

**Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2024 | Virtual**

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions:** President Andy Kellom called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m., welcomed attendees, and asked for introductions.

**Members Present:** Andy Kellom (President), Montana Cattle Feeders; Travis Choat (Vice President), Montana Stockgrowers Association; 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; Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc. Brett Dailey, ex-officio and representing Montana Farmers Union. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Tammy Bridges, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. CBB: Ben Peterson. USDA: Kinley Hartman. Guests: Lauren Black, Montana State University Registered Dietetic Internship Program.

Not present: Corey Schultz, Montana Livestock Auction Market Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union; Verna Billedeaux, CBB.

**Approval of Agenda:** President Andy Kellom asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Justin Iverson moved to approve the agenda as printed and Pam Bilyeu seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Andy Kellom asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the minutes from the August 23, 2024 meeting. Pam Bilyeu moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

**Financial Reading & Investment Update:** Business Manager Sue Broyles and Budget Committee Chairman Travis Choat shared MBC's financial standing as of November 30, 2024 with the members and reviewed current investments.

Travis Choat reviewed three updates regarding the budget since it was approved in August. First, the Education Committee recommended transferring the funds from the line item that had been designated for the AERO Conference to be utilized by the Montana Family and Consumer Sciences Beef in the Classroom program because the AERO Conference was cancelled. Second, the Promotion Committee heard back from the Grizzly Sports Property representative after the board meeting, and they were not able to offer MBC just a tailgate spot for the next football season. The Promotion Committee recommended the staff pursue the private tailgate spot instead. Lastly, there was an entry error in the budget for equipment maintenance and IT. It showed that \$550 had been noted but the correct amount was to be \$5,550. The staff recommended shifting \$5,000 of the funds that had been designated for the Griz partnership line

item to cover this. There were no changes to the total bottom line. Andy Kellom moved to accept these changes and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

**MBC 2024 Audit Report, Brian Van Steeland, CPA, Summers McNea:** The board reviewed a digital copy of MBC's 2024 Audit Report with Brian Van Steeland. He indicated that there were no findings. The board reviewed the 2024 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. Travis Choat moved to accept and approve the audit and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

**Industry Report- Montana Cattle Committee:** Larry Switzer and Jim Steinbeisser reviewed the progress of the potential Montana Cattle Committee with the board and answered questions. The new informational website was previewed and the volunteer Working Group plans to have a bill introduced in the legislature in January 2025.

#### **Officer Reports:**

**Executive Committee-** Andy Kellom shared he continues to stay in contact with the office and shared about his activity on the national level, including his involvement as a region vice president and a member of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee. He plans to apply to serve as the Federation Vice Chair.

**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.

**Dietary Guidelines for Americans:** Shalene McNeill, PhD, RDN for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) gave the board an overview of the Dietary Guidelines and their application, as well as the status of the proposed 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

**USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update:** Kinley Hartman updated the group about the ongoing Administrative Procedures Act lawsuit. She shared about the completion of a 2012 lawsuit with the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) versus USDA/NCBA and the court's denial of OCM's summary judgment. Lastly, she noted that appointments to the Cattlemen's Beef Board had been announced early this year, ahead of the administration change.

**USMEF Heartland Trip to Japan:** Justin Iverson provided the board with a detailed review of his international trip to Japan with the U.S. Meat Export Federation to learn more about the Beef Checkoff's efforts for beef promotion abroad.

Debbie Andersen shared her experience with the board about her attendance at the USMEF conference in November and receiving the Million Dollar Club award on behalf of MBC with fellow board member Jake Callantine.

**Open Reports and Public Comments-** President Andy Kellom asked if any attendees had additional reports or comments to share. No further information was presented.

**Adjournment:** President Andy Kellom asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none he called for adjournment. Travis Choat moved to adjourn, and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled board meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2025 in Billings, but due to the weather-induced cancellation of this in-person meeting, the board recommended pursuing another joint in-person meeting with the North Dakota Beef Commission. The staff will review options with North Dakota to see about a potential late April joint meeting in place of our May meeting.