

**MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD**  
**Minutes of the Board Meeting**  
**Nov. 12, 2024**

**Meeting held by teleconference.**  
**The meeting started at 10:07 A.M.**

**Present:** Sheila Curry (Chr.), Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.) Jenile Tapscott, Neil Agate, Jenn Sulin, Connie Sawyer, Erin Ochoa, Lisa Watts, Cassie Shirk

**Unable to Attend:** Adrian Ford III, Jay Griswold, Dr. Justin Sobota

**Also in Attendance:** Bill Knauf (MJC), Swata Gandhi (MTROA), Dr. Jennifer Trout (MDA Animal Health), Sue Harada (WIHS), Brooke Fries (PGEC), Bryan Anthony (PGEC), Middleton Evans, Dr. Kathy Anderson, Cricket Goodall, Jeff Newman, Kim Egan, Gina Maybee, Cheri Stambaugh, Carolyn Mackintosh, Laura Unsworth, Sabrina Dobbins, Lexi Danielson, Jen Reynolds, Keith Wills, Travis Gorleski, Al Martinez, Riley Layman, Morgan Mayfair, Quinn Reed, Tracy Gay, Jane Thery, Linda Macklin, Amber Cash, Carolann Sharpe, Stacie Benes, Donna Hill, Susan Husk, Peggy Morgan, Ellen James, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord

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

**Introduction of Attendees:** Anne Litz conducted a roll call of attendees.

**Congratulations:** to Sue Chambers, Quinn Haven Farm, winner ‘WIHS Kind Wins Award’

**Thank You:** to MHIB licensed stable owners Deana Tice, Ent-Tice-Ment Farm, Harwood; and Elisa Iager, Lady Longears Ranch, Woodbine; for organizing and helping fund as many as 20 truckloads of equine, farm and human foodstuffs and supplies to victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

**Appreciation:** to Mike Hopkins, who is retiring after 40 years of service to the MD Racing Commission, including many years as Executive Director

**1.Approval of Minutes from the September 12, 2024 and October 17, 2024 meetings.**

- On a motion by Neil Agate, and seconded by Sheila Curry, the board approved both sets of minutes.

**2.Monthly Budget Report:**

The MHIB budget template from MDA Fiscal Services was sent to the board prior to the meeting. We are now One Third through FY25.

Revenue to Date	\$ 170,344.37 (includes \$69,607 carryover from FY24).
Expenses to Date	\$ 127,015.00
<b>Total Balance on Hand</b>	<b>\$ 43,239.37</b>

Ross recently reviewed the FY25 Feed Fund payments. The Feed Fund continues to do well. In the First Quarter FY25, we received **\$58,583.63 from 29 feed manufacturers**. By far, our two largest contributors are Land o Lakes (with the Purina, Triple Crown, Tractor Supply & Country Acres brands) at \$27,642 and Cargill (includes Southern States) at \$13,008.96. That's followed by Farmers Coop (\$4,082.85 Frederick, MD), Hallway Feeds ( \$3,606.04 KY), Kent Nutrition ( \$2,118 Iowa), Semican ( \$2,056.08 Canada) and Hubbard Feeds ( \$1,092 Ky.). All the other contributors are under \$1K.

So far, in the Second Quarter FY25 we have **16 companies reporting with \$50,619.90**. Again its Land o Lakes leading the way (\$29,124), Cargill ((\$13,771.62), Farmers Coop (\$3,961.53) and Semican (\$2,204.15) the top contributors with Hallway, Kent, Hubbard and 10 other manufacturers with smaller remittances still to report.

So far that's \$109,203.53 in Feed Revenue in the first two quarters with 13 companies still to report Second Quarter payments. **Note:** Not all of that revenue has yet been recorded in the MDA Fiscal Services template made through 10/31/24 which shows \$93,617.37 in feed revenue. So we actually have about \$16K more Feed revenue not yet showing up in the books. The same with the Stable licensing revenue. So far we've licensed 770 stables=\$96,250 and of those funds only approx.\$76,727 has been recorded in the MDA budget template. That gives us approx. \$20k more in stable licensing fees plus \$16K in Feed revenue for \$36,000 not yet recorded. In actuality our balance on hand is \$79K. We have paid our two largest sponsorships-- Fair Hill 5 Star and WIHS (\$7,500 each). But we still have \$30K in grants plus salaries and other smaller printing and sponsorships to pay in the next two thirds of the year.

Ross will be meeting with Fiscal Services on Nov 13., the day after our November board meeting to review our First Quarter budget and make projections through the rest of the FY25.

### **3. Presentations:**

- **New Industry Leaders:** Several new industry leaders have come on board the last half of 2024, with many more new positions opening up and being offered in 2025. MHIB invited several new leaders to attend this meeting and be introduced including: **Bill Knauf**, former VP of business development at Monmouth Park, who is the new Pres. & GM of the MD Jockey Club; **Dr. Jennifer Trout**, new head state veterinarian for the MD Dept. of Agriculture; **Sue Harada**, new Executive Director of the Washington International Horse Show; and **Brooke Fries**, new Equestrian Events Manager at the Prince George's Equestrian Center.
- **Other New Positions:** There will be new hires in 2025 to replace retiring **Mike Hopkins** at the MD Racing Commission; **Ross Peddicord** at the MD Horse Industry Board; and new openings at the MD Thoroughbred Racing & Operating Authority among others.
- **2025 Maryland Calendar:** **Middleton Evans**, well know photographer, featured the Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill on the cover of his new 2025 Maryland calendar which each month depicts different Maryland locations. The large pictorial calendar is distributed statewide and shows 5 Star winner **Austin O'Connor** at "the Crab Jump."

#### **4. Committee Reports & Updates:**

##### **a. STABLE LICENSING:**

- **FY 25 Licensing Renewals. New Stables:** So far **772 Stables** have renewed both online and hard copy. **Donna Hill** at MDA is processing hard copy licenses.
- **FY25 Licensing Still Need to Renew:** We have **50 closed** that were due to renew in 2024; and **31** that have still not renewed from FY24. Those stables are being called and also sent 90 Days Past Due notices. We also send letters to stables in non compliance as we become aware of them. There are also **5** new stables still in the pipeline to be inspected, approved and licensed.
- The MHIB stable inspection team met Oct. 11 and Nov. 4 to review stables that have not renewed as well as practices regarding stable inspection failures and various other issues.
- **Granite Springs Stables**—inspection set for Nov. 15, 2024.
- **Review of Stable Licensing Procedures**—MHIB team meets with Ass't AG Justin Hayes, date TBD
- **FY26 Proposed Licensing Legislation:**  
**MHIB will submit legislation to add a Late Fee (starting Sept 1st, 2026) which is in line with MDA's legislative priorities for FY 2026 and has been supported by Ass't Sec'y Cassie Shirk and MDA legislative director Rachel Jones.** This legislation is similar to an MDA bill that was proposed in FY25.

##### **b. UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE:**

- No further 2024 board meetings. 2025 schedule TBD.
- **CLOSED SESSION:** to discuss Executive Director replacement—**virtual 3:30 PM Nov. 18, 2024**
- GRANTS COMMITTEE meets Thurs., Nov. 21, 2024 at UMD Research Farm Classroom, Ellicott City.
- LISBON HORSE PARADE: Sat., Dec. 14 MHIB has a 4-horse draft team entry/**Chad Walker**

**c. 2025 GRANTS PROGRAM:** The 48 grant applications have been separated into six categories: 4-H & Pony Clubs (4); Education (7); Horse Organizations (10); Licensed Stables (8); Rescues (5); Therapeutic (14). The grant pool is \$30k. The requests amount to over \$109,000. Committee members are being sent the applications and a synopsis of each request.

**d. 2024 MD HORSE FORUM REPORT:**

- The final report was released Oct. 25 by Forum Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds & Anne Litz** accompanied by a news release. The report is located on the MHIB and UMD websites and is available digitally to anyone who requests it. Hard copies are being printed and distributed to public officials and sponsors. In addition, 200 copies of the Executive Summary are being printed/distributed.

**e.2025 HORSE INDUSTRY DAY: Suggestion that the Leadership Group meet to determine date and details.**

**f.OCTOBER HORSE MONTH WRAP-UP: Data is being collected on the various events statewide.**

**g. MD HORSE PARK SYSTEM UPDATES: Prince George's Equestrian Center:** Sheila Curry and Lexi Liu of Maryland Sister States organized a very successful "International Night" reception on Oct. 26 for the Washington DC diplomatic community and other dignitaries at WIHS. About 350 people attended including **Lt. Gov. Aruna Miller** and other high-ranking state county and horse show officials plus four ambassadors and representatives from 25 countries. **Sue Narada** reported a decrease in ticket sales, followed by a discussion on how the industry might help increase attendance in 2025. **Fair Hill:** Data will soon be announced on the fourth and very successful MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill presented by Brown Advisory. **Oliver Townend** from the U.K. was the winner. No announcement yet from DNR on hiring a manager to oversee the Fair Hill Special Events Zone (SEZ). Progress is reportedly being made on holding a steeplechase meet at Fair Hill in 2025. **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** Congratulations to **Cricket Goodall** and team for a well-attended 39<sup>th</sup> running of the MD Million. **Pimlico Race Course:** Plans are progressing to reconstruct the track and overall facility.

**h.UPDATE on Committee Meetings (10): MHIB Health Advisory; Budget; MD Horse Forum; HOW; Tourism Grant; Horseland; Grants;Sport Horse Registry; Western Riding; Equine Welfare BOARD MEMBERS--Please let Sheila know if you would like to join one or more of these committees**

- **CURRENT ACTIVITY: (All 10 Committees have met)**
- **MHIB Health Advisory**—DR. JUSTIN SOBOTA (Chr.)—*Met on March 7, 2024 for annual mtg.*
- **Budget:** JAY GRISWOLD, (Chr.), Neil Agate, Sheila Curry, Dr. Amy Burk, Lisa Watts – *Met on June 21, 2024 to review FY25 budget*
- **MD Horse Forum**—DR. AMY BURK, (Co-Chair with Anne Litz & Jen Reynolds)—*Forum held August 8, 2024—Report issued Oct. 25, 2024. Next Forum 2029*
- **HOW (Horse Outreach Workshop)**—DR. AMY BURK (MHIB representative)—*HOW meets monthly*
- **Horse Park Tourism Grant:** CONNIE SAWYER, (Chr.) Sheila Curry, Cricket Goodall, Sandy Turner, Kristin Hanna (Anne & Ross staff) plus Marriner team. *Met August 15, 2024 and August 22, 2024* to initiate the planning process for branding/marketing campaign. Next steps: the Marriner team has finished conducting site visits to the Horse Park venues and has set "A Discovery & Positioning Opportunity" meeting with Anne & Ross & the Marriner team on Nov. 14, 2024.
- **Horseland 2024 MD State Fair:** Christine Reter, Evie Hickman, Mike Reuter (Co-Chairs) with help from industry partners/sponsors MTHA, MHIB, MHBA, Cloverleaf/Rosecroft and Don Litz, Hope Birsh, Bobby Lillis, Elaina Thomas, April Smith, Ahesamahk Dahn, Wild Kid Acres and HDCs Renee Dixon, Roxy Baldwin, Candy Cole and Brenda von Rautenkrantz successfully conducted Horseland for the ninth time at the MD State Fair. A report was included in the October 17

board meeting packets. The Horseland team and MHIB are also participating in “**Maryland Holiday Lights Spectacular**” on three consecutive weekends—Dec. 12-15, Dec. 19-22, Dec. 26-29 at the MD State fairgrounds.

- **Grants:** **LISA WATTS (Chr.)**, Sheila Curry, Neil Agate, Dr. Amy Burk, Dr. Justin Sobota – **Annual Meeting to review and distribute grants is Nov. 21, 2024.**
- **Sport Horse Registry:** **SHEILA CURRY (Chr.)**, Connie Sawyer, Kim Egan, Jane Seigler, Kirsten Green (RRP), Peggy Morgan, Ellen James—**Met on August 28, 2024** to discuss Kim Egan’s proposal to establish a Maryland Sport Horse Registry and MHIB licensing sport horse breeding farms. The MD Horse Council is expected to introduce legislation in the FY25 General Assembly for MHIB to license sport horse breeding establishments.
- **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 –Jenn, Connie Sawyer and Lisa Watts recently **met by phone** to discuss holding Western riding events at Rosecroft.
- **Equine Welfare:** **ERIN OCHOA (Chr.)**, Peggy Morgan, Ellen James, Raquel Rice, Jane Seigler, Jennifer Bevan, Vicki Carson, Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Lisa Radov, Dr. Justin Sobota, Jessican Hammond and Anne/Ross met Oct. 30, 2024 to discuss what is going well with industry programs and what needs improvement.

**i. NEW MD TRAIL RIDING GUIDES**—**Dianne Dougherty** from Trail Riders Path has received a new state map from **Rodney Vese** at DNR and is locating more than 100 public access horse riding trails and other pertinent details on the map/accompanying brochure. This brochure, **A Guide to Maryland Horse Trails**, is expected to be finished by the end of the year and joins the other recently completed trails brochure “**Saddle Up & Ride Maryland,**” listing 22 public trail riding stables.

## **5.Stable Reports—see Addendum for Full Reports**

## **6.Administrative Reports**

- **Equine Academic Community (Dr. Amy Burk):** UMD will host the Grants meeting on Nov. 21.
- **Humane Societies (Erin Ochoa):** Days End Farm Horse Rescue recently hosted a 2-day Animal Cruelty workshop. A total of 14 animal control officers attended. **Ellen James** asked Erin to send her a list of attendees. Erin had earlier mentioned that topics at the Oct. 30 Equine Welfare committee meeting included a discussion about current Safety Net programs and a request by animal control officers to receive more clarity about MHIB’s licensing program.
- **MD Dept. of Agriculture (Cassie Shirk):** Ross & Anne will give a presentation about MHIB’s mission and programs at the Nov. 13 MDA General Staff meeting.
- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate):** The current issue of **The Equiery** features its annual equine art contest winners. MHC’s annual meeting takes place virtually tonight (Nov. 12) at 6:30 PM. Ross will provide MHIB updates.
- **Organized Shows & Events:** Sheila raised \$60K from various sponsors to host the hugely successful WIHS “Embassy Party.” She also obtained Bowie of Nissan to be the \$50K sponsor of Military Night at WIHS.

- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts):** The card for the Nov. 17 \$125,000 Potomac Pace will be held earlier this year with Post Time set at 6:30 PM. The event will be preceded by cocktails 4-5 PM and dinner 5-6:30 PM. Many of the nation's top harness horses will compete. **Sharon Roberts** has been hired as the new Executive Director of the Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association. Recent yearling sales at Harrisburg (PA) showed an increase over 2023. Harness folks are rallying around Rosecroft track announcer **Pete Medhurst** who is suffering from brain cancer.
- **Thoroughbred Sector (Jenile Tapscott):** Clark Construction was awarded the contract to start construction at a new Pimlico Race Course. Laurel is currently the only Maryland track stabling Thoroughbred runners. There is no word yet on where a new Thoroughbred training center will be located.
- **Trade & Support Industries (Connie Sawyer):** Connie will be onsite for the FEI inspecting the new multi-discipline equestrian facilities at Santa Anita Park in California. Racehorses will train in the morning and then show jumping will take place in the afternoons and evening. Track crossings are an issue.
- **Trails & Recreational Riding (Jennifer Sulin):** **Carolann Sharpe** is representing TROT on reviewing MHIB's new trail riding brochure. There is a lot of trail clearing activity being reported. **Bradley Rumbel** from the League of Maryland Horsemen is the new equestrian community liaison for Patapsco State Park.

## 7.Public Comment

- **MD Bred Breeders Crown Winner: Gina Maybee**, Exec. VP of Cloverleaf, reported that **CALL ME GOO** is the first MD-Bred and MD-sired horse to win a Breeders Crown Final. The aged Trotting Mare was bred by MD resident **William Roberts**.
- **Al Martinez** from Tuckahoe Equestrian Center will email MHIB information regarding TEC's Celebration of the Horse festivities and attendees during October Horse Month.
- **Carolann Sharpe**, TROT President, has rallied trails organizations to man a booth at the upcoming Horse World Expo Feb 27-March 2, 2025. She thanked **Jenn Sulin** for serving as MHIB trails rep and has been setting up meetings with DNR officials.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:10 PM**

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

**ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached**