

**Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2023 | Montana Beef Council Office, Billings**

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions:** President Brett Dailey called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed attendees, and asked for introductions.

**Members Present:** Brett Dailey (President), Montana Farmers Union; Andy Kellom (Vice President), Montana Cattle Feeders; Justin Iverson, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Jake Callantine, Montana Angus Association; Wes Jensen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Charlie Hollenbeck, Montana Meat Processors Association; Debbie Andersen, Montana Dairy Association; Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen’s Association; Travis Choat, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Heather Fryer, Montana CattleWomen Inc. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Tammy Bridges, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. USDA: Craig Shackelford (virtual). Not present: Corey Schultz, Montana Livestock Auction Market Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Kiley Martinell, ex-officio; Katie Cooper, CBB; Turk Stovall, CBB; Ben Peterson, CBB.

**Approval of Agenda:** President Brett Dailey asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Andy Kellom moved to approve the agenda as printed and Jake Callantine seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Brett Dailey asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the minutes from the August 31, 2023 meeting. Jake Callantine moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed.

**Financial Reading:** Business Manager Sue Broyles shared MBC’s financial standing as of November 30, 2023 with the members.

**Correspondence:** The most recent correspondence received at the office was passed around and reviewed by members.

**MBC Banking Update:** Al McCormick, Market President of Bravera Bank, introduced himself to the board and shared an update on our banking history and relationship.

**MBC 2023 Audit Report and 990 Review, Brian Van Steeland, CPA, Summers McNea:** The board received a copy of MBC’s 2023 Audit Report to review with Brian Van Steeland. He indicated that there were no significant findings. The entire board reviewed the 2023 Audit Report, which also included any designated expenditures to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association on behalf of the Federation of State Beef Councils as well as the U.S. Meat Export Federation. A copy of MBC’s 990 filing was passed around for review. Travis Choat moved to accept and approve the audit and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

**Officer Reports:**

**President-** Brett Dailey shared that he had attended several agriculture organization meetings in the last few months and has been in contact with the office for regular updates.

**Vice President-** Andy Kellom reported that he has been participating in national events and meetings for his duties as a Federation Region Vice President.

**Executive Director-** Chaley Harney provided a review of projects over the last few months and a status update on all contractors with reminders for upcoming events.

**MBC Contractor Feature: Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative-** Representatives from the Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative presented virtually and shared a history of their operation and a look into our partnership for the coming year.

**New Business:**

**Beef for Backpacks Concept-** Chaley Harney shared a project concept from Rocky Forseth called Beef Sticks for Backpacks. The board reviewed a video about the project that was launched in Colorado. Chaley shared that Rocky would like to see a task force created to see about launching a similar program in Montana. Chaley introduced Jenny Stovall with Beef Fit Sticks and Kelly McCandless with Billings Education Foundation to share their efforts to incorporate beef into the current Billings area backpacks program.

Wes Jensen moved that an exploratory task force be created with members from inside the board and outside to research the concept and help with the creation of a project funding request for the board to review next fall as part of MBC's regular funding process. Charlie Hollenbeck seconded. Motion passed. Andy Kellom, Brett Dailey and Justin Iverson volunteered to serve on the task force.

**Voices of the Outdoors Project-** Chaley Harney shared a collaborative project that the national team has been working on to highlight the efforts of ranchers that help manage and maintain open space through cattle grazing. By bringing together ranchers with outdoor recreationists, these digital assets will help highlight the sustainability efforts of ranchers and enhance the positive image of beef. MBC will help with the local coordination of bringing together the two parties and that national team at National Cattlemen's Beef Association will manage the filming, production and distribution of the assets.

**USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update:** No report.

**MBC Investment Update:** Business Manager Sue Broyles shared the current status of MBC's investments. Jake Callantine moved that for the investments that are due to mature in the next few months before the board meets again, Sue Broyles will share the current rates available from LPL Financial with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will then decide whether to reinvest the funds through LPL Financial or move them to Bravera Bank where they can also gain interest. Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Executive-** Chairman Brett Dailey did not have anything further to report.

**Special Committee Reports:**

**Nominating Committee-** Chairman Brett Dailey reported that the board will consider nominations for one Federation of State Beef Council representative and two delegates for the U.S. Meat Export Federation, as well as officers.

Justin Iverson volunteered to serve as a Federation Director. Andy Kellom moved that Wes Jensen and Corey Schultz remain Federation Directors and he moved to accept Justin Iverson to serve as the third Federation Director. Jake Callantine seconded. Motion passed.

Charlie Hollenbeck and Debbie Andersen volunteered to serve as USMEF representatives. Travis Choat moved to accept the nominations and Jake Callantine seconded. Motion passed.

Brett Dailey nominated Andy Kellom for MBC board president and Travis Choat for vice president. Jake Callantine seconded. Motion passed.

**MBC 2024 Meeting Schedule:** The board will meet three times next year on the following dates:

May 15, 2024  
August 21-23, 2024 (Project Funding Requests)  
December 18, 2024

In 2025, MBC will move the three meetings back to the regular schedule of January, May/June and August/September. Per the board's request, Chaley Harney will investigate potential options for a border board meeting with North Dakota or Idaho in 2024.

**Open Reports and Comments:** President Andy Kellom asked if any attendees had additional reports or comments to share.

**Adjournment:** President Andy Kellom asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none he called for adjournment. Jake Callantine moved to adjourn, and Charlie Hollenbeck seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the Montana Beef Council office in Billings.