

MBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Live and Zoom Call

June 11, 2021

ROLL CALL

Stephen LePage, Nick Seabrase, Bob Morgan, Rick Miller, Jerry Davis, TJ Smith, Al Kelly, Brian Koelzer, Liberty Brown, Kevin Robertson, Marlon Clapham, Claudia Davis, Stephanie Prater, Ray Gross, Mark Schwomeyer, Jess Wagner, Paul Kemper

Meeting was called to order by Stephen LePage.

MOTION

Motion by Rick Miller -Move the previous meeting minutes be approved.

Seconded by Liberty Brown.

Passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

OLD ACTION ITEMS THAT WILL REQUIRE UPDATES AT OUR DECEMBER 4, 2021 BOARD MEETING

- 1. Action Item: Mark with help from Jess and Stephen to draft a proposal for early Archery Moose and Goat season for successful drawers of these permits.**

Mark and Jess don't have anything concrete but have been working on it and plan on having something concrete by August. Creating archery opportunity where there is none, will affect 78 moose units, 2 sheep units but there is already early archery for sheep in other units and 16 mountain goat units. They will bring to Rick and Steve once they get it fleshed out, Steve asked to be included in the emails about this. Once the tentatives have been drafted by committee it will be presented to the board for a vote.

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

This was not discussed at this meeting. Stephanie will follow up.

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

There was no discussion of this issue at this meeting. Mark was to follow up with Nick.

COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Action Item: Stephen, Cliff, Bryan, and Liberty will meet to decide how to handle donated hunts.**

Canceled for this year.

2. **Action Item: Jerry will send out ballots to membership via Survey Monkey and send out snail mail ballots to members without email addresses with a deadline of April 20th.**

Ballots went out via Survey Monkey for those with email addresses and snail mail for those without email addresses on April 8th. Votes were tallied and given to the 1st Vice President on April 26th. Slight issue with family member ballots that use the same email as the member when using Survey Monkey.

3. **Action Item: Joelle will drop off grill at Jerry's.**

Kevin picked up grill.

4. **Action Item: Stephen will contact Muzzy and Feradyne Outdoors about donating something for a door prize with thoughts toward a bow reel for the Youth Largest Fish.**
Steve had no success, but Brian will bring some stuff from our Convention stash he is storing, and Kevin bought a couple items.

5. **Action Item: Stephen will talk to individuals about getting too eager and to keep issues like this to a minimum so that the conversation is not lost in the mass of emails especially during the Legislative session.**

Steve will work on getting emails conversations during legislature minimized but keeping our board abreast of issues and strategies is critical and important.

6. **Action Items: Jerry will spearhead getting a business membership for Flaming Arrow Archery in Kalispell. Stephanie will spearhead getting a business membership for Capital Sports in Helena. Stephen will spearhead getting a membership for Mike Brost.**

All have been completed.

7. **Action Item: Kevin will organize and/or delegate to volunteers the following for the up-coming Carp Safari to include:**

1) reserving the Hellgate Campground

Kevin was successful in obtaining the 2nd group area for Saturday only.

2) Scheduling a dumpster

Done.

3) Planning food

Done

4) Getting Carp Safari equipment from Joelle

Done

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

Rick still had a concern, but Liberty pointed out that he had added disclaimer language at the top of the letter that states MBA now supports the 22OD (HD920) archery permits. This letter is important because it does state MBA's support at the time of the Breaks archery permits, a stance we still hold.

501(C)(3) STATUS UPDATE

Discussion of need to research pros and cons and complications of changing MBA's status from a 501(c)(7) to a 501(c)(3) if we start fund raising for adoptive equipment for those with disabilities. Jerry and Claudia visited with an attorney who specializes in not-for-profit business. The attorney said it would cost about \$5000 to make the change and it would require changing the By-Laws which requires a membership vote on changes. He thought that if MBA has a connection with MBEF we should use that fund raising mechanism and then have MBEF give the money to MBA for use in making adaptive equipment.

TREASURERS REPORT

Claudia

As of May 31st, we have \$49,168.76 in the checking account.

\$17,224.91 in regular savings,

\$31,502.66 Life Membership fund between CD and Money Market (\$20,110.30 in a CD and \$11,502.94 in a Money Market fund).

For a total Checking/Savings of \$98,606.42.

Restricted Net Assets

Contributions Fund \$3,600

Life Member Fund \$31,500

Life Member Fund Interest \$113.15

Teen Camp Temporary Restricted Fund \$3,676.28

Legislative Fund \$10,528.15

20/21 Income \$13,777.05

20/21 Expenses \$20,363.04

20/21 Net Income \$-7,534.83

Claudia has asked for a change to the By-Laws to make the bookkeeper a paid employee. She would report to the board treasurer.

Steve will investigate changing By-Laws. No volunteers to become treasurer within the board at this time and it will be a new person that will be appointed until the next elections.

Action Item: Steve will look into changing the By-Laws to make our paid bookkeeper, who is now our Treasurer, a paid contractor only under an elected treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Claudia

Total membership is 516.

Fiscal Year	New Members	Lapsed Members
20/21	79	52
19/20	45	45
18/19	24	102

Brian asked if the 516 membership included family members. Yes if the family members are also registered under Wild Apricot (WA). However, there are family memberships that have only one individual registered in WA.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW ACTION ITEMS THAT WILL REQUIRE UPDATES AT OUR DECEMBER 4, 2021 BOARD MEETING (See discussions above and below for details)

- 1. Action Item: Steve will investigate changing the By-Laws to make our paid bookkeeper, who is now our Treasurer, a paid contractor only under an elected treasurer.*
- 2. Action Item: The BOWHUNTING WITH DISABILITIES IN MONTANA COALITION exploratory committee made up of Steve, Al, and Liberty will report back to the board after the first exploratory meeting.*
- 3. Action Item: Jerry will contact Ryan with FWP 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.*
- 4. Action Item: Brian, Steve, Jerry, Rick, and Jess work on questions to survey membership on special archery permits.*
- 5. Action Item: Rick will notify the board when the request for members to set on the Governor's PLPW board are open.*
- 6. Action Item: Rick will develop a survey monkey question on limiting over-the-counter deer licenses to private land only.*
- 7. Action Item: Kevin will bring up the issue of the Crow Tribe settlement and the definition of occupied versus unoccupied lands to the MBHA board.*

BOWHUNTING WITH DISABILITIES IN MONTANA COALITION

This would be a coalition made up of representatives from MBA, TBM, BHA, and possibly MWF. There was also discussion of also including members from MBEF.

The vision is to create a coalition to fight crossbow legislation and tentatives in the future with BHA, TBM, and MWF.

There was some discussion about a potential lawsuit that the Archery Season is non-compliant with ADA. Not much we can do there.

Concern that there needs to be draft legislation that will deal with the potential that someone will show the PTMAE does not meet their needs. The vision here is for the legislation to strictly limit the use of a crossbow or other device that is not now legally allowed after the individual has made a bonified attempt to use modified legal archery equipment.

Paul says there is an ongoing effort that was discussed during the Western States Traditional Rendezvous to form an organization which may include members from all organizations. There was discussion about each entity's board providing one to three representatives to sit on this new organization's board.

TBM has 178 active and 84 lapsed members.

At the Western States Traditional Rendezvous there was discussion of setting a goal of having a war chest of \$200,000 to work with.

The board has several questions.

Should this group focus on legislation?

Should this group focus on assistance to bowhunters with disabilities?

Should MBEF be involved?

Should MBA become a 501c3 for funding?

Is it feasible to form a disabled bowhunter advocacy group, concerns that those with disabilities still want to be able to use a crossbow?

Ray suggested EQC may be a good place to get a sponsor for legislation.

This organization would be Montana specific and specific to crossbow issues.

Before the board makes any actionable items, the coalition mission and focus needs to be firmed up.

Dane Ryder will be running for the new TBM president with Mark Schwomeyer and Paul Kemper also on the TBM board.

They as well as Nick attended the Western States Traditional Rendezvous.

MOTION

Nick moved that MBA form a committee to explore participation in this BOWHUNTING WITH DISABILITIES IN MONTANA COALITION with a focus of the committee to bring back information to the MBA board to make sure it represents the principals of MBA.

Seconded by Jerry Davis.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION

Jerry moved that the committee be made up of Steve, Liberty, and TJ.

Seconded by Al.

Motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: The Bowhunting with Disabilities in Montana Coalition exploratory committee made up of Steve, TJ, and Liberty will report back to the board after the first exploratory meeting.

Jerry will be talking to the Legion and has talked to the VFW and also contact Ryan about possible vets that may want to bowhunt but have disabilities.

Action Item: 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.

Should be consideration of mixing legislation and philanthropic missions which may preclude possible grants for funding disabled hunters.

There is money left from the TBM videos but that will not be discussed until the coalition has been fleshed out a little more.

There was discussion that this coalition would promote the PTMAE, but Marlon will soon no longer be able to do the work. Marlon had a contact through Chris Clasby to the company that modifies sporting equipment that was planning to move to Ennis, but he has lost that contact when Chris Clasby recently passed. Need more machinists, etc. to help with PTMAE. Each piece can take as much as 80 hours to modify for an individual. CNC shop said they would build a unit, but it would be a minimum of \$300 per unit with no less than 10 units. Each unit is unique and that is the cause of the problem unless we go to a specific generic bow. Marlon is willing to give up the prints and possibly train someone. Marlon likes the Mathews Mission bow. Would have to be a company that does not also sell crossbows. 6 calls last year from across the state asking for help but it was at the beginning of the season. Wounded Warriors has shown no interest to date for archery equipment let alone adaptive equipment.

REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION 1

Members are happy with the crossbow outcome.

REGION 2

Members expressed concerns that there were not a lot of Legislative updates aside from the crossbow legislation.

REGION 3

No Report

REGION 4

Members are concerned that people in the Region are not drawing elk 900 permits. People outside of the region are drawing and then may or may not use the permit. They think there should be consideration for either splitting the 900 tags or hunt where you draw. Possibly eliminate party tags and or require a time limit between draws.

Should MBA consider a tentative to address the 920 permits. FWP was supposed to adjust the numbers to ensure that locals would draw but that is not happening. There are too many hunters now. Concern that a tentative may lead to an alternative tentative from others (outfitters) to eliminate all bow hunting special permits.

REGION 5

To make it clear on MBA's stance on special permits we need to put out another survey to firm up our stance and help to create a tentative. Brian, Steve, Jerry, Rick, Jess work on questions.

And what about the Dillon areas, they too are seeing large influxes of hunters from Northwestern Montana?

Action Item: Brian, Steve, Jerry, Rick, and Jess work on questions to survey membership on special archery permits.

REGION 6

Tristin Manuel not here today because of branding. Thoughts on limiting time limit between draws for difficult areas. There is a concern that removing future chances if one draws may detract from the support by hunters after they draw if they would no longer have an opportunity to put in after the wait period.

REGION 7

Would be great to get a couple of bowhunters on the PLPW. It will be a brand-new council. Rick will notify the Board when the request for members comes out of the Governor's Office.

Action Item: Rick will notify the board when the request for members to set on the Governor's PLPW board are open.

Because of all the over-the-counter tags being sold the Region has an idea to make those extra over the counter tags to be for private lands only because all the harvest is hitting public lands populations with minimal impact on populations on private which is counter to management objectives and will help distribute deer.

Rick will send out a letter and a possible survey monkey question.

Action Item: Rick will develop a survey monkey question on limiting over-the-counter deer licenses to private land only.

There is a concern with the Crow Tribe settlement on hunting rights. Rick feels we should pressure Montana to take a similar stance as Wyoming, which pushes back on the hunting rights, until the courts make a judgement as per the definition of occupied and unoccupied lands.

Kevin will bring this issue up to MBHA board.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Jerry Davis, Secretary MBA on July 1, 2021