

**DECEMBER 4, 2021 MBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 Live and Zoom Call December 4, 2021

**ROLL CALL**

Jerry Davis	Secretary	Tristin Manual	Reg 6 rep
Kevin Robertson	Reg 2 rep	Al Kelly	Reg 1 rep
Stephen LePage	President	Cliff Garness	Even DAL
Ken Schultz	Reg 5 rep	TJ Smith	Odd DAL
Marlon Clapham	Reg 2 rep	Mark Schwomeyer	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Stephanie Prater	Even DAL	Rick Miller	Reg 7 Rep
Mandy Garness	Even DAL		
Claudia Davis	Treasurer		
Liberty Brown	Reg 3 rep		
Paul Kemper	Reg 3 rep		
Nick Seabrasse	Reg 6 rep		
Jess Wagner	Reg 4 rep		

Meeting was called to order by Stephen LePage.

Marcus Strange newly appointed MWF Director of State Policy and Government Relations gave a brief talk on MWF focus for 2022-2023 which includes:

- Elk management
- Government relations with the Environmental Quality Council, State Land Board, FWP Commission, etc.
- Defense and enhancement of:
  - Stream access
  - Conservation funding
  - Habitat Montana
- Big Snowy Mountains WMA and other habitat projects
- Engagement with coalitions:
  - The Montana Citizen’s Elk Management Coalition
  - State Public Lands Coalition
  - Montana Sporting Coalition
- Affiliate Support

Steve thanked Marcus and MWF for their help in the crossbow fight. Nick also thanked MWF for help with various local landowner relations.

Marcus informed the board that Senator Molnar is working on a crossbow bill for the next Legislature and the elk management plan and elk coalition. Go to [Montanaelk.org](http://Montanaelk.org) for more information.

**TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Claudia - Profit loss July 1 to end of February we have around a \$10,000 deficit, more spending than income.

Expense reports: board members get one night's lodging and fuel expenses for attending a board meeting. Members expressed that new member and lapsed member lists for their regions are helpful.

Discussed earmarked money from the raffle. Claudia said a couple weeks after the convention she will have a report for money we make in total and for each earmarked fund. 69 ballots were sent out via snail mail along with requests for emails from those people that do not have emails in Wild Apricot.

Ken asked for a list of emails for new members in his region.

Rick asked for a breakdown of magazine costs. Discussed if magazine actually brings in new members. Some board members are saying the extra newsletters get taken and others say they do not get taken from the businesses they leave them.

### **MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 4, 2021**

#### **MOTION**

Motion by TJ Smith -Move the previous meeting minutes be approved.

Seconded by Nick Seabrase.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Committee Participation**

Steve passed out committee listings for board members to volunteer for at least two each. Board members present signed up for committees they will serve on.

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

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

##### **Letter to the Governor**

Action Item: Closed

Rick and Mark with possible help from Nick will draft a letter to the Governor letting him know we in MBA are looking forward to his support of bowhunting in Montana, etc.

This draft will be submitted to the board for approval before it is sent.

No letter has yet been written. Decided without a vote that we will not be sending a letter to the governor.

##### **Treasurer/Bookkeeper Bylaw change**

Action Item: Closed

Governance Committee to update Board of Directors Handbook including By Laws. TJ will chair and other members will be Jerry, Al, and Teri.

Action Item: Closed

By-Laws and Board Handbook will be revised to make our paid bookkeeper, who is now our Treasurer, a paid contractor only. A Treasurer will be appointed by the Board to whom the paid bookkeeper will report to.

The Bylaws and Board of Director's Handbook was amended to make Treasurer duties separate from Secretary duties and created an Administrative Services contractor job to be voted on during the 4/2/22 general membership meeting.

4/2/22 Update: The above was voted on by the General Membership that were in attendance at the 4/2/22 General Membership meeting and it passed unanimously.

The Governance Committee also previously emailed, to all board members, the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Board of Directors Handbook for discussion and vote at the 4/1/22 MBA Board meeting.

### **MBA Banners**

Action Item: Closed

Stephanie will research the cost of getting banners made as well as some potential designs and report back to the board.

Stephanie researched this and if we order a minimum of 4-4ftx4ft banners we can get them for \$50 each, 4-4ftx6ft \$75 each, and 4-4ftx8ft \$100 each.

To be clear these are standalone banners, they roll up and have their own stands. There was discussion by Marlon and others about the table banners we have and that many regions no longer have them. Ken brought in a table banner as well as Marlon for the Board to look at.

### **MOTION:**

Mark made a motion and Jerry seconded to have Marlon purchase 6 more table banners, one for each region, and Stephanie to design and purchase 2 standalone banners to be used as traveling banners.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

**Purchase 6 more table banners to be distributed one to each region.**

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

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

### **Crow Tribe Settlement**

Old Action Item: Closed

Kevin will bring up the issue of the Crow Tribe settlement and the definition of occupied versus unoccupied lands to the MBHA board.

Kevin talked to Kevin Farris of BHA under the previous FWP Director Martha Williams the Wardens were under direction to stand down on enforcing hunting regulations on tribal members hunting on Forest Service lands without a license and out of season. The state is waiting on this case to be brought and judgement made in Federal Court before taking action. BHA is not weighing in on this issue until the court decides. BHA is for tribal sovereignty but also for public lands and they are waiting for the courts to decide before determining how they will pursue.

### **Disabled Vets Needing PTMAEs**

**Old 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.**

Jerry was made aware of a veteran who lost both legs in Afghanistan who lives in Helena and who would like a track chair for archery hunting. Problem is that we do not know this individual's name. Jerry has been checking around to see if we can determine who this person is and provide them with assistance. Additionally, Mike Shepard has been doing the same. To date though we have had no luck.

## **Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee emailed to all board members the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Board of Directors Handbook for discussion and vote at the 4/1/22 MBA Board meeting. To see those proposed changes, go to the end of these minutes. All those changes were approved by 100% consensus of the committee.

Some of the changes proposed:

- Definition of a quorum to be 1/3 of the elected directors and not 1/3 of the total number of director positions, both filled and unfilled.  
Board vote needed. This was not voted on.
- Remove Area 8 representatives which requires a general membership vote.  
4/2/22 Update: The above was voted on by the General Membership that were in attendance at the 4/2/22 General Membership meeting and it passed unanimously.
- Change the number of directors to 14 area representatives, 14 directors at large, and 5 officers (pres., 1<sup>st</sup> VP, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Treasurer, Secretary) for a total of 33 directors, which is a change from 30 directors. This requires a general membership meeting.  
4/2/22 Update: The above was voted on by the General Membership that were in attendance at the 4/2/22 General Membership meeting and it passed unanimously.

## **Ray Gross Resignation**

Action Item: Closed

Steve will reach out to Ray and find out what he wants.

Steve has talked to Ray and he would like to be a board member again if the Board were to invite him back. Board feels that he tendered his resignation and if he wishes to be on the board again we will consider his nomination.

## **Conservation Conversation**

Action Item: Closed

Steve will report on results of the Conservation Conversation meeting

Jerry gave the Board a brief update that the group appears to be more focused on political support of candidates if they sign on to a Pledge

- If elected, I pledge to defend Montana's Constitution as written.
- If elected, I pledge to reject any effort at privatizing Montana's public land, water, fish and wildlife.

The group would like to create a standalone website to track candidates pledges, etc. This sounds pretty political and though the attorney the group has talked with says that this type of activity is probably not a violation of our 501(c)7 status I am not sure MBA as an origination would want to participate as an organization, but I think it is something I will participate in as an individual. I will keep the Board informed.

## **Carp Safari Hellgate Campground Camping**

Action Item: Closed

Kevin to reserve the group site at Hell Creek Campground on Canyon Ferry Reservoir for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Carp Safari.

Kevin let everyone know that the group area at Hellgate campground has been reserved for June 11<sup>th</sup> and to get in your campsite requests if you want to camp around the group area. Spaces are going fast.

### **Teller Wildlife Youth Camp**

Action Item: Closed

Claudia will work with Marlon to make a \$1000 donation to the Teller Wildlife Youth Camp.

Claudia made the \$1000 donation to Teller. Marlon told Board that camp will be the day before Mothers' Day. Then the next weekend there will be a youth camp put on by the Western Montana Fish and Game association shooting sports camp. They donate \$500 for the MBA Teen Camp.

### **Event Business Credit Cards**

Action Item: Claudia

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.

### **Teen Camp**

Action Item: Closed

Al to work with Becky and Jerry on arranging the 2022 MBA Teen Bowhunting Camp in Libby. Al will work with Marlon on funding.

Al said that they have gotten the camp planned. He asked that if Board members know kids that would like to enroll talk to Becky, Al, or Teri. It will be held at the Fawn Creek campground on the Fisher River. Marlon said that all participants have been sponsored by various clubs so it has not cost the kids anything. They need a bow and have completed bowhunter ed. Probably going to group kids in wall tent groups.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Bowhunters of Wyoming Outreach**

BOW has a new president who sent out a letter to various clubs around Wyoming, Montana included, asking that we work collaboratively on bowhunting issues. Steve signed on as this might be helpful for future crossbow fights. Steve forwarded info to Ken, our president in 2 weeks.

#### **Senator Molnar Conversation**

Steve said Molnar has communicated with him on working together on crossbow issue. All Board members agree that though he often is supportive of sportsman issue working on the crossbow would probably not be a good idea. This may be his last session before he has to campaign again. All of the board agree that we should not be working with Molnar on crossbow legislation because of his verbally abusive communications in the past and concern that he may try to use our discussions with him as our supporting his legislation. It was suggested that we work with the disability advocacy groups to get the companion requirement removed for there nonsupport of allowing crossbows for those with a disability.

#### **Board Member and Regional Donations**

We should not ask board members to donate money for the Convention.

#### **Convention**

Action Item: Closed

Convention committee to include Claudia in communications and necessary meetings during planning.

Steve has reserved Fairmont for the Convention in 2023. It will be put on by Region 2. The convention in 2024 will be in Great Falls sponsored by Region 4. The Heritage Inn has been reserved by Cliff for 2024.

### **454 Program**

Paul Ellis talked with Steve and Stephanie about MBA supporting the 454 program that allows a landowner to receive an either sex elk tag for allowing 3 public hunters on their land to hunt elk, one of which the landowner gets to choose for an either sex tag and two which the FWP chooses who receive a cow tag. The Board decided not to voice support for the 454 Program.

### **FW Commission**

The Board discussed the latest Commission meeting and the amount of controversy and confusion about the Tentatives that were originally proposed and then at the eleventh hour the amendments to those Tentative hunting season proposals. All agree that we will have to see how this season works out and await a new Elk Management Plan that may help with future season setting Tentative Proposals.

### **Moose and Goat**

Mark thought some members of the FW Commission did not understand what our request was. We were asking that successful permit holders be allowed to hunt with a bow at the archery opener on September 1<sup>st</sup>. FWP wants to put this proposal to the Regions as there may be a perception that bowhunters are being given an advantage. Steve feels that this proposal may be adopted during the next Tentatives cycle.

### **Elk Advisory Committee**

Stephanie Prater has been selected to serve on the Elk Advisory Committee. She was disappointed in the first meeting which was 4 hours long. She said that herself as well as others on this committee would like to see why each member wants to sit on this committee. The first Elk Advisory Committee set the guiding principals and this committee will develop a toolbox for the Elk Management Plan developers to use to address the myriad of elk management issue. Decisions made by this group will be consensus based. The Director of FWP would like to see new tools. Wants to see methods to bridge the gap between sportsmen and landowners.

### **PLWA**

PLWA has asked MBA to consider donating to their organization. They pursue access issues to public lands and waters which often requires litigation. They were a prime mover on stream access. They have been heavily involved in getting illegally closed roads opened through litigation. Fergus county has seen a lot of activity as has Lewis and Clark and Choteau counties.

### **Motion:**

Rick made a motion we donate \$500 to PLWA. Seconded by Mark. Passed unanimously.

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

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

### **Banquet**

Brian asked for help during the banquet from the board. Lively discussion followed.

### **Crossbow Working Group**

Quin Kuka FWP diversity coordinator asked Steve to provide a listing of PTMAE assistance that MBA has given in a single year. She is preparing a report for the FWP Director. She sounded positive.

## **Elections**

There was a discussion about walk in ballots if they will be accepted. Because electronic balloting is new there is a question as to accepting ballots at the day of the banquet. Al volunteered to help with counting the paper ballots. Jerry decided to set out the ballot box for those that have a legit ballot but did not return it via mail to deposit it in so it can be counted. Mandy Garness has said she would accept the Treasurer position if no other names were written on a ballot.

## **REGION REPORTS**

### **Region 1**

Al said that Region 1 has predator concerns.

### **Region 2**

Kevin Robinson has Carp Safari flyers for Board to distribute. Marlon would like to see another tee shirt design contest for the Carp Safari. There will be the great gold carp safari trophies again this year.

### **Region 3**

Paul Kemper is stepping down and Brian and Paul are looking for someone to take his place.

### **Region 4**

Jess had a Region meeting where they talked about the 900-20 permits and concerns with opportunity. There are concerns that with the new permit structure that people will not be able to bounce around to the various areas that the 900 area covered.

### **Region 5**

Ken has received phone calls asking for help in clarification of the new regulations. Someone has expressed interest in being a Region 5 rep so Ken asked him to send in a bio.

### **Region 6**

Nick and Tristen had a meeting with about 4 members. Talked about having a drawing for members who have signed in new members. Also about drawings for new members that sign up at events. Recruitment needed to show that we have numbers. Bowhunters ed concern that the field days are being eliminated from the bowhunter ed curriculum, FWP wants only online, no field days. Nick would like for MBA to express to FWP our concern with removing field days. PLPW is looking at hunter ed curriculum and they would be the ones to talk to.

#### **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.**

Nick expressed concern that there is not bowhunter ed instructor breakfast this year. The reason for no breakfast this year is because of a scheduling conflict for Wade the FWP lead instructor.

#### **4/1/22 Action Item: Steve**

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

### **Region 7**

Concerned about apathy of our membership.

### **General Discussion**

Board discussed that MBA needs to improve content of Facebook posts and Magazine. We need to get Twitter working for us as well as other modes of social media. We may need to

budget monies for social media. Discussed that we should be using committees to do this work and not be hammering out details during a Board meeting.

**MOTION**

Stephanie made a motion to allocate \$300 for boosting Facebook. Seconded but I could not discern who it was. Passed Unanimously.

**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: Nick**

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

**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.**

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

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

**General Membership Meeting**

Steve will be leading a general membership meeting tomorrow at 8am April 2, 2022.

General Membership will vote on creating a Treasurer Officer position and removing Region 8 representatives.

NOTE: The vote for the above were approved unanimously during the 4/2/22 General Membership meeting.

**Next Meeting**

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

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

**Reserve Montana Wild for June 10, 2022 Board meeting.**

**Motion**

Stephanie made motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Mark.

Vote Passed unanimously