

ROLL CALL

Stephen LePage, Al Kelly, Mandy Garness, Kevin Robinson, Marlon Clapham, Bob Morgan, Jerry Davis, Jess Wagner, Rick Miller, Stephanie Prater, Mike Prater, Claudia Davis, Rich Smith, Brian Koelzer, Ken Schultz, Mark Schwomeyer, Liberty Brown, Nick Siebrasse

TREASURERS REPORT

Claudia

Currently we have \$47,899.25 in the checking account.

\$17,223.91 in regular savings,

\$31,000.00 Life Membership fund between CD and Money Market
for a total of \$96,125.47.

Teen Camp temporary restricted fund \$1,018.28,

Legislative fund \$10,500.76.

Fiscal year starts July 1st, and our large fund raiser is in the spring close to years end, so we are in arrears until the end of our fiscal year. So far for the 6 months of this fiscal year we have spent \$8900 more than we have taken in. But we typically will make it up with the convention in the spring.

Should we change our fiscal year to January to December? No action during this meeting but something to consider in the future.

Membership dues taken in this fiscal year is \$1500. We get a lot of renewals in December and a lot around the convention.

\$3500 spent on the newsletters for this fiscal year.

Our MBA laptop ~~crapped-died out~~ and Claudia purchased a new one with Steve's approval. \$599.99 for a new computer and \$1~~3~~40 for the updates and software installs.

Motion: Jerry made a motion to approve Steve's approval of the computer purchase and update/software installs.

Second: Marlon.

Motion passed with 9 for and none opposed.

Claudia also received a raise of \$300 per year.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Lapsed members receive 3 emails and a postcard and then Claudia sends a listing of those lapsed members to the Region Reps asking Reps to make a personal ~~and~~ contact to try to get them to renew. Right now, we have 488 active members which does include recorded family members.

Renewals receive a letter, membership card, stickers and patch. What should we send them for after initial membership? Probably a patch is good for once and send them stickers every time they renew after that. Now only new members will receive a patch and stickers and renewals will receive a sticker.

Brian would like to save koozies for personal interaction activities like recruitment tables at events.

OLD BUSINESS

Old Action Items

Action Item: All board members suggest other ideas on how to distribute the video to achieve maximum impact.

The board is still discussing but TBM is taking the lead.

Action Item: Claudia will cut a check to TBM. Mark will get contact info ~~where~~ check is to be sent check to.

Done

Action Item: Claudia will finalize the budget with amendments and distribute to board members.

Done

Action Item: Someone craft a ~~"Here is What Your Money Has Done"~~ letter for member renewals.

This ~~has not yet been completed~~ was done by Steve. Claudia has been using it. Seems it should be assigned to the Membership committee

TBM Video in Opposition to Crossbows During Archery Only Season

Tim Roberts and Paul with TBM gave a presentation on the videos they have and are developing to be used in the fight to keep crossbows out of the archery only seasons in Montana.

There are 3 videos

1. One explaining what is bowhunting,
2. The second talks about the Permit to Modify Archery Equipment with Josh from Bitterroot who has damaged shoulder. This video focuses on his successes with modified archery equipment.
3. And the third is Paul discussing the issues with crossbows in the Archery Only season.

TBM is putting together a one-page handout for legislators and putting up a dedicated website for all the info.

This year's MWF hunting survey shows that over 71% of responding rifle hunters opposed crossbows in the Archery season and 79.7% of responding bowhunters opposed crossbows in the Archery season.

Their concern is that this will pass along party lines making it a totally partisan issue (crazy). They have accordingly developed a contingency plan to add amendments to the bill. ~~First~~^{1st} amendment would be that anyone hunting with a crossbow would be required to pass a state approved crossbow education course. The ~~second~~^{2nd} amendment would be that a crossbow season would be designated with its own opportunity that could or may run concurrently with Archery season. The ~~3rd~~^{third} amendment would be mandatory success reporting across the board.

TBM is working with the MWF, MTBCHA, MBA. BCHA will be more silent because they have members who hunt with crossbows in other states. TBM's approach will be different than in other years in that they and us will be making the arguments more focused on Montana. We need to make grassroots effort to get it killed in committee. That means talking to Legislators, particularly those on the Senate Fish and Game and the House Fish Wildlife and Parks committees. Especially critical if we either know them or they represent our district.

Action Item: Jerry will send the Senate Fish and Game and House Fish Wildlife and Parks committee member lists to the general membership.

Mark will talk to Don Thomas and possibly have him write something opposing crossbows around the beginning of the Session for publication in papers.

There was also discussion of ~~also~~ having Brett French write up something but not sure who would make the contact/request.

Little Belt Wild Sheep Transplant by FWP

MBA gave the FWP \$1100 toward costs for transplanting of a ram and pregnant ewe from the breaks to the Little Belts. Shane Colby with FWP says the transplant will happen the ~~second~~^{2nd} week of December, members are welcome to help.

Crazy Mountain Land swap

MBA has signed on to a BHA authored letter for a land swap to insure public access in the Crazy Mountains. So far no word received on the outcome.

Domestic cow and calf shooting on the Bird Family Ranch

We previously voted to ~~make a donation~~ donate to the landowners (Bird Family) to help compensate them for the shooting of a domestic cow and calf with arrows, and to increase the reward from FWP. A check for \$1000 was sent. The Bird family expressed appreciation and will continue to allow archers to hunt their property. MBA has gotten some positive social media response but as of now there is no feedback on the perpetrator.

Carp Safari

Joelle is resigning her position ~~as~~ the Carp safari chair.

Steve has already applied for the permit to have a fishing contest with FWP.

Things that need to be completed for the Carp Safari are:

- Hellgate campground needs to be reserved with the BOR 6 months in advance of the event,
- A dumpster needs to be scheduled,
- Food for the event needs to be planned,
- Get Carp Safari equipment from Joelle which include a BBQ grill, etc.

These actions need to be ~~ramrodded~~ delegated and/or completed by the new Carp Safari chair.

Steve and Jerry can help the new Carp Safari chair get things done.

Steve will do the tee shirt contest.

Kevin Robinson has contacted a composter in Helena that may be able to make use of the fish, he will follow-up.

Kevin has volunteered with some persuasion to be the new Carp Safari Chair for this coming year.

Steve applied for a primary date of June 12th for the contest.

Steve would like to make sure we have enough food, and if we have to over spend \$200 on food we should so we do not have to turn away people because of lack of food.

Need to make a better effort to prevent carp dumpster being used for trash.

Action Item: Kevin will organize and/or delegate to volunteers the following for the upcoming Carp Safari to include:

- 1) reserving the Hellgate Campground.**
- 2) Scheduling a dumpster.**
- 3) Planning food.**
- 4) Getting Carp Safari equipment from Joelle.**

BHA Recruitment Article

Steve and Kevin are working on something to promote joining MBA in BHA's magazine.

Draw lock for Montana Wild's Archery in the School Program

Marlon said that MBA was contacted by FWP's Montana Wild Center about their Archery in the School program. That program was audited and was found not to have accommodations for handicapped students. FWP asked if we could help on resolving this. After consultation with the board and because FWP needed resolution by December Marlon purchased some right and left-handed draw locks for the Genesis bows that are used. They are now up and running with the handicapped program. Marlon has not turned in any receipts yet, but costs were \$361.00. Rick would like for MBA to get some video showing their use. Marlon said video is being made.

Action Item: Marlon work with Claudia to get reimbursed directly or to the Teen Elk Camp for the cost of the draw locks.

Action Item: Marlon to obtain video of the draw locks being used in the Archery in the School Program to be distributed to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Block Management Sign Refusing Access if Member of MBA and other organizations

Liberty shared a photo of a sign posted at the entrance of a BMA that said if you are a member of MBA or other organizations you cannot hunt in this BMA. Probably not totally legal but we will not act on it at this time.

Legal Bow 80% Let-off Requirement

In August FWP asked if MBA would approve the removal of the 80% let off requirement for legal archery equipment to be used during the Archery Only season. Steve had sent out an email

asking the board for their opinions and those that responded had somewhat indifferent feeling because 1) the industry is going that way, 2) it is difficult for Game Wardens to check, 3) and because Pope and Young has no let off requirement.

After Steve reviewed the emails concerning this topic, he told FWP over the phone we would endorse if there was language also verifying that crossbows could not be used.

Rick had not seen the email and during this meeting provided some interesting history on the let-off requirement.

It was stated that a bow is still required to be hand drawn in the presence of the animal.

Brian suggested that we go out to the membership and survey them to see what the general opinion is of our members concerning removing the 80% let-off requirement.

The Commission meeting is December 10th.

There was then discussion as to how the question in the survey should be worded.

Jerry will develop a question and put out a Survey Monkey survey today using information discussed during this meeting asking if members approve or disapprove the removal of the 80% let-off.

Motion: Stephanie made a motion that verbiage on survey state that the Commission is reviewing removing the 80% let-off requirement at the December 10th Commission meeting. then state the question. then say contact your MBA rep if you have any questions.

Second: Rick.

Motion passed

Follow-up

Survey was put to membership shortly after the December 5, 2020 MBA Board meeting. Results of that survey – 130 total respondents with about 74% of respondents opposed to removing the 80% let-off requirement and 24% in support of removing that requirement. Steve testified during the December 10th Commission meeting and told the Commission we no longer endorsed removing the let-off requirement after surveying our membership. The Commission voted to retain the 80% let-off requirement.

2021 MBA Convention

The 2021 MBA Convention is scheduled at Fairmont Hot Springs March 26th through the 28th.

Brian said that someone had expressed a concern that this is the weekend of the Cat-Griz football game.

Fairmont said everything is sitting in a holding pattern and we are on the books if things improve with Covid.

We still have donated items from ~~l~~Last year.

Mike Barrett from Wyoming would do a seminar on archaeology and the "treasures" one can find when in the woods.

Right now we have no guest speaker. Do we want a notable speaker that we pay big money for? Probably not.

It was brought up that Monty Browning is a possibility.

Eric Schneider is another ~~one option~~, but he may be a little abrasive.

Brian is going to ~~look into~~investigate finding guest speaker and the cost ~~of doing that associated.~~ ~~and h~~ He will handle it via emails between the board when he comes up with something.

Action Item: Brian will look into guest speakers for this years Convention and their respective costs then coordinate with the board to determine who if anyone the board would like.

Brian will coordinate with Ken to ensure transition from last years event.

Art Haze, shed antler guru, would provide a seminar.
Brian will follow-up.

Reps need to drum up donation-as if we are going to have a Convention.

Convention info due to magazine by January 15.

The 2022 Convention will be hosted by Region 1 at Fairmont.

Action Item: Board members will solicit local businesses and others for donations for this years Convention and provide convention information for the next newsletter by January 15th.

New MBA Newsletter Editor

Julie Jensen is going to be the new magazine editor and we need to send newsletter information to her. Her email address is jjensen44@mac.com.

We all send a big Thanks to Terri for all of the years she has ~~tiredlessly~~tirelessly edited the MBA newsletter.

Governor's tag

Steve asked the board if they were interested in pursuing getting revenue from the ~~autioning~~auktioning off of one of these tags. There was no interest.

2021 Legislature

Jerry discussed the legislative process and the importance of grassroots personal contacts with legislators in general and specifically members of the Senate Fish and Game and House Fish Wildlife and Parks committees. Focus on legislators who represent your district or legislators that you or MBA members personally know.

Jerry expressed a concern about testifying in person due to Covid. Not sure how the session will be conducted this year. It could be in person, or on-line or a hybrid of the two.

When talking to legislators it is important to be concise and short. Know what you want to say before you talk to them. Get to the point in as short a time as possible as our legislators are very busy during the session.

Jerry will send out link to LAWS to board members.

If a board member sees a bill of concern let Jerry and or Steve know about it.

Steve asked Jerry to inform him when our forces need to be mobilized.

Mark would like bills of concern forwarded to the TBM.

Action Item: Jerry will send a link to the LAWS Legislative system out to all board members.

Action Item: Jerry will send out and keep updated a Watch List for all bills of concern to all board members and TBM.

MBA Membership Recruitment

Steve and Stephanie ran an ad in the Lewistown newspaper, and it did not elicit any new members.

Nick did a pint night where he paid for beer and had Steve join the festivities via Zoom meeting to talk to potential members.

Al has done the pint night thing with donated things for door prize items, he got 20 new members, but none continued.

Steve is willing to do a Zoom meeting for anything like Nick did.

Ken used an archery event as an opportunity to recruit – he got a sponsor to donate a Glendale Buck target and those that signed up got a ticket to put in for the drawing of that prize. Made a lot of calls to folks who shoot at a weekly archery club. Got 8 to 10 new members, gave them stickers and powder smoke. Ken also offered to pay for their memberships if they recruit 2 new members. Sponsoring or co-sponsor archery shoots appears to be a method to get the word out about MBA and recruit new members.

Brian talked about getting a couple of retractable banners made that list MBA accomplishments and mission to be used for recruiting at various events we may participate in. It would display something similar the back of the newsletter making it self-standing with possibly one for each region.

Al brought up that the Libby Archery club, a club member of MBA, has had MBA membership fundraising archery shoots. MBA members get to shoot for free or if they are not a member they pay a price a little less than a MBA membership. Usually get 5 to 10 new members. They have used a handmade sign they place on an easel.

Steve looked online and he said it looked like it would cost about \$200 for a retractable banner.

Stephanie will spearhead researching the cost of banners and some possible designs and email out to the rest of the board. Possibly update the banners we now have in the regions.

Rick said Jerry McPherson of the original Montana Decoy may be able to give us a fair price and some ideas.

Stephanie will get the board some ideas and costs so we can decide.

Our accomplishments that we list should be updated with some of the newer items like sheep transplants.

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

Liberty brought up using Facebook because we have 4600 followers. It would be effective to pay a little for a promotional campaign on Facebook, Liberty says that it is the number one place to increase memberships. Possibly have give-away for joining on Facebook, like a tee shirt.

Cost to advertise depend on how aggressive we want to be. \$50-\$60 per month would do it.

Motion: Brian made motion to give Liberty \$60 a month for FB ads for 3 months.

Second: Jess

Motion passed.

Membership and Public Feedback

An individual complained about having our Conventions at Fairmont. This person wants it in Kalispell.

The last event in Kalispell lost money and was very poorly attended. Al said possibly an article in the newsletter to explain why we aren't doing Kalispell and other places for conventions right now.

It is up to the Regions where they hold their conventions. We owe it to our membership to provide a cost-effective venue that they can travel to.

Another concern brought by a member was the 2011 FWP article by Jason Tounsley, then MBA president, that is on the website. This letter states that MBA supported the breaks elk permit quotas but not the other 22 units outside of the breaks, I think these are now the 900 permits. The concern our member had is that this is not MBA's current stance and that the letter should be removed from the website.

As noted during the meeting our membership now supports limited quotas for both the breaks permits and the 22 units outside of the breaks, as supported by our survey in July 2019 when 92% of respondents supported the quotas in some form.

This is taken from the 2011 letter "Unlike the limited permits in the Breaks, the MBA was unaware of the intentions of the FWP and the Commission to apply a permit system similar to the one in the breaks to 23 other districts outside of the breaks until a few days before the idea was proposed at the June 2007 commission meeting. The MBA has been and continues to be opposed to the limited permits in the 22OD. (In 2009 the Commission removed HD441 from the 23OD at the request of the MBA making it the 22OD.)"

Liberty will handle modifying the letter.

Action Item: Liberty will modify the 2011 letter mentioned above to insure that it not only captures our previous stance but captures our current stance.

An individual asked MBA if we would support crossbows. Steve gave the short answer to him, no.

REGION REPORTS

Region 1

Region 1 did not have a meeting due to Covid issues. Al called some active members. There were CWD concerns. Al stated a concern with Region 6 having issues with hunters from the west side of the state getting permits for the breaks but not using the permits. Some would like to see if you draw it then you can only hunt it and no other districts.

Marlon commented that it sounds like MOGA will try to influence the governor to remove archery permits all together. It is probably a good bet that permits will be an issue both in the Legislature as well as the Commission this coming year.

We may need to form a stance on elk archery permits prior to the Tentatives Commission meeting in August.

Question if we should write a letter to the Governor similar to MWF's letter stating our stances. This letter should include things we are excited about and things we are worried about.

Mark and Nick will come up with a rough draft of a letter to the Governor to be passed around to the board.

Possibly survey members to find out political persuasion. We can use info if useful in letter if it is persuasive.

Action Item: Nick and Mark make a rough draft of a letter to the Governor stating our hopes and expectations and concerns

Region 2

Someone requested to Kevin that MBA request a special archery season for Moose and Goat preseasons.

Tentatives committee should pursue this request as the board was in support. Additionally, after the Legislative session is over MBA should introduce a hunt your tag for the 900 and breaks archery permits. Ray Gross is the Tentatives chair, but he was absent.

We should probably survey our membership before the Tentatives committee willstart work to develop and introduce a tentative regulations 1) creating an archery Moose and Goat pre-season and 2) requiring that holders of Archery permits only hunt the area for which they were drawn.

Region 3

There was no Region meeting but members in Region 3 may not support the hunt your tag concept.

Region 4

Topics in Region 4 were the hunting bow let-off issue, the hunt your tag issue, and the introduction of sheep into the Little Belts.

Mark brought up the issue that if end up with a hunt your permit regulation we may end up with overcrowding because then all successful applicants will begin hunting the areas because that will be the only option they have.

Region 5

There was no Region meeting.

Members show a lot of support for hunt your tag.

Members would like to know what happens with the data from our surveys. MBA needs to send out updates after a survey has been completed that explains how the results were used.

There was a concern that members are not getting replies from Board members. Some members expressed interest in joining the Board.

Members interested in running for office need to get bio into Brian before the Jan 15 newsletter deadline.

Region 6

There was no Region meeting.

Some members are concerned that people can put in for the Bears Paw elk archery permits as a party and if the party is drawn then the number of individuals listed as the party contribute to

the entire quota regardless if they hunt or not and thereby removing opportunity for single permit applicants.

Region 7

There was no Region meeting.

There are now 12 active members in the region an all-time low.

Rick sent out a questionnaire to get some input.

Members do not support the FWP management tool for controlling CWD of having hunters "shoot out" the highly infected populations particularly mule deer.

Members are opposed to crossbows.

Concern that HD 704 ~~HD is~~ within the 900-permit structure is becoming overwhelmed with hunters because of large bulls killed there. Too many hunters on public land ~~is~~are pushing elk to private land and thereby increasing elk numbers on private land and subsequently increasing leasing for hunting of those private lands.

A concern that the Crow tribe issue of being able to hunt the ~~f~~Forest ~~year-round~~year-round which leads to rifle hunting during archery season, an unsafe scenario. Wyoming is still challenging the court ruling on the 1851 treaty. Possibly the Governor could support something to make the situation better.

Teen Camp

Marlon will email an update of the 2021 Teen Camp plans.

The next Board meeting will be on March 26th at Fairmont.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Action Item: Jerry will send the Senate Fish and Game and House Fish Wildlife and Parks committee member lists to the general membership.**
- 2. Action Item: Kevin will organize and/or delegate to volunteers the following for the upcoming Carp Safari to include:**
 - 1) reserving the Hellgate Campground,**
 - 2) Scheduling a dumpster,**
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4) Getting Carp Safari equipment from Joelle.

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- 10. Action Item: Liberty will modify the 2011 letter mentioned above to insure that it not only captures our previous stance but captures our current stance.**
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