **FEI GLOBAL EQUINE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY**—MHIB board member **Connie Sawyer**, an FEI representative for North America, reported on a recent global economic impact study released by the Federal Equestrian Internationale (FEI) which oversees non-racing equestrian disciplines worldwide. The study showed a global economic impact of \$302B, producing 4.2M jobs and 9.9M fans. This study, as well as the American Horse Council

study of Maryland's equine industry, paints a picture of growing recreational and competition sectors of the horse industry.

- **RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT:** Executive Director **Kirsten Green** gave an update on RRP which was founded 14 years ago by **Steuart Pittman** in Anne Arundel County and currently has offices nearby in Edgewater. Principal activities include the Thoroughbred Makeover, formerly held in Maryland and now located at the Kentucky Horse Park; and locally the Real Rider Cup, chaired by **Anita Motion**, at Fair Hill. The organization has been instrumental in increasing the demand for Thoroughbreds in nonracing horse sports; and in the development of Thoroughbred aftercare facilities. MHIB board member **Neil Agate** is Chair of the RRP board.

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **Stable Licensing: FY24:** So far 812 stables have either renewed or applied for new licenses. There were 797 licensed stables in 2023. Three stables still need to renew their 2024 licenses. One of the three has attempted to renew but needs to wait until the installation of the new OneStop database.
FY25: Anne, Peggy & Ellen are working with the 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 sent out a notice advising stables of the change.

SUSPENDED LICENSES: Following the discussion at the March board meeting, **Ass't AG Justin**

Hayes notified MHIB that:

If, following a third inspection, the Board again determines that the licensee's establishment is still deficient in the areas in which it had been given written notice, the Board shall:

- (a) Bring formal charges against the licensee; and (b) Conduct an administrative hearing in order to determine whether: (c) The operator's license in a particular class or classes should be suspended or revoked

The MHIB has authority to temporarily suspend a license, but only after conducting an administrative hearing. There was not a quorum at the April meeting to vote to go into Closed Session to discuss this matter since at least one stable has failed numerous (9) inspections. **Justin Hayes** will be contacted for his advice on moving forward.

- **Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule:**

Thursday, June 13	10 AM	Clarity Farm , Davidsonville
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, TB

- **Re-Establishing Committees That Need to Meet: Budget, Equine Welfare, Sport Horse Registry, Western Riding –6 Board members are Committee Chairs**

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 Proposed: Kirsten Green (RRP)

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

Other Board members with Committee Chairs: MD Horse Forum—**Dr. Amy Burk**, Co-Chair; MD Horse Park Tourism Grant: **Connie Sawyer**, Chr.

- **Horse Discovery Center (HDC) Network:** Anne has compiled the 2023 HDC Annual Report from data submitted by the 42 HDCs in 18 counties. The report is enclosed in May board meeting packets and is available online. The HDCs reached more than 200,000 people in 2023, holding 366 events and introducing over 150,000 adults and children to horses. In addition, 70,650 attendees found a connection to horses at Public Events where HDCs participated such as Horseland at the MD State Fair and numerous other festivals throughout the state. **NOTE:** This report does not take into account all the other events held by licensed stables NOT in the HDC network. Public outreach to help grow the industry is obviously a hallmark of the state's equine industry.
- **Survey To Establish Break-Out Session Topics at the 2024 MD Horse Forum:** There have been nearly 500 responses to the survey that Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds and Anne Litz** prepared to gauge topics that attendees would like to see discussed at the August 8, 2024 MD Horse Forum at McDonogh School, Owings Mills. The deadline was extended and the results will soon be tabulated. 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.
- **MD Horse Park System Tourism Grant Committee:** Ross is meeting with **Pamela Sams-Turner**, procurement manager for MDA, on May 12 to discuss the two proposals submitted by Advertising/Marketing agencies during the procurement process on **eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA)**. The deadline was extended three times to keep the process open for more proposals. However, only two were received. 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, Sheila Curry, Kristin Hanna, Cricket Goodall, Sandy Turner, Jeff Newman plus Anne & Ross**) meets soon to recommend its choice to the larger Horse Park promotions committee.
- **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 Maryland, Eastern Shore Maryland—and develop guides for each section. The committee now meets to discuss her proposal.

- **May 17 Celebration of Western MD Licensed Stables.** We are partnering with the National Pike Wagon Train Festival and honoring centenarian **Evelyn Mae Adams, Regal Willow Farm** and the licensed stables in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties at the opening night Gathering of the Festival in Clear Spring. Touch of Class plates are being presented that evening to Mrs. Adams for being the oldest licensed stable operator in the U.S. at 103 years of age; and at another location to honor EQUUS Film Festival national award winner **Alex Abella** before she moves to Spain.
- **MD Horse Park System: Prince George's Equestrian Center:** The job posting by MD National Capitol Parks & Planning for an equestrian events manager at PGEC closed May 3. **Mary Helen Shaughnessy**, executive director of the Washington International Horse Show, has resigned after 10 years. **Evan Phinney** is helping out until a replacement is named. **Fair Hill:** DNR is planning a meeting this summer for Fair Hill stakeholders to discuss future plans for the facility. Tickets for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill Oct. 17-20 go on sale May 20. **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** MHLEC continues to hold a robust schedule of monthly talks and events including a Preakness Week book sale.
- **MDA Equestrian Trade Mission to Ireland: Fran Horgan,** our MHIB representative in Ireland, has worked with Anne and Ross to establish the itinerary for an equine trade mission to Ireland May 28-June 4 for **MDA Sec'y Kevin Atticks** and **MDA International Marketing Director Stone Slade**. The itinerary includes numerous meetings with agricultural officials in Ireland as well as visits to the Irish American Harness Racing Festival and Millstreet International 4 Star Event. **Kim Egan** from the MD Horse Council will also be in Ireland at that time and will take part in many of the meetings as well as joining **Carolyn Mackintosh** at the Millstreet event. MHIB helped sponsor a Maryland-Irish rider exchange between the Maryland International 4 Star at Loch Moy and Millstreet.
- **2024 Grants program:** All but two grant agreements have been signed and returned and 32 out of the 34 recipients have been paid.

5. Stable Reports—see Addendum

6. Administrative Reports

- **MD Dept. of Agriculture (Cassie Shirk):** Stone Slade, MDA International Marketing Director, will be back in time to give a report at the June MHIB meeting on the equine trade mission to Ireland. **Fran Horgan**, MHIB's Irish representative, worked with Anne, Ross & Stone to plan the itinerary.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate):** MHC's Business Development Committee is hosting a webinar May 21 on the impact of SB 452 /HB162 on liability waivers, negligence, limited liability and insurance in the equine community.
- **Organized Shows & Events (Sheila Curry):** Sheila is looking forward to attending the Preakness as the guest of **Gov. Wes Moore** and seeing first hand operational aspects of the event. She will also attend the Preakness Sunrise Tours organized by **Fran Burns**, MHIB licensed stable owner,

and a group from MDA; and attend the Alibi Breakfast with board members **Lisa Watts** and **Neil Agate**.

- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts)**: Live racing at Rosecroft ends May 18. The summer meet at Ocean Downs begins on May 26. The state's signature harness race, the \$100,000 Potomac Pace, is scheduled this year for Sunday, Nov. 17.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer)**: Connie noted that Maryland's nearly \$3B economic impact is a strong contributor to the global equine economy.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:15 PM followed by lunch provided by CALIENTE GRILL (Roxanna Rodriguez) of Annapolis and an Overview and Tour of Wild Kid Acres by host Gerardo Martinez.

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Peddicord, Executive Director

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached