

MINUTES
MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
MHIB Board Meeting: October 16th, 2025 10am In-Person
In-Person Thursday, Oct. 16th, 10am Equine Veterinary Care Fair Hill Training Center

The Meeting started at 10:06am

Meeting Start: Call to Order: Sheila Curry, Chair

Present: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Steve Connelly, (MDA), Jenile Tapscott, Erin Ochoa, Lisa Watts, Jennifer Sulin, Carolyn Mackintosh, Dr. Kathleen Anderson, and Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane

Unable to Attend: Adrian Ford III, Connie Sawyer

Also in Attendance: Dr. Jennifer Trout, Sabrina Dobbins, Cricket Goodall, Trish Brown, Neil Agate, George Mahoney, Lily Bisson, Cole Bisson, Will Phipps, Claire Lacey, Renee Dixon, Theresa Wiseman, Steve Wiseman, Anita Motion, Maggie Kimmit, Laura Hannan, Phoebe Hayes, Becky Remsburg, Polly Binns, Jane Thery, Trish Brown, Buddy Jones, Dawn Leung, Al Martinez, Stable Inspectors Ellen James and Peggy Morgan
Anne Litz, Executive Director of MHIB

Welcome by Dr. Kathleen Anderson

Fair Hill Training Center Founded in 1983, Fair Hill is now the most innovative racehorse Training Center in North America, providing unsurpassed facilities to maximize the performance and soundness of the equine athlete. FHTC's mission is to provide full year round training center with a sustainable budget in a safe, natural environment, utilizing multiple services. You can read more here <https://fairhilltrainingcenter.com/>

Dr. Anderson welcoming guests to her facility, Equine Veterinary Care Fair Hill Training Center, where our meeting took place. Established in 1993 at Fair Hill Training Center in the northeast corner of Maryland bordered by Pennsylvania and Delaware, Equine Veterinary Care is a progressive equine practice specializing in racehorses and performance horses. They offer a wide range of advanced diagnostic and treatment options for horses throughout the tri-state area, including Delaware Park. Their team provides both local ambulatory services and outpatient care, working closely with referral facilities across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Anita Motion & Maggie Kimmitt: Real Rider Cup, Oct. 18th:

The brainchild of Anita Motion, the Real Rider Cup is a charity show jumping event that invites racing industry personalities to team up with an off-track Thoroughbred and compete over a course of jumps, while raising funds to benefit Thoroughbred aftercare. Each rider — employees of breeding farms and racing stables, trainers, jockeys, owners, members of racing media, and more — pledges to raise a minimum of \$1,000, which directly supports Real Rider Cup beneficiaries: Beyond the Wire, New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, and the Retired Racehorse Project. Since its inception in 2017, the Real Rider Cup has raised over \$600,000 for these organizations.

Lily Bisson Gallop for Life

Lily Bisson operates a small boarding barn in Montgomery County Maryland, The Stables at Little Bennett, and works full time as a project manager at the National Institutes of Health.

When not working her day job or helping take care of horses on the farm, she enjoys fox chasing and eventing her two horses. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2023, and while

laid up unable to ride formed a charity, Gallop for Life, to help other equestrians battling cancer. She welcomes one to follow on Social Media and reach out if support is needed.

<https://www.gallopforlife.org/>

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes from the Aug 16th 2025, Dr. Amy Burk made a motion to approve, seconded by Jenile Tapscott. The board approved

STABLE LICENSING:

As of early October 2025, 20 stables remain unrenewed out of 820 due for FY26 renewal. The OneStop late fee issue has now been resolved, ensuring the \$100 fee applies to renewals past August 30. Inspectors Ellen James and Peggy Morgan continue to conduct field inspections and will meet with the Executive Director before the October Board meeting to review unlicensed stables and refine complaint follow-up procedures.

Ongoing cases include Misty Manor Stables, where probation violations for animal cruelty are under renewed review by Carroll County State's Attorney's Office. A Violation of Probation hearing is scheduled for November 17, 2025.

Stable Inspector Reports:

Peggy Morgan – Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since Oct. 14th, she has inspected 94 Stables. Peggy reported several recent stable inspections across multiple counties. New inspections included Safe Haven Stables in Charles County and Between the Creeks Farm in Calvert County—both well-maintained facilities. She also visited Rich Fields, where the owner plans to build an indoor arena; Fraser Equine, which is operating successfully; and several retirement farms, including Windham Oaks. Exalt in Firewood Farm in Anne Arundel County has been sold, with the new owners moving in December. Iron Post Farm in Howard County serves as a horse “Airbnb” for cross-country travelers and show participants. Summer Wind Farm in Montgomery County may have sold but continues limited operations with breeding horses. Overall, all farms are in good condition, with no major issues reported. Peggy and Ellen continue to take biosecurity precautions, avoiding farms with strangles outbreaks as identified by the State Vet and disinfecting after each visit.

Ellen James - Stable Report on New Stables, Issues with current stables and anything of note. Since Oct. 14th, she has inspected 62 stables. reported several new and follow-up stable inspections across multiple counties. New licenses include Logan's Legacy Farm in Harford County (boarding), Athlone Farm in northern Baltimore County (small boarding and therapy with an indoor arena), and Strawberry Fields Farm in the Catoctin Mountains (therapy and small boarding). Fox Point and Fox Coin Farms updated their licenses, while the Baltimore County Ag Center and Farm Park is now officially licensed. Cruise Equestrian and Muddy Boots Horse Farm & Rescue in lower Cecil County both maintain good standards—Muddy Boots cares for six horses, four of them rescues, and limits intake responsibly. Follow-ups included Sweet Brook Stables (fencing improvements in progress), Heartland Farm (pending repairs), and Hops Hollow Farm, which failed inspection due to a severe manure management issue. Spring Stable and Blue Bottom Farm also require follow-up visits for inadequate fencing. Overall, several new operations are in good standing, with a few farms needing corrective action for safety and maintenance.

New Hiring Process

State is on a hiring freeze. Competitive Contractual Hire for MHIB, Registrar/Administrator/Outreach Position, Work with the MDA's HR to update and post the position, Timing is to be determined

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE 2025:

- November 13th, 10am Virtual
- December – Grants Committee
- January, Realignment in person at MDA Board meeting DTBD

On October 20, MHIB hosted “The Future is Now: Smart Tools for Horse Health”, an international veterinary innovation panel held at the Prince George's Equestrian Center during the Washington International Horse Show. Organized in collaboration with Hauts-de-France and featuring Vice President François Decoster, the event brought together U.S. and European veterinary leaders to explore emerging technologies shaping equine care. Seven speakers, including Dr. Kathleen Anderson, Dr. Chris Navas, Dr. Claire Scicluna, Dr. Jack Caldwell, Dr. Annick Valentin-Smith, Jim Chiapetta, and Dr. Alan Hook, presented advances in cardiac monitoring, temperature-sensing microchips, smart barn systems, lameness detection, tendon protection, and immersive equine-vision tools. The free public symposium drew international attention, emphasizing Maryland's leadership in global equine innovation and fostering cross-Atlantic collaboration between the U.S. and Europe

HOW – Horse Outreach Workgroup/Nutrient Management Update: Becky Remsburg

The Horse Outreach Workgroup, a collaboration between the Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Horse Industry Board, University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland Forestry Council, and USDA NRCS, provided updates on its ongoing education and conservation efforts. The group continues to develop and distribute resources on pasture and nutrient management, participates annually in outreach events such as the Maryland 5 Star and is seeking additional high-traffic events to engage horse farm owners. Current initiatives include updating fact sheets and stewardship guides, producing monthly “Equi-ty” articles, and expanding 2026 outreach to youth and veterinarians to promote conservation practices through lesson barns and client education. The coalition's overarching goal is to maintain healthy, sustainable horse farms through collaboration and shared expertise.

2025 GRANTS PROGRAM: The Maryland Horse Industry Board's 2025 grant cycle closed on October 4, receiving 56 online applications—a record for full digital participation, with no paper submissions. One ineligible application (for a chicken farm) will be declined with a courtesy letter. The Grants Committee will review and summarize submissions, with funding decisions and distributions planned for early 2026. Over \$93,000 was requested but the board only has \$20-\$30 to distribute for FY2026. Funding for these grants and the Maryland Horse Industry Board is provided by the Maryland Feed Fund, which collects \$6 on every ton of horse feed sold in the state. Since the fund was established in 2002, the Board has awarded nearly \$700,000 in grants to more than 450 projects.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC:

Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Update

The Maryland State Department of Education's deadline for submitting proposals for Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs) is October 31. By the next meeting, we should know which applications have been submitted. It is anticipated that one proposal will include an application related to artificial insemination. Apprenticeship proposals are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. Individuals or organizations interested in offering an apprenticeship—or

learning more about the process—can receive guidance directly from MSDE, and we are happy to help facilitate those connections. It was suggested that we explore potential strategies to help address the statewide farrier shortage and consider Equine Dentist certifications. We also commend MDA for its efforts to tackle the rural veterinary shortage, which serves as a valuable model for addressing similar workforce challenges within the equine industry.

MD HORSE PARK SYSTEM UPDATES:

Marriner Update:

The MarylandHorsePark.org website is now live and allows farms, venues, and event organizers to upload their own events for public visibility and promotion. The Maryland Horse Park System highlights four main pillars, Horse Discovery Centers, the horse community and more

Print Ads and Digital will run:

- The Equiery (October 2025 & March 2026 issues)
- American Eventing Championship Magazine (October 2025 issue)
- The Chronical of the Horse (October 2025 & April 2026 issues)
- Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred (October 2025 & April 2026 issue)
- 2026 Destination Maryland Guide

Prince George's Equestrian Center: The Embassy Night Reception will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Oct 25th in a large tent outside the Prince George's Equestrian Center, preceding the Washington International Horse Show World Cup on Saturday night. The elegant, tented event—free and open to invited guests—will welcome approximately 300 members of the diplomatic corps, along with representatives from the U.S. Olympic equestrian team, the Washington International Horse Show Board, and state leaders including Maryland Secretary of State Susan Lee, who invited over 30 embassies to attend. The reception featured food, drinks, and networking opportunities, serving as a signature evening celebrating Maryland's global equine partnerships and cultural diplomacy.

"Green is the New Blue" is a sustainability initiative introduced by Will Phipps to encourage environmentally conscious practices at horse shows. The campaign promotes the "Bring Your Own" movement—urging participants to use refillable water bottles and reduce single-use plastics. The effort began with a video by Stephanie Bulger and has since expanded to include distribution of stickers, flyers, and a social media campaign using the #BringYourOwn hashtag. Future goals include installing water refill stations at horse shows and improving recycling programs, particularly for plastic shavings bags. The initiative aligns with broader efforts to make the equine industry more sustainable and environmentally responsible.

Jane Thery reported that The Maryland Horse Industry Board has launched a new Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Group to promote eco-friendly practices at horse shows and farms statewide. Modeled after successful initiatives in Virginia, the group aims to improve recycling, tree cover, and environmental standards at facilities such as Fair Hill. Highlights include progress on a composted horse manure product for houseplants, now supported by the Maryland Department of Agriculture in marketing to major garden retailers. These developments reflect Maryland's growing commitment to sustainability, innovation, and value-added practices within the horse industry.

Fair Hill: Maryland 5 Star October 16-19,

The 2025 Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is kicking off today and showing major success, reinforcing Maryland's position as a premier destination for international equestrian sport. The event will draw thousands of spectators, world-class riders, and significant media attention, continuing to generate multi-million-dollar economic impact for Cecil County and the state. Alongside its sporting prestige, the 5 Star showcased Maryland's commitment to excellence in event management, sustainability, and tourism development within the Maryland Horse Park System.

Separately, the Maryland International Travel Grant Program—supporting international competition and training exchanges—has expanded its reach to include the newly designated Maryland 4 Star, led by Carolyn Mackintosh of Loch Moy Farm. This initiative strengthens global engagement and visibility for Maryland equestrian athletes and venues by providing travel support for international riders, fostering cross-border participation, and positioning Maryland as a key player on the international equestrian circuit. Together, the 5 Star and 4 Star events underscore Maryland's growing influence and leadership in equine sport, tourism, and international collaboration.

Lead by Dr. Amy Burk a discussion about the growing frustration over the USEF scheduling of the Morven Park Four-Star event one week before the Maryland 5 Star, noting that it directly conflicts with Maryland's premier international competition and undermines the investment the state has made in the event. Several participants suggested formally addressing the issue with USEF and FEI, potentially through a letter-writing campaign or coordinated outreach from the Maryland Department of Agriculture and local stakeholders. The group agreed to advocate for moving the Maryland 5 Star to the first weekend of October, aligning with international calendars and avoiding overlap with major U.S. and European events. A follow-up virtual meeting next month will focus on developing a unified strategy and outreach plan to support the date change initiative.

Trish Brown of DNR reported on the Races at Fair Hill

The Races at Fair Hill, held on August 30, were a success under the coordination of Trish with the Special Event Zone team. The event featured a short card of flat races—no steeplechase races this year—to avoid scheduling conflicts with other meets and to maintain strong industry partnerships. The day received positive feedback from riders and trainers, highlighting smooth operations and strong community engagement. The successful outcome is expected to pave the way for the return of steeplechase racing to Fair Hill next year, further enhancing the venue's equine event portfolio.

MD Horse Library & Education Center: The Maryland Horse Library & Education Center has a full schedule of upcoming programs. Upcoming events at the Maryland Horse Library & Education Center include a full slate of engaging programs this fall. On November 20, the Bendor Series will feature equine dentist PJ Arnold, followed by a presentation on November 27 highlighting Sagamore Farm with speakers Joe Davies and Larry Smith. In

December, the Library will host its annual Open House, featuring films about Equus Farm, to be screened at a new local theater near Reisterstown and Pikesville. These events reflect the library's continued growth and strong industry collaboration supported by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. Additionally, a special thanks to Cricket and her staff on the 40th anniversary of Maryland Million Day in 2025, marking four decades of celebrating Maryland's racing heritage and serving as a lead-up to the Preakness at Laurel Park.

- a. Pimlico Race Course: George Mahoney, Chair of the MRC, shared enthusiasm for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course, describing it as the "crown jewel" of Maryland racing and a key focus for the state's equine future. The old grandstand has been fully demolished, and momentum is building among stakeholders, with the Maryland Racing Commission and the broader horse industry expressing strong support for the project's next phase.

October Horse Month – Success was reflected in all the events above. The Touch of Class Award was presented at the State Jousting Championships, while the Unsung Hero Award was recognized during Maryland Million Day, honoring the hardworking Horseland Chairs for their dedication and service.

Partnership Development: Marion Dupont Scott Equine Medical Center (EMC)

Additionally, the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center (Leesburg, VA) has reached out to explore a potential partnership with Maryland on advancing veterinary technologies and collaborative programs. Initial discussions will begin with a virtual introduction and spring site visit, marking a promising step toward stronger Maryland–Virginia veterinary cooperation.

Public Health & Animal Welfare: Strangles Outbreak Response, Equine Emergency Preparedness Sessions

Dr. Trout provided an extensive biosecurity update for Maryland's equine industry, reporting 15 facilities affected by strangles since April and several West Nile virus cases currently under investigation. The Animal Health team continues enforcing 30-day quarantines for affected farms and emphasizing proper on-farm biosecurity practices such as isolation zones, temperature monitoring, disinfection, and restricted movement. Dr. Trout highlighted new social media outreach through the program's Facebook and Instagram accounts to share timely health alerts and educational posts. Discussion focused on balancing transparency and confidentiality during disease outbreaks, reinforcing that farms are not publicly named to encourage prompt reporting and responsible management. The Maryland Department of Agriculture and USDA are aligning equine biosecurity protocols with successful models from the poultry and swine sectors, and members expressed interest in making the biosecurity seminar an annual event with possible collaboration from the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC).

Upcoming Outreach & Sponsorships

- a. Maryland 5 Star Oct. 16-19, 2025 Fair Hill
- b. The Future is Now" – International Horse Veterinarian Panel. Oct 20th
- c. Washington International Horse Show: Oct 20-26, 2025 Prince George's Equestrian Center

- d. Embassy Night – Oct. 25th, 2025
- e. Maryland Outdoor Rec Summit: October 28-30, 2025,

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

From Industry Sector Board Members:

MD Horse Council: Carolyn Mackintosh MHC has been asked to comment on a DNR legislative proposal that would, among other things, allow year-round shooting of deer anywhere in the state if the landowner can prove landscape damage and has at least five contiguous acres. Also, it would allow Sunday hunting on private land up to 2 1/2 hours after sunrise and then again beginning 2 1/2 hours before sunset, although certain jurisdictions could opt out.

Everyone is invited to MHC two upcoming in person events!

Oct. 22. MHC Day at WIHS at Showplace Arena. Tickets and details on our calendar here:

<https://mdhorsecouncil.org/event/mhc-day-at-the-washington-international-horse-show/>

Nov. 2. Behind the Scenes at Rosecroft (Potomac Pace Day). No tickets needed but registration required here: <https://mdhorsecouncil.org/event/harness-racing-behind-the-scenes-at-rosecroft/>

Humane Societies: Erin Ochoa: Erin reported that it has been a busy but manageable summer for animal welfare, with several small-scale impound cases but no major incidents. The focus has shifted toward education and training, including a three-day “Verbal Judo” course for 50 officers to strengthen communication and conflict-resolution skills when interacting with the public. Additional trainings are planned for later this year and into next year, with participation expanding to include both in-state and out-of-state officers. All operations at Day’s End Farm Horse Rescue remain stable and positive.

Deputy Secretary Steve Connelly – Thanked everyone for coming up and enjoying Cecil County during Horse Month.

Standardbred Sector: Lisa Watts:

Lisa Watts reported that Rosecroft Raceway is preparing for its premier annual event, the Potomac Pace, which attracts top Standardbred pacers from across the country. The event will be held on a Sunday afternoon and includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the backstretch in partnership with the Maryland Horse Council, led by Ross Peddicord and Eli Solomon.

Additionally, the Standardbred industry is collaborating to establish a new scholarship fund, to be formally announced in November, supporting individuals and families connected to the harness racing community.

At Large: Genevieve H.R. Macfarlane: At-large representative Genevieve McFarland encouraged members to explore new aspects of Maryland’s horse industry and to engage beyond their usual disciplines. She urged attendees to attend different types of equine events—such as visiting Rosecroft Raceway, auditing clinics, or trying fox hunting—and to participate in community traditions like the Chesapeake City Horse Parade in December. Genevieve emphasized that involvement can be as simple as sharing events on social media or bringing a friend, reinforcing the message that continued engagement strengthens Maryland’s equine community year-round.

Licensed Veterinarians: Dr. Kathleen Anderson

It was announced that the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is developing a new three-year School of Veterinary Medicine, a significant step toward addressing the statewide shortage of equine veterinarians. Additionally, members are participating in the Farm Journal Foundation's workforce readiness initiative, led by Secretary Kevin Atticks, to explore long-term veterinary workforce solutions. While still in early stages, these efforts mark meaningful progress toward strengthening Maryland's veterinary capacity.

Equine Academic Community: Dr Amy Burk

Dr. Amy Parks reported that the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is developing a new School of Veterinary Medicine, a three-year, year-round program without a teaching hospital, where students will complete clinical training through partnerships with practicing veterinarians. The school aims to welcome its first class in 2027, pending accreditation, and will operate alongside existing programs such as Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Parks also shared updates from the University of Maryland College Park, where efforts are underway to expand the equine science program, including a proposal for a new equestrian center and an equine minor to provide academic pathways for growing numbers of equine-focused students and club participants.

Thoroughbred Sector: Jenile Tapscott: The Maryland Million was reported as highly successful, and progress continues on the Pimlico redevelopment project. Four prototype stalls have been installed for trainers to review and provide feedback as part of the design process. Dr Anderson reported that the newly restructured Maryland Jockey Club, formed in June, is working to improve communication with horsemen and will engage a marketing firm to enhance outreach and transparency. While some concerns have circulated online, officials confirmed that horsemen have had direct input on plans for Pimlico's layout, with construction on the training center expected to begin around 2027. Overall, the outlook remains positive, with growing optimism about Pimlico's future.

Organized Shows & Events: Sheila Curry looks forward to all the events to come and thanks the industry for the support of October Horse Month

Trails & Recreational Riding: Jennifer Sulin— not able to attend

Licensed Stables: Adrian Ford III – not able to attend

Trade & Support Industries: Connie Sawyer: Could not attend

Public Comment:

Al Martinez reported that the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center has been highly active, hosting successful community and fundraising events including a Breast Cancer Awareness Ride that raised over \$11,000 and the Celebration of the Horse, an educational exhibition showcasing multiple disciplines. The center continues to expand and improve its facilities, with plans to install stadium lighting, add a new restroom building, and create additional camping sites for members. These efforts support the organization's mission to promote equine education, recreation, and community engagement on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Dawn Leung reported that the Mobile Animal Services for Heroes unit, supported by a recent MHIB grant, is now fully operational and traveling to serve veterans and first responders. The program features two donated miniature horses that provide therapeutic interactions at partner sites such as The Baltimore Station and Depot Therapeutic programs. Inspired by the original Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) concept, the initiative brings equine therapy directly to those in need. Upcoming visits will include Secretary Kevin Atticks and representatives from the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, highlighting growing statewide support for the program.

Fair Hill Nature Center Report:

Executive Director Laura Hannan shared that the Fair Hill Nature Center now serves nearly 8,000 students annually across Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, providing hands-on environmental and equine education. Upcoming events include a 5K and “Bark in the Park” during the Maryland 5 Star, inviting participants to explore the cross-country course. The Center is pursuing a strategic facilities plan in partnership with the State Park Service, which includes restoring the historic caretaker’s cottage and 1700s bank barn to create a museum and classroom space highlighting Fair Hill’s natural and equestrian heritage. Future goals include expanding partnerships with the horse community, enhancing educational programming, and continuing to grow outreach through summer camps and public engagement initiatives.

Dr Amy Burk from the University of Maryland announced an opportunity for local horse owners to support student learning by providing two pregnant broodmares for the university’s Equine Reproduction course in the spring semester. The mares should be due to foal in April, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in foaling and neonatal care during the academic term. Interested owners are encouraged to contact the university for details.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:37 AM by Jenile Tapscott. second Amy Burk. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Litz, Executive Director

ADDENDUM on Request: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports