

**ROLL CALL**

Ken Schultz	President	X
Brian Koelzer	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	X
Stephen LePage	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	X
Secretary	Jerry Davis	X
Region 1 Representative	Al Kelly	X
Region 2 Representative	Marlon Clapham	X
Region 2 Representative	Kevin Robinson	X
Region 6 Representative	Nick Seabrasse	X
Region 7 Representative	Rick Miller	X
Region 7 Representative	Bob Morgan	X
Director at Large Even Years	Stephanie Prater	X
Director at Large Odd Years	Jeremy Harwood	X
Administrative Services	Claudia Davis	X

Meeting was called to order by Ken Schultz.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 1, 2022****MOTION**

Motion by Stephanie to accept minutes with a change in the date from December 4, 2021 to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Seconded by Al.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Introduction of new board member Jeremy Harwood.

**TREASURER REPORT****Current Financials. (is subject to change as updates occur)**

Total liabilities	-\$2,397.67
Contributions	\$3,600.00
Life Member Fund	\$34,250.00
Life Member Fund interest	\$144.55
Restricted Legislative Funds	\$10,528.15
Restricted MBA Teen Camp	\$3,676.28
Fund	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$43,190.49
Fiscal Year Net Income	\$15,376.88
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp;</b>	<b>\$113,163.82</b>

**EQUITY**

Claudia discussed moving the Life Member Fund interest out of that restricted account to the unrestricted account every so often to help support the costs associated with Life Members which is the magazine.

**Convention Profit & Loss**

Total Income	\$47,385.50
Total Expense	\$29,161.87
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$18,223.63</b>

**MBA Profit loss July 2021 through May 2022**

Total Income	\$61,829.01
Total Expenses	\$44,901.54
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$16,927.47</b>

**Budget**

Claudia discussed that Mandy, our newly elected Treasurer, would like the budget to come from the Finance committee. Claudia would like to review a draft 2022-2023 budget with the board and will add any suggestions the board has for changes, additions, or subtractions and then give that to Mandy and the finance committee for their review after which Mandy will present the budget to the Board for approval, probably via email and Survey Monkey.

Discussed increasing the Disable Bowhunter Donation line item to \$1000 from the existing \$700.

Discussed using the Legislative Expense line item for paying for attorney fees for the UPOM lawsuit.

Discussed funding for purchasing license for using Congress Plus app used during legislative sessions. Jerry believes it provides a good platform for sending legislatures comments, tracking votes on selected bills, targeting legislators and other legislative activities. Its cost is currently \$2000 per year. Claudia said that if we continue to pay for this app we need to up the budget amount to cover our \$1000 opposition to UPOM lawsuit commitment. Discussed adding another expense account but Claudia said that we already have an exceptionally large number special accounts. Marlon mentioned that Western Montana Fish and Game Association is interested in helping out with the UPOM lawsuit. They are also working on getting a 3D course part of the Missoula rifle range. Marlon was given the go ahead to provide them information on the UPOM lawsuit. Claudia will leave the Legislative line item at \$2000.

Claudia said that magazine was budgeted for \$9200 but actual costs will be a little more than \$10,000 and will most likely increase next year so she would like to increase the Magazine line item to \$10,500. Discussed that some Reps don't need all the extra mags. Right now we have 559 active members or 868 including family members.

Discussed zeroing out the Raffle line item on expense and income as we will not have a midyear raffle.

Talked about making the Teen Camp budget line item to \$5000.

Claudia increased the Website line item to \$1556 from \$600 to pay for Go Daddy Domain and MS Office. The Domain comes up every 2 years. Liberty is no longer charging for his web services, may want to consider adding to budget incase he should start charging again. Would like the budget finalized for voting by the end of July for voting by the board. Jeremy brought up using MS Office and not Survey Monkey for surveys to potentially save some money. Jeremy will research. Jerry would like to capture the history we have on Survey Monkey if we change.

**OLD BUSINESS****Teen Camp**

Becky gave the board a review of the history of the Teen Camp and provided information about this years Teen Camp which will be on Stimson's property out of Libby. There were some very significant donations provided for the camp including jackets for each participant.

Becky brought up the issue of having volunteers each having a background check. Board all agree that it is a very wise idea going forward. Becky thinks this would be a good idea for all youth activities that MBA is involved with. Bowhunter ed instructors are all required to get a periodic background check. Unwritten policy for Teen Camp is to make sure at least two adults when working and around participants. There are release forms for participant parents/guardians to sign. Adult volunteers go through an orienteering meeting.

Becky said that at some time in the future she may ask that the volunteers be paid as many are taking time off and lose income.

Plan is for every other year for it to be held in the Bitterroot. Then the next year will be on the LePage place.

Becky is working on funding a trailer for all of the youth activity equipment. She has gotten commitments from a few organizations if she will include them on a wrap of the trailer. Lots of questions about insurance and storage.

Last year there were more non-members than members helping out. Rick brought up idea of having the Board meeting at the camp location next year timed with the beginning of the camp. Becky discussed the camp and the trailer for being a possible recruitment tool. Archery clubs can or should play a critical role in supporting Teen Camps. Board asked Becky to put together a proposal for the trailer and equipment so the board can review.

Becky requested we update the sponsorship form to show we are a 501 (c)(7) and not a (c)(3). Talked about having some donations be funneled through MBEAF because they are a (c)(3) so individuals can take advantage of the donation on taxes.

### **Committee Participation**

Committee sign on sheet was passed around and each committee was discussed. All committees were staffed. General members can be on a committee but cannot hold a chair position on that committee. See the Attached Committee Sign-up Sheet for the final committee members.

Closed Action Item:

Send out the various committee membership as of 4/1/22 to all board members and to Julie for the Magazine.

### **MBA Banners**

Marlon showed the Board the new banners he had made up, for each Area. Many Reps obtained banners but there are still 2-30 inch wide and one 21.5 inch wide banners available and are stored in the MBA Convention trailer.

Stephanie was given approval to order 2 standup banners after the board reviewed the design.

Closed Action Item:

Marlon purchase 6 more table banners to be distributed one to each region.

Closed Action Item:

Stephanie Design and purchase 2 standalone banners to be used as traveling banners.

### **Carp Safari Hellgate Campground Camping**

Claudia reported there were 65 registered for the Carp Safari as compared to 105 last year. NOTE: There were 9 additional who registered at the event for a total of 74 shooters. Kevin had a bit of a reservation snafu so the group site was not reserved for Saturday night, but we used one of the sheltered picnic areas adjacent to the boat launch. Water levels are extremely low.

### **Disabled Vets Needing PTMAEs**

Action Item: Jerry

Jerry will contact Ryan about possible vets who may want to take part in the PTME that are part of the VA and FWP program to teach archery to PTSD and other disabled vets.

Marlon's veteran he has been working with has been hooked up through Mike Shepard to bowhunt elk on a place near Grass Range. Marlon ordered a draw lock and the vet was supposed get a bow and then Marlon was going to work with him and Shields to get it set up but as of this meeting Marlon hasn't heard back from him.

### **Conservation Conversation**

Name of the group will be the Montana Public Trust Coalition with the intent of having politicians signing on to a promise to protect our Montana Constitution by ensuring that Montana's wildlife will continue to be held in public trust for the citizens of Montana in perpetuity. A website has been created but not live as of our meeting.

**Credit Card Policy**

Credit Cards were obtained for Claudia, Liberty, and Brian. We can add or stop any cards at any time. See Claudia for the policy.

Closed Action Item:

Claudia will send out the credit card policy to all board members and work toward getting a business card for event and to replace the debit card.

**Reimbursements for Travel**

Reminder for everyone to submit a travel reimbursement form for costs such as fuel, room, and board for attending board meetings. Forms are available from Claudia.

**Magazine**

As mentioned above some Reps don't need all the extra mags. Right now we have 559 active members or 868 including family members. We now print 2000 copies per quarter. Possibly cut down on that amount by allowing members a digital option and or by minimizing extra issues that are being placed at sporting goods stores but are not being taken. Need to know the current pricing as there may be a minimum associated with a bundle.

Action Item: Brian

Look into newsletter printing costs to see if reducing the number copies could save MBA printing costs.

Board discussed content. Marlon's blast from the past and Kevin's article about Mandy Garness are great examples.

Action Item: Magazine Committee

Develop some ideas about improving content.

Closed Action Item:

Nick will communicate with Julie to reduce the number of magazines sent to him and Tristan.

**NEW BUSINESS****MBEF Update**

Marlon talked to Paul Martin. Paul informed him that MBEF is getting close to paying off a piece of property for an archery facility and when they get it squared around he will get back in the loop. He will be writing an article this next issue to talk about his life changes since his wife passed away.

Closed Action Item:

Marlon will Contact Paul Martin to see if he still wants to sit on the MBA Board.

**FW Commission Meeting feedback**

Ken and Steve discussed the last Commission meeting that included two FWP individuals review of crossbows in Idaho and Wyoming. The reports were not particularly helpful. Also discussion about bowhunter ed going totally online and the issues. Concern this will not help with hunter ethics that we are dealing with during hunting seasons.

**UPOM Lawsuit**

There has been one call with the 7 organizations involved in intervening in this lawsuit. Ken highlighted importance of each organization speaking with one unified voice and not 7 different messages. There is a website. It has been on hold for 2 weeks. When the next call occurs Rick and Jeremy will be invited by Ken. We can have as many people that we want to be included on the team. Team includes members of MT BHA, MBA, MT Wildlife Federation, Hellgate Hunters and Anglers, Skyline Sportsmen, Helena Hunters and Anglers and one other. Concern that FWP will settle with UPOM and thereby eliminate sportsmen from decisions that will effect our hunting and fishing in Montana. There will be another call to coordinate in the near future. Attorney that has been retained is very thorough, I believe his last name is Graham

### **Elk Advisory Committee**

Stephanie Prater said the committee is in the process of making recommendations out to the sounding board group. Recommendations concern data collection and harvest information, wildlife mitigation, hunter education, elimination of shoulder seasons, changes in damage hunt administration, allowing cow B tags on private land, transferable tags, choose your weapon to name a few. Stephanie will send recommendations out in the near future but they are in the sounding board process right now so they are not ready for public comment yet. PLPW is considering making a recommendation for a Type 3 Block Management category would require a higher level of hunter education.

### **Convention**

Attendees expressed concerns of high cost of rooms but that is the trend for all hotels. Brian said that through the years he has found the Fairmont venue to be the best value. He looked into hosting in Bozeman at the Gran Tree Convention Center and they wanted \$40,000 versus the \$15,000 that Fairmont charges. Missoula Convention wanted \$25,000. A Billings convention center did reach out but don't have their prices yet. Lewistown probably does not have adequate facilities. Convention center reservations are typically at least 2 years in advance. Marlon said the room charges have increased every year for the last 3 or 4 years. Jeremy said he was just at a conference in Fairmont and his room was less than what our attendees paid. Possibly we can negotiate lower room rates for our attendees. Brian thought this years Convention went well. Jerry will look at reducing the number of partition walls we carry in the trailer. For this years convention we used around 30 of them so may reduce the number down to 30 for next year. Discussed credit card being used for everything. Credit cards cannot be used for raffle tickets because it is considered gambling by the state. Steve voiced a concern with the confusion of the raffle tickets and Claudia agreed. Claudia thinks there needs to be a manual put together for future convention planners to use. She also believes there should be a budget set for the Convention that the Convention Committee uses. Discussion about why we have two cash registers even though we use only one. Discussed give aways and stickers for renewals, including koozies. Region 1 is going to provide a seminar speaker for next year's convention.

#### **Action Item:**

**Brian will talk to Fairmont about getting lower room rates for attendees.**

#### **Action Item:**

**Steve will revise the raffle ticket process to simplify it while ensuring that ticket revenues still go to designated funds such as Legislative, Teen Camp etc.**

#### **Action Item:**

**Put together a manual for organizing, funding, and running an MBA Convention.**

#### **Action Item:**

**Region 1 will provide a seminar speaker for the next Convention.**

### **Mission Statement**

Discussed TJ Smith's concern with the use of "preserving" in our mission statement because he thinks it smacks of environmentalism. All board members agree that preserving our sport expresses what we do and if it is good enough for our founding fathers it is good enough for us. Discussion closed.

### **PLWA**

Closed Action Item:

Jerry will follow-up with Claudia to get a check written and sent to PLPW for \$500.

### **Bowhunter Education**

Discussed letter from Pat Tabor asking for help with bowhunter education of guides. Marlon is following up.

**4/1/22 Action Item: Nick and Stephanie****Nick and Stephanie to follow up with FWP and PLPW to express a concern with the new direction that bowhunter ed is going.****Bowfishing Survey**

Kevin was contacted by FWP to conduct a bowfishing survey of our membership but he hasn't gotten back to Kevin after the initial contact.

**REGION REPORTS****Region 1**

Al said that Region 1 has concerns with the unlimited EWD permits and that the Libby area has been inundated with out of state hunters.

**Region 2**

Kevin and Marlon had two meetings. Nothing major to report.

**Region 3**

No Report

**Region 4**

Stephanie reviewed Elk Management Committee stuff with members at an Area meeting.

**Region 5**

6 members at the Region 5 meeting. One member expressed concern that he could not use a bow during general season. Concern with the reissuance of 720 permits. People getting their tags and their money refunded.

**Region 6**

Nick and Tristen had a meeting with about 2 other members. Concerns with the bowhunter education going online.

Nick expressed concern that there was not bowhunter ed instructor breakfast at the convention this year. The reason for no breakfast this year was due to a scheduling conflict for Wade Cooperider the FWP lead instructor.

**Region 7**

Concerned about public land experience because of increased pressure. Hoping the new Elk Plan will help resolve problem Also concerns with EWD. Deer populations are being hit hard by hunters.

**OTHER OPEN ACTION ITEMS****4/1/22 Action Item: Stephanie****Stephanie will follow up and work with Liberty on improving social media content and use \$300 to boost Facebook.****4/1/22 Action Item: Steve****Steve will draft language for the Handbook for all committees to follow so that we make use of committees instead of hammering out details during Board meetings.****COMMITTEE REPORTS****Membership**

Ron Aasheim now a sitting member. He has some great ideas but the committee is just beginning to formulate a plan. Steve would like to spend some money to see if a post card sent out to the subset of bowhunters who have allowed their contact information released. Steve provided a list of ideas and he and the committee would like feedback. Steve would like to see if Ron would be willing to set on the board as a Region 3 Rep.

Closed Action Item:

Steve to work with Ron Aasheim on developing an MBA recruitment strategy.

**Tenatives**

Rick would like to suggest to FWP that a northern pike be allowed to be shot with a bow. Jeremy expressed concern that 900 antelope is no longer unlimited as they are meeting the quota. Along those lines would it be possible to split the 900 elk permits into three districts to give more opportunity. Hunting pressure is changing the landscape. Things are going to change, may not have the same opportunities we have had in the past simply because of the increasing number of hunters.

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be at Montana Wild in Helena on December 9, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Wild Center in Helena.

**4/1/22 Action Item: Jerry**

**Reserve Montana Wild for December 9, 2022 Board meeting.**

**Motion**

Stephanie made motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Steve.

Vote Passed unanimously

**Committee Sign-up Sheet**

**Legislative:**    **Chair:** Jerry Davis  
 Jeremy Harwood    Liberty Brown    Jess Wagner  
 Marlon Clapham    Steve LePage

**Financial:**    **Chair:** Mandy Garness  
 Al Kelly    Claudia Davis  
 Jeremy Harwood

**Landowner/Sportsman:**    **Chair:** Stephanie Prater  
 Tristan Manual    Jess Wagner    Rick Miller  
 Alisha Miller    Bob Morgan

**Nominations:**    **Chair:** Brian Koelzer  
 Stephanie Prater    Al Kelly

**Awards:**    **Chair:** Cliff Garness  
 Marlon Clapham    Steve LePage  
 Brian Koelzer    Al Kelly

**Membership:**    **Chair:** Steve LePage  
 Mandy Garness    Nick Siebrasse  
 Bob Morgan    Ron Aasheim

**Convention 2023 (Region 2):** **Chair:** Kevin Robinson  
 Marlon Clapham    Mandy Garness    Jackie Weidow

**Magazine:**    **Chair:** Jerry Davis

Montana Wild Center Helena MT

June 10, 2022 10:00 AM

Cliff Garness Julie Jensen Brian Koelzer  
Kevin Robinson Rick Miller Jackie Weidow  
Stephanie Prater

**Carp Shoot:** **Chair:** Kevin Robinson  
Steve LePage Jerry Davis Marlon Clapham

**Bow-Ed:** **Chair:** Marlon Clapham  
Nick Siebrasse Tristan Manual Al Kelly  
Stephanie Prater

**Youth Membership and MBA Teen Bowhunter Camp:** **Chair:** Marlon Clapham  
Kevin Robinson The Doyles Jackie Weidow

**Governance:** **Chair:** Jerry Davis  
Jeremy Harwood Al Kelly

**PTMAE:** **Chair:** Marlon Clapham  
Kevin Robinson Steve LePage

**Tentatives:** **Chair:** Rick Miller  
Jess Wagner Stephanie Prater Steve LePage  
Mark Schwomeyer