

## **MBA Board Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, December 5, 2009 10:00 am  
Holiday Inn and Convention Center - Billings  
Taken by Jim M. Gappa and Jeff Noble

Roll Call sheet was passed around and everyone present signed sheet.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Motion by Jason Tounsley to waive reading of the previous MBA Board meeting minutes, motion was seconded and passed.

### **Financial Statement** (Jim Gappa per Sue Miller)

Sue was unable to make the meeting due to an illness, so Jim Gappa presented hard copies of the financial summaries prepared by Sue M. to the Board. The Financial information was briefly discussed.

**Motion** by Steve Kamps to set July 1<sup>st</sup> as the deadline date for charging a membership fee for renewal of existing memberships and/or new memberships.

**Seconded** by Steve Sukut.

**Discussion:** The topic of when to charge new members or members who renew for an entire year was discussed. Board members have been receiving inquiries from potential members that if they sign up in after Convention or the Fall, due they owe a full years membership. Board members were being told that potential members were going to wait to sign up. The Board discussed allowing any new membership received after June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year; a new or renewed membership would be allowed 6 months free in addition to the upcoming year.

Motion **passed** unanimously.

The Board felt strongly that renewal notices need to be sent out to all members as previously discussed in other Board meetings.

Board members were, again, being told new members were not receiving any notification/packet/magazine welcoming the new member.

It was discussed that the Membership Committee should work with the Treasurer to improve the process of ensuring new members and/or renewed members receive a quarterly magazine and packet welcoming and thanking them for joining the MBA.

**Motion** by Jeff Noble to appoint Steve Schindler, contingent upon Steve's acceptance, as chairman of the Membership Committee.

**Seconded** by Paul Roush.

**Discussion:** Al Kelly informed the Board via e-mail that due to work and family he would be able to fulfill the position as Chairman of the Membership Committee as he felt the position deserved. Steve Sukut reminded the Board that Steve Schindler had expressed an interest in the position while back.

Motion **passed** unanimously.

**Tentative Committee** (Steve Kamps)

Steve Kamps handed out copies of “draft” position statements to Montana’s Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposed 2010 Tentative Regulations. See attachments.

Steve Kamps covered all the “draft” position statements to FWP’s proposed 2010 Tentative Regulations.

**Motion** by Billy Lewis to support FWP’s proposal to bundle 23OD with 2950 permits as written by FWP.

**Seconded** by George Graham

**Discussion:** It was felt by many on the Board that if the MBA supported bundling the Other 23 hunting districts we would be sending a message that we have accepted or approve limited elk archery permits. Some felt we should, again, inform the FWP Commission that the MBA is opposed to the limited elk archery permits there is no basis for the limited elk archery permits in these districts. Some Board members felt that bundling was better than what currently exists and supported this idea. Rex Rogers had been told by some of his constituents that they felt the limited elk archery permits were not a bad thing and they were actually seeing less archery hunters in Region 7, primarily the Custer National Forest around Ashland.

Motion **failed** 5 in favor of supporting and 14 opposed to supporting. Those voting in favor to support were George Graham, Rex Rogers, Jeff Noble, Steve Sukut, and Jim Gappa. As a result of voting, the MBA opposes the FWP Tentative proposal to bundle the “other 23” limited elk archery hunting districts as written by FWP.

**Motion** by George Graham to “passively” oppose moving the Non-resident application deadline.

**Seconded** by Rex Rogers

**Discussion:** The discussion centered around what, if any, definitive affect would this proposal have on resident bowhunters. Some felt it would be positive and some felt it would be negative.

Motion **passed** 5 for, 2 against, and 7 abstained due to not know what affect this proposal would have.

Steve Kamps reminded everyone that we should be prepared for unforeseen tentative proposals by other organizations and that it may be necessary to speak in favor or opposition to such requests. For example, muzzleloader season.

Billy Lewis requested authorization to ask the FWP Commission for a Sept. 1 opening date for all Mtn. Goat hunting and stating he has the support of the MBA.

Paul Roush brought to the attention that there will likely be a request by FWP to combine and increase portions of Ravalli County and the Missoula area to turkey hunting.

Adam Barker brought to the attention that there were a few MBA members that would

like the Board to request ending the four year wait after drawing a “Bear Paw” Elk permits (HD 690?). It was briefly discussed and pointed out that individuals can make this request and the MBA did not have enough time to properly discuss to come to a consensus.

Someone on the Board was wondering if the MBA should request to hunt Bison with archery equipment. It was briefly discussed and the Board felt that with the MBA’s current request, this topic would be something to pursue at a later time. The Board did not want to give the impression of asking for too much before the FWP Commission.

Jeff Noble and Paul Roush will clarify some of the Trail Camera issues pertaining to the usage of Trail Cameras in their next magazine articles.

**Bowhunter Education** (Steve Halama)

Steve Halama started the discussion of the past e-mail discussion regarding the Bozeman Outdoors Club. This Club had indicated they were interested in one of the MBA’s bow kits. The discussion then turned to the negative conclusions that some members or fellow bowhunters were stating that the MBA does not support youth archery programs. This topic was discussed by the Board.

Steve Halama presented the idea of having a separate raffle to benefit bowhunter education and/or archery programs in Montana. Steve clarified this raffle would not compete directly with any of the existing raffles that benefit the MBA. Steve is willing to champion the effort to acquiring a raffle item(s) and money generated would be set aside in a separate bank account to be used to address archery programs donation requests. Steve thought that if things progressed well, other items could be purchased with these funds, such as a travel trailer with equipment stored inside to be lent to individuals or organizations to promote archery shooting and bowhunting.

**Motion** by Steve Halama set up an annual budget of up to \$500 for maintenance expenditures for the bow kits the MBA owns.

**Seconded** by George Graham

**Discussion:** No discussion

Motion **passed** unanimously.

Jim Gappa brought to the attention of the Board of a donation request by the Cascade 4H Club. This club is in the process of acquiring shooting equipment to introduce the sport of archery shooting and bowhunting. Jim passed around the letter requesting donations, a list of equipment they intended to purchase, and a testimonial by one 4H member who now bowhunts.

**Motion** by Jim Gappa to donate ~~\$500~~ 250 to the Cascade 4H Club to purchase archery equipment for an archery youth program.

**Seconded** by Paul Roush

**Discussion:** It was the opinion of some that the amount was too high. Jim amended his motion from \$500 to \$250.

Motion **passed** by majority.

Steve Kamps brought up the discussion of exactly when and where did the \$2,000 annual limit on all donations originate. Jim stated that looking through past minutes there was no record of a motion setting aside \$2,000 for all donation on an annual basis. Some on the Board felt that there was indeed a motion, but it possibly was never properly recorded in any of the minutes.

**Motion** by Steve Kamps to place a \$2,000 annual limit on all donations to be made by the MBA. Each donation request would be handled as they were received and on a case by case basis based on available funds.

**Seconded** by Billy Lewis

**Discussion:** Jesse Nelson felt that each donation request should be made by a donation form and all donation requests would be taken into consideration once year and based off the merits of application and information they provided. Steve Halama felt that if the requesting organization or person(s) could prove they had raised X amount of money for their own efforts the MBA may be willing to match up to a specified amount. A brief discussion followed with no conclusion.

Motion **passed** by unanimously.

**Magazine / Website Committee** (Steve Sukut / Jim Gappa)

Steve Sukut discussed a variety of Magazine issues.

Steve discussed the number of printers that were interested in competing for the MBA's business and that was very encouraging. We are now seeing the MBA magazine in color for a little less than what we were getting for black and white. He thanked Adam Barker for his locating of an additional printer when he was involved with the MBA postcard that was sent out in September to the list of bowhunters who purchase archery stamps in 2007 (~ 7,000 postcards sent out).

Steve requested that all Board members be proactive in sell advertisement space in the magazine. Paul Roush stated he would be willing to contact several of the past advertisers for renewals.

Steve discussed his stepping down as the MBA Magazine Editor presented Denver Bryant to the Board to replace Steve as editor. Steve spoke of Denver's extensive experience in editing other publications and felt the timing of Denver's inquiry about the Magazine and his own desire to step down was a great match for the MBA. The Board discussed Denver's interest in serving as Editor of the MBA magazine and then it was decided that Denver would replace Steve Sukut as Editor. Steve assured the Board that he would remain involved with the next two editions, so he offer Denver is expertise and experience in managing the Magazine and magazine committee.

Jim Gappa revisited the use of the MBA website for Board business. There seems to be a slow-down in the usage of the website and that maybe returning to using e-mails would be best. Some Board members had or continue to have difficulty accessing the

MBA forums. A brief discussion happens and the conclusion was that the Board would (again) start using e-mail to handle MBA business, with the exception to more sensitive topics and motions being placed on the MBA Board Members Only Forum. The use of the Forum for motions would allow the usage of the survey option. Many on the Board felt this was a good option.

**Merchandise** (Brent Hunsucker)

Sitka gear sold well at the convention and he will be ordering more. Brent is reviewing the inventory. He stated some items obviously sold better than others and he planned on purchasing more apparel that sold.

**NABC** (Steve Halama)

Steve Halama felt that it may not be worth the MBA sending a representative to this year's meeting, because he felt most of the attendees brought up the same topic as last year and he wasn't quite sure what this body actually accomplishes.

Billy Lewis felt that his involvement and observations of past attendances was contrary to Steve Halama's and that this was a very worthy group and it allowed the various States and Provinces an avenue to express issues impacting them and what they have or have not done in light of the situation.

The discussion continued with the idea to continue to send an MBA Board members or member to annual NABC convention.

**Public Relations** ( )

Mark Seacat was unable to attend the Board meeting, so no discussion took place regarding public relations.

Billy Lewis informed the Board that Ryan Jennings (the disabled bowhunter who helped sponsor cross bow legislation and the MBA opposed) was successful in harvesting a young buck deer with the help of Brendan Burns and his father. Billy explained that Jesse Nelson was a big help in getting Ryan set up to hunt with his bow. The Board felt that Mark Seacat or Brendan Burns could prepare an article to include in our MBA magazine and send to all the local newspapers to bring attention to the MBA helping disabled bowhunters.

Jim Gappa reminded the Board that it is important for all Regional Representatives and Directors-At-Large (DAL) to hold regional membership meeting prior to MBA Board meetings. This how the Board gathers questions/comments and concerns regarding bowhunting in Montana and this information is then presented to the full Board by each respective regional representative(s).

**MBA License Plate** (Paul Martin)

Paul Martin brought to the Boards attention the MBA License plate. Paul presented his ideas and showed a preliminary design for the MBA license plate. The plate had Montana written in red across the top, with the word Bowhunter written in red across the bottom. The background was a camo pattern. The MBA's logo was about the size of a

fifty-cent piece located on the left hand side. Paul designed the plate based off past Board discussions and input from various Board members. Paul was going to incorporate a trademark camo pattern, so that it appealed more to buyer. The plate had to be designed and submitted to the DMV by March 31<sup>st</sup> to allow production of this plate. Don Stein was going to contact a gentleman he knew and see if it would be OK to use trademarked or copyrighted camo pattern for the MBA license plate.

The Board did informally support Paul's effort in designing and making a Montana Bowhunters Association license plate. Paul was going to make some revision based on input by the Board and bring to the Convention Board meeting. Paul's goal is to have the license plate design finalized shortly after Convention and to the DMV for approval and then have it produced and available to the general public in 2010.

#### **Convention Committee** (Ernie McKenzie)

Ernie McKenzie presented information regarding the 2010 Convention and that things were progressing.

#### **Legislative Discussion** (Steve Kamps)

Steve Kamps informed the Board that Kendal VanDyk will be running for a seat in the Montana State Senate against Taylor Burns. Kendal is attempting to get this known to the public. Steve reminded everyone that Kendal was a "friend" of the MBA and that he has been very sportsman friendly in matters concerning hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Steve asked Board if it was OK to have Kendal address the membership at the Convention Membership Meeting. Steve informed the Board that Kendal would like to sponsor a bill that would allow corner crossing in Montana. This has been a topic of discussion for many years amongst outdoor recreationists. The Board decided that it would be OK to allow Kendal a brief opportunity to address the membership.

#### **General Board Topic or Issues** (Anyone)

**Motion** by Steve Sukut to donate \$500 to Montanans for Effective Wildlife Management in an effort to oppose Citizens Initiative 160 – a ban on all trapping in Montana.

**Seconded** by Don Stein

**Discussion:** A brief discussion took place with the consensus being that we should support this organization, because this very same thing can and will likely happen to bowhunting.

Motion **passed** by unanimously.

**Motion** by Jim Gappa to pay for a booth at the 2010 Great Rockies Sportshow in Billings for a total of \$342.

**Seconded** by Steve Sukut

**Discussion:** Jim brought up that in the past, we have been able to get about 10 to 15 new members per show in Billings and this was a great way to market the MBA.

Motion **passed** by unanimously.

**Motion** by Jim Gappa to renew our annual membership in the form of a donation to the Public Lands /Water Access Association for 2010 of \$100.

**Seconded** by George Graham

**Discussion:** Jim informed the Board that this organization has been instrumental in getting “previously thought” closed roads open to public lands. Many on the Board were aware of this organization and felt this was a great organization to support.

Motion **passed** by unanimously.

**Motion** by Steve Halama to donate \$100 to the NABC for support their efforts in bowhunting.

**Seconded** by Paul Roush

**Discussion:** Not too much discussion

Motion **passed** by unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting** (Jim Gappa)

Friday, March 5 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Time: 10:00 AM

Billings, Montana (Ernie will make arrangements with Hotel)

Meeting adjourned.