

MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Minutes of the Board Meeting
October 17, 2024

Meeting held IN PERSON at the Second Floor Conference Room, Equine Veterinary Care at Fair Hill Training Center, 288 Training Center Drive, Elkton, MD 21921

The meeting started at 10:13 A.M.

Present: Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.), Neil Agate, Lisa Watts, Jennifer Sulin

Unable to Attend: Sheila Curry (Chr.), Adrian Ford III, Jay Griswold, Connie Sawyer, Jenile Tapscott, Erin Ochoa, Dr. Justin Sobota, Cassie Shirk. **Note:** Sheila was unable to attend due to officiating at a news conference at the same time at PGEC for the Washington Int'l Horse Show.

Also in Attendance: Dr. Kathy Anderson (host), Mei Collins, Ali Sippel & Danielle Rogers (Marriner Marketing), Abigail Bingham and Raquel Rice (Cecil County Humane Society); Swayti Gandhi (MTROA); Cricket Goodall (MHBA), Mike Hopkins (MRC), Cindy Miller (MD OTD), Sandy Turner (Cecil Co. Tourism), Dianne Dougherty (Trail Riders Path); Alison Asti, Leslie Bridget, Jim Steele, Christi Steele, Bev Raymond, Cindy Blum, Will Phipps, Stacie Benes, Renee Dixon, Sabrina Morris, Greg Shelton, Dawn Shelton, Don Johnsey, Jane Thery, Genevieve MacFarlane, Kathleen Sentkowski, Sarah Connor, Al Martinez, Stacy Frank, Elaina Thomas, Anne Luke, Kathryn Hall, Ellen James, Peggy Morgan, Anne Litz, Ross Peddicord

Call to Order: Dr. Amy Burk (V. Chr.) called the meeting to order.

Introduction of Attendees: **Host: Dr. Kathy Anderson;** representatives from **Marriner Marketing** and attendees from around the room introduced themselves and gave a brief introduction about their equine affiliation.

Welcome & Overview of Equine Veterinary Care at Fair Hill Training Center: **Dr. Kathy Anderson** founded Equine Veterinary Care in 1993 at Fair Hill Training Center. It is a progressive equine practice specializing in racehorse and performance horses, offering a wide variety of advanced diagnostic and treatment options. The clinic provides both local ambulatory and outpatient services and collaborates with all referral facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region, particularly New Bolton Center.

Dr. Anderson, a former president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), and her staff offer the latest diagnostic equipment, such as the Equina CT scanner, which can screen horses quickly and safely for lameness and other suspected injuries.

The vet center is part of the Fair Hill Condominium Association, which consists of 18 privately-owned barns with nearly 800 stalls and an annual economic impact of \$25M. Horses ship all over the country, and in some cases the world. There are six Fair Hill-based horses in the 2024 Breeders Cup

Dr. Anderson shares her facility with Michael Matz's Vintage Farm training operation which has produced classic winners Barbaro and Union Rags.

Congratulations: to **Cathy Schmidt, Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, 2024 MD Million Joe Kelly Unsung Hero Award Winner.**

1.Approval of Minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting.

- The minutes could not be approved since a quorum of board members was not present.

2.Monthly Budget Report:

Board members are emailed the MHIB budget template monthly produced by MDA Fiscal Services. We are already through the First Quarter of FY25.

Revenue and Expenses to Date.

Revenue to Date \$ 132,611.59 (includes \$69,607 carryover from FY24).

Expenses to Date \$ 83,601.00

Total Balance on Hand \$ 49,010.59

Feed Fund notices for the Second Quarter FY25 were mailed Oct. 2, 2024. We should be receiving another \$50k plus in revenue for this quarter. So far we've licensed 747 stables=\$93.375. There's nearly \$17K in stable licensing revenue that hasn't yet been transferred into our account. That makes our current revenue total at approx. \$66,010.59.

It is on par with where we were in the First Quarter FY24.

3. Presentations:

- **Greg Shelton:** Greg and his wife Dawn are owner/operators of the local Poplar Hall events company. They inaugurated a European-style holiday market in Chesapeake City several years ago and incorporated a horse parade in downtown Chesapeake City in 2022. Grand marshals have included Olympians **Phillip Dutton** and **Bruce Davidson Sr.** This year's parade marshal is another Olympian **Boyd Martin**. The parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 14. Several teams of riders including a local pack of foxhounds, the Rough Riders, dressage barns, etc. participate. The event draws over 3,000 people.
- **Dianne Dougherty:** Dianne gave an update on preparing a new trail riding brochure "**Guide to Maryland Horse Trails**" which MHIB publishes in cooperation with MDA and DNR. The 16-page brochure lists over 100 public access riding trails as well as pertinent trail riding information. Previously, MHIB has distributed over 50,000 hard copies of the former brochure as well as posting it online and sharing it with other organizations. The new guide should be ready by the end of the year.

4. Committee Reports & Updates:

- **STABLE LICENSING:**

FY 25 Licensing Renewals. New Stables: So far **747 Stables** have renewed both online and hard copy. **Donna Hill** at MDA is processing hard copy licenses. Last year MHIB licensed 815 stables.

FY25 Licensing Still Need to Renew: We have **44 closed** that were due to renew in 2024; and **59** that have still not renewed from FY24. Those stables are being called and also sent 90 Days Past Due notices. There are also several new stables in the pipeline to be inspected. Letters are sent to stables in non compliance as we become aware of them. There was discussion about the number of Closed Stables—some owners have retired and/or passed away, others have re-located to new locations.

Sept. 30 Meeting with MDA Ass't AG Justin Hayes: MHIB staff members and it's stable inspection team, Cecil County Animal Control officers **Abigail Bingham** and **Raquel Rice** and board members **Sheila Curry** and **Erin Ochoa** met with **MDA Ass't AG Justin Hayes** on Sept. 30 to review practices regarding stable inspection failures and various other issues. Two stables were discussed.

A. Painted Horse Ranch:

Discussion was sparked after an incident when a loose horse in poor body condition from the stable was seized from state land and moved to Days End Farm Horse Rescue for further care. **Abigail Bingham** and **Raquel Rice** from Cecil County Animal Control responded to the situation and now feel that the stable operator is showing a willingness to cooperate with their efforts. They will continue to closely monitor the situation and be in contact with MHIB.

So far Painted Horse Ranch has been marginal, but not failed, any MHIB inspections. If by June 2025 Painted Horse Ranch would fail an inspection(s), MHIB will not license the stable for FY26 under the COMAR regulation that states "the board may not issue an operator's license to a person until that person's horse establishment has passed Board Inspection." Changes are being made in the OneStop database to flag such occurrences.

MHIB will continue to monitor the operation in conjunction with Cecil County Animal Control, and take appropriate action if/when needed.

B. Granite Springs Stables

The owner was notified by certified and regular mail on Sept.18, 2024 that MHIB had improperly issued him an FY25 stable license due to the failure of his stable to pass numerous inspections.

To reinstate his license, he must contact inspector **Ellen James** to set up an appointment for an inspection. He has contacted MHIB and agreed to do so. In the meantime, Granite Springs is unlicensed for FY25. MHIB is refunding his FY25 \$125 licensing fee.

Cecil County Animal Control is aware of this and other situations at Granite Springs and has been sent a copy of the Sept. 18 MHIB letter.

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 FY24.

- **PROPOSED 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE:**

Tuesday, Nov. 12 10 AM **Virtual– Google Meets Teleconference**
December 2024 – **Grants Committee Meeting. Date TBD by Doodle Poll.**

- **FY25 GRANTS PROGRAM:** MHIB started accepting FY25 grants on August 1 and received **48 grant applications** by the deadline on Oct. 4. They are now being catalogued and will be reviewed by the grants committee at a date TBD in December.
- **2024 MD HORSE FORUM REPORT:**
Forum Co-Chairs **Dr. Amy Burk, Jen Reynolds & Anne Litz** have finished compiling the official report and are sending it to MDA Communications for final review and distribution. It should be released by the end of October.
- **OCTOBER HORSE MONTH & TOUCH OF CLASS AWARDS:** **Gov. Wes Moore** issued his October Horse Month proclamation. As part of October Horse Month, MHIB presented Touch of Class Awards on Oct. 5 at Celebration of the Horse, Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, Ridgely to National Mounted Shooting Cowgirl Champion **Jessica Flores Johnston** from Berlin, MD. Jessie operates **Rusted Star Ranch** one of our licensed stables. On the same day, we presented the award to our current national Jousting champions-- **Delaney Hawks** (Novice), **Nicole Solomon** (Amateur), **Michaella Patrick** (Semi-Professional) and **Bob Enfield** (professional)—at the State Jousting Championships at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville.
- **MD HORSE PARK SYSTEM UPDATES:** MHIB Chair **Sheila Curry** and **Ross Peddicord** made a presentation on Oct. 1. to the board of the MD Stadium Authority on the history of the MD Horse Park System. Site updates: **Prince George's Equestrian Center:** **Sheila Curry** obtained a new \$50k sponsor, **Nissan of Bowie**, for Military Night at WIHS. She is working with **Lexi Liu** of Maryland Sister States to organize an "International Night" reception on Oct. 26 for the Washington DC diplomatic community and other dignitaries at WIHS. No announcement yet from Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning about hiring an equestrian manager for the PGEC facility. **Fair Hill:** The fourth **MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill presented by Brown Advisory** starts this week with a field of 23 competitors including top foreign riders **Oliver Townend, Harry Meade, Bobby Upton** and **David Doel** from the UK, **Tim Price and Joe Meyer** (NZ), and other competitors from Canada, Australia and the USA, including **Boyd Martin**. For the first time in the U.S. sports betting is being conducted on the 3 Star and 5 Star events by the **Sport & Entertainment Corp. of MD** and **Crab Sports**. No announcement yet from DNR on hiring a manager to oversee the Fair Hill Special Events Zone (SEZ). **MD Horse Library & Education Center:** **Anne Litz** and **Stacie Benes** represented MHIB at the MD Million "Sip & Win" fundraiser

at MHLEC on Oct. 11. **Pimlico Race Course:** MHIB Chair **Sheila Curry** and **Anne Litz** met with **Corey Johnson** from MTROA at the MD Million and are planning more involvement from MHIB during the 150th Preakness including a potential **“Barn Day”** on Thursday before the race. MHIB and MDA International Marketing are also working with **Mike Rogers** from the Stronach Group, MTROA and MHBA on hosting a delegation from **The Swedish Jockey Club** during 2025 Preakness Week.

- **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 Committees have met or plan to meet)

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—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. **Mei Collins** from Marriner met **Sept. 18, 2024** with the State Tourism/October Horse Month committee. On **October 7, 2024**, **Ann Saunders**, Marriner’s Insights & Planning Supervisor, started qualitative interviews with four key stakeholders to capture feedback and insights in order to gain a deeper understanding of the equine industry and identify opportunities to effectively brand and promote Maryland as a top equestrian destination. Starting **Oct. 17, 2024**, Marriner reps are conducting site visits to the Horse Park’s four main pillars (Fair Hill, PGEC, MD Horse Library & Pimlico). Marriner issued a news release about the project.

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 on consecutive weekends Aug. 22-Sept. 8. A report was placed in the Oct. mtg. packets.

Grants: LISA WATTS (Chr.), Sheila Curry, Neil Agate, Dr. Amy Burk, Dr. Justin Sobota – *Annual Meeting in Dec 2024. Date TBD.*

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, MHIB staff and representatives from various animal welfare agencies will meet **Oct. 30, 2024** to discuss actions that MHIB can take to improve equine welfare.

- **NEW GUIDE TO MARYLAND HORSE TRAILS**—Now that *Saddle Up & Ride Maryland*, a directory of 22 Maryland Public Trail Riding Stables, has been updated, printed and distributed, **Dianne Dougherty** of Trail Riders Path is working with **Rodney Vese** from DNR and a committee of equine trail riders including **Carolanne Sharpe, Priscilla Huffman, Jacqui Cowan, Tracy McKenna** and **Claire Lacey** to update the *“Guide to Maryland Horse Trails.”* This is a 16-page guide to locations, contacts and activities associated with the state’s 109 (at last counting) public access horseback riding trails.
- **OTHER BUSINESS:**
Renee Dixon, Freedom Hills Therapeutic Riding Center: Renee said that the PATH Regional Conference is being planned for July 11-13, 2025 and hopes that it can be hosted in Maryland.
Genevieve MacFarlane: Wicomico Hunt will be holding its first “Vixen Hunt” (for female riders) on Dec. 6, 2025.

Stable Reports—see Addendum for Full Reports

Administrative Reports

- **Equine Academic Community (Dr. Amy Burk):** Amy, along with Jen Reynolds and Anne Litz, is busy putting the finishing touches on the 2024 MD Horse Forum report. So far it’s at 33 pages with a concise 2-page Executive Summary.
- **Licensed Veterinarians (Dr. Kathy Anderson, a member of the MHIB Health Advisory Committee, reporting for Dr. Justin Sobota):**

From Dr. Anderson Notes:

Maryland racing has had a good season to date. Updates for the industry and local are as follows:

Strangles:

Ohio has had restricted movement to nearby racing states due to ongoing Strangles cases (not a reportable disease in OH). *Horses moving from a Kentucky track or sanctioned training center with intention of racing and return at Thistledown will not be allowed direct entry back onto the track or sanctioned training center. Horsemen traveling to Thistledown for racing and return are permitted to reenter KY and go to isolation at a private farm or facility. To qualify for entry back to their home track or sanctioned training center, the horses will need to isolate a minimum of 96 hours, be monitored multiple times daily for an elevated temperature, and have a **nasal pharyngeal wash** collected and tested for strangles by PCR. If the results are returned negative, the trainer will need to coordinate the reentry with the receiving facilities stable manager and have approval of the facilities equine veterinary director.*

Equine Infectious Anemia:

Southwest headlines: *In total, 21 horses trained by Taylor have tested positive for EIA, while 18 have been confirmed as euthanized at this time between Lone Star Park & Los Almitos.*

Increased stringency of coggins test requirements for the region?

EHV1:

Laurel mid April – quarantined barn with 100 horses with plan to monitor the horses residing in the barn for the next 21 days after removal of the index case. Testing the horses in the affected barn, nor other potentially exposed horses (i.e. outrider horses, lead ponies etc.) was not done and quarantine lifted May 4th two weeks in front of Preakness!

False alarms:

Penn, Belmont & Delaware all had suspect horses that were determined to be negative for EHV1 within 24-48 hours of isolation. Having PCR testing available in PA and MD for rapid testing has been extremely valuable to expedite management of these neuro cases.

HISA:

*Year 2 of operating in all mid Atlantic states except West Virginia/Ohio.

*Medication violations follow previous year patterns of controlled medication errors and human medication contaminations (ie Metformin, Methamphetamines etc)

*Safety numbers are

better. [https://jockeyclub.com/Default.asp?section=Resources&area=10&story=1448#:~:text=Based%20on%20the%202023%20data,were%20completed%20without%20a%20fatality.&text=When%20compared%20to%202009%20\(2.0,in%20risk%20of%20fatal%20injury.](https://jockeyclub.com/Default.asp?section=Resources&area=10&story=1448#:~:text=Based%20on%20the%202023%20data,were%20completed%20without%20a%20fatality.&text=When%20compared%20to%202009%20(2.0,in%20risk%20of%20fatal%20injury.)

*Uniformity of records still a moving target: EHV1 vaccine dates vary from 90d to 180d and everywhere in between. Pre -entry exam required in NY, KY & FL

Local News:

FHTC sending 6 to Breeders Cup:

Post Time (Brittany Russell)

Arzak (Mike Trombetta)

Pandora's Gift IRE (Stuart Williams) *visiting from Ireland since mid September

Beach Bomb (Graham Motion)

Isivunguvungu (Graham Motion)

Carreto (Graham Motion) -- AE

Concerns: ongoing instability of training location to replace Laurel + decreased TB foal crop numbers both nationally and MD bred (Timonium yearling = 1 day sale 2024)

- **MD Horse Council (Neil Agate):** MHC's annual meeting is held virtually at 6 PM on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024. The October *Equiery* features Maryland Horse Month events.
- **Standardbred Sector (Lisa Watts):** The state's next major harness racing event is the \$125,000 Potomac Pace at Rosecroft on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024.

- **Trails & Recreational Riding (Jennifer Sulin):** Chapman Reining, a licensed stable from Woodbine, earned top ribbons at the recent national Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:03 PM. Followed by Lunch, a tour of the Equine Veterinary Care and Vintage Farm training facilities and attendance at the MARS MD 5 Star at Fair Hill presented by Brown Advisory

Respectfully submitted,
Ross Peddicord, Executive Director

ADDENDUM: Peggy Morgan/Ellen James Stable Reports attached