

General Membership Meeting of the MBA 4/1/2017

Fairmont Hot Springs

Meeting called to order by President Marlon Clapham @ 8am

Motion to wave reading of minutes 1st Roger, 2nd Mark S.

Marlon discussed the \$750.00 donation for this year's Teller Youth Conservation Expo and the success of last year's Magruder camp.

Marlon discussed the \$2500.00 given to MTA to fight I-177.

Treasurer's report-Jenn

Jenn put the budgets for 2016/2017 on the screen so group could follow along. The carp shoot and convention are both making money. 2016 budget expenses were under budget with the magazine change saving money. Jenn will change the 2017 magazine budget to reflect new numbers.

The MBA's interest account is making positive progress and the membership drives and merchandise are making money.

2017-budget; Carp Safari expenses are budgeted and Joelle has to reserve campground spots. The membership dues are being renewed faster via the mail in ballots and people getting info sooner.

The 2017 budgeted expenses are similar to 2016, and will be updated once Jenn has a chance to add this year's convention financials in.

\$26,772 in checking and \$46,735 in savings (\$26,000 life member fund)

Legislative Committee- Jerry Davis

Key bills he followed with Joelle's help...

SB 225-lighted knocks passed. The MBA helped design the matrix system for FWP Commissioners' to have guidelines for decision making.

HB 96-landowner tags. Jerry discussed the dangerous precedent if landowners could privatize wildlife, tabled

HB 295- fines for gating county roads (support but killed on floor)

Corner crossing bill with unfenced property-hard to prove (cancelled after presented)

HB 568-archery season for non residents would split the season and guarantee 10% to non-residents. This needs to remain a FP Commission decision not done by legislature. (Denied)

HB 651-the establishment of an extra board position to the State Lands Board for Public Access. This is a redundant position as the Governor already appointed this to NRC. And can't use P.R. Act funds unless for wildlife. Good public outcry against. (Opposed and killed)

SB 236- proposed referendum to change clause section 7 Hunting Heritage in Montana Constitution. Turning privilege into a right. Writer's attorney vs. FWP attorney says different things could be affected. It's passed thru the senate 30-20 and headed to Judiciary committee. The MBA is asking for independent review by someone in the state for constitutional law. We do not disagree with the intent just concerned about legality.

Ron A.-FWP:

Ron said we will know in September if it passes to buy a preference point ad not have to actually pay for permit unless you want to.

Block management payments were raised per landowner from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

There is discussion of electronic validation for a carcass tag.

A bill is trying to clarify what shooting from a vehicle means...

Lighted knocks passed via the commission policy.

Sen. Fielder's hunter pink bill killed.

Right to Hunt.-

There may be potential for nonresidents to pay the same as residents for same tags. Also what impact does this have for private landowners' and property rights? Also a concern for FWP enforcement of laws.

2018 Convention Discussion:

Need a chair. Jenn the gave history of where convention HAS been:

Fairmont 2016

Billings 2015

Great Falls 2014

Missoula 2013

Butte 2012

Kalispell 2011

Billings 2010

Great Falls 2009

Missoula 2008

Butte 2007

Jenn provided the above dated responding to Joelle question about the different meeting spots.

Marlon spoke about how all the regions had come together to pull off the 2017 convention with Joelle leading the charge with full support from the B.O.D.

Mike Shepard asked where is the bulk of the MBA's membership- REGION 3.

Most places are booked out for 2 years. And twice as costly as Fairmont. Joelle noted Fairmont really works with us and I super family friendly.

Motion from the floor to keep at Fairmont by Rich (1st) and Cookie (2nd) motion carried. 2018 Convention to be held at Fairmont.

Floor discussion of who is to chair or follow Joelle's lead with utilizing the board members. Mark made motion for Region 2 to chair Brian 2nd. Motion carried.

Neil and Don will be Co-Chairs for Region 2. Marlon discussed growth of membership in Region 2 and using convention as a tool to get folks motivated from Region 2.

Liberty Brown: - Liberty of Branding Iron Marketing discussed the updates to our system and merchandising options for the website. Liberty also discussed auctioning off 4 spots during live auction for advertising on the website. 1 year block of advertising.

\$3000 bid so far by putting the African Hunt on the website and social media. This is a great tool. Board approval for Liberty to continue making new changes and updates.

Jenn asked about membership management with wild apricot system and Liberty assured no issues and advantages.

Teen Bowhunter Camp. Beckie gave a preview of the new camp for youth in August 2017. Marlon discussed each MBA Region sending 1 teen. Region 2 will be selling stoves during convention to help with scholarship cost. \$20 each with \$5.00 going to the MBA and \$15 to Teen Bowhunter Camp. A donation from the Great Falls Archery Club for \$350.00 was received and Libby Archery Club with a 175 donation. To sponsor 1 teen.

Bow Ed- The MBA founded bow education in 1978 then FWP took over. This is the 30th year for MT FWP BOW ED. Original members to be cognized in Helena in June. Al, Bow ED Committee Chair said there will be discussion at Sunday's breakfast with FWP.

FWP Update- Ron A.: drawing results for Buck and bull permits will be out the week of April 17th. Moose, Goat and Sheep applications due May1.

Quiet Waters is on May 4. And most WMA's open May 15 for shed hunting. 3 new commissioners to be appointed this spring to the FWP Commission. Martha Williams the new FWP director to attend the banquet on Saturday evening.

Mussel invasion in Canyon Ferry & Tibor is terrible. There is 411-12 million to mandatorily fight

246 wolves were harvested 2016-2017 with a population estimate of 700. 75% reported gray and 25%black coloring. Average males weigh 100lbs and females 75 lbs

Road kill salvage permits data:

Elk-700

Whitetail-2300

Antelope

Moose-119

Blackbear-39

Griz-5

Lions-12

Bighorn Sheep-15

48,000 bow stamps sold with @30,000 active Bowhunters annually recruiting \$77 million in addition to licenses into Montana's economy.

There is a 12% increase in female participation in archery.

Next year's convention dates to be determined: March 2-3 (15 votes) or April 20-21(7 votes)

Floor discussion to auction off head table for 2018 banquet. To include 8 dinners, 4 individual memberships, and items TBD.

Mike Sheppard discussed losing membership in the Flathead are and members trying to come up with ideas to recruit new members.

April 15th deadline for MBA newspaper.

Motion to adjourn at 9:45. Brian 1st, ? nd. Motion carried meeting adjourned