

ROLL CALL

Ken Schultz	President	P
Brian Koelzer	1 st Vice President	P
Stephen LePage	2 nd Vice President	P
Treasurer	Mandy Garness	P
Secretary	Jerry Davis	P
Region 1 Representative	Al Kelly	NP
Region 2 Representative	Marlon Clapham	P
Region 2 Representative	Kevin Robinson	P
Region 3 Representative	Liberty Brown	NP
Region 4 Representative	Justin Doll	P
Region 4 Representative	Jess Wagner	P
Region 5 Representative	Ben Buller	P
Region 6 Representative	Tristan Manuel	P
Region 6 Representative	Nick Seabresse	P
Region 7 Representative	Rick Miller	P
Region 7 Representative	Bob Morgan	NP
Director at Large Even Years	Cliff Garness	P
Director at Large Even Years	Jake Garness	P
Director at Large Even Years	Alisha Zemlicka	NP
Director at Large Even Years	Stephanie Prater	P
Director at Large Odd Years	Jeremy Harwood	P
Director at Large Odd Years	Mike Shepard	NP
Administrative Services	Claudia Davis	P

Meeting was called to order by Ken Schultz.

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

Motion by Steve to accept minutes.

Seconded.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

TREASURER REPORT**Current Balances**

Total liabilities	\$2,221.31
Contributions	\$3,600.00
Life Member Fund	\$34,250.00
Life Member Fund interest	\$146.59
Restricted Legislative Funds	\$11,348.15
Restricted MBA Teen Camp	\$4030.27
Fund	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$54,323.66
Fiscal Year Net Income	-\$6,672.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES &	\$103,247.59
EQUITY	

MBA Profit loss July 2022 through November 2022

Total Income + Interest	\$3,242.55
Total Expenses	\$9,914.94
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$6,672.39

Budget

Mandy informed the board that the finance committee reviewed the budget and they are asking for the board's approval. She challenged the committees to stay at or below budgets for their respective committees. Steve asked about the \$1500 approved for a membership drive that had been approved. Mandy said it was already in the line item for that committee.

MOTION

Motion by Steve to accept the budget.

Seconded.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

Claudia discussed the current balance sheet and budget. She informed the board that at this time we have only received 19% of renewal money of the amount we have budgeted for but that often changes at the convention as that is when people choose to renew. She feels that we are losing more members than gaining. Claudia would like to the membership committee to update the renewal letter so that it is current.

Action Item: Steve and Membership Committee will draft an updated renewal letter for all renewing members.

OLD BUSINESS**Committee Members**

Noted that committees and members were listed in the latest magazine. Rick brought up that the Tenatives Committee was not listed. Stephanie said that she has reviewed the next edition and the Tenatives Committee will be listed in that edition. Rick brought up concerns with website and asked if possible to create a committee to feed Liberty needed updates. Will be discussed later in meeting.

MBA Banners

Stephanie exhibited the new self-standing banners. We have two so one will be in Great Falls and the other in Helena.

Crow Tribe Issue

Kevin talked with BHA and they are not interested in this issue until a judgement is made by the courts. This issue deals with the Crow Tribe having the right for unlimited hunting rights on all undeveloped lands (mostly Forest Service) that were part of their ancestral lands. Right now the state of Montana is allowing this but Wyoming is not. Rick feels that the current administration in Montana may be receptive to reversing the previous administrations decision and not allowing open tribal hunting. Rick confirmed that the Crow Tribe is not required to submit any harvest information to the State so it becomes very difficult for the State to evaluate impacts. Rick thinks the time is right to submit something to the Legislature to require some sort of management of this situation.

Action Item: Rick will contact FWP and others as needed to determine what action may be taken to address the potential impacts of unrestricted hunting on Forest Service Lands by the Crow Tribe.

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

Closed 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. Update: Jerry talked to Ryan Schmaltz on 12/12/22. Ryan informed him that there is a veterans program in Billings which is being headed by a private individual, Jonathon Corburn. Contact information was given to Ken so that we could make contact and offer MBA assistance.

Marlon got ahold of a veteran in Whitefish that is wheelchair bound and that wanted some help with bowhunting, he is a bowhunter. Marlon found two places for him to hunt but then Wounded Warrior offered him a rifle hunt in Eastern Montana. Marlon also talked to a vet with Parkinson's but since that contact they have not gotten back to him. Marlon also contacted a gentleman in Great Falls that needed a way to hold his bow so he built him a brace and sent it to him, but that gentleman has never gotten back to him. Marlon found a place east of the mountains for a disabled vet from Phillipsburg to bowhunt but the contact at that location talked the disabled vet into using a rifle. Marlon feels that these individuals will become rifle hunters. Marlon also bought a nice bow set up with a draw lock from a gentleman in Anaconda for \$500. The unit is now available for anyone that needs one. Pete Siegel informed Ken that we is going to be on the side of allowing crossbows for disabled during archery season this session but he will keep the equipment that MBA set him up with. MBA will continue to keep the communication channels open to talk with Pete and Sen. Molnar. Agreed that we need to get an early draft of the bill. Kevin brought up that in Illinois on a large piece of public land a state biologist has posted around the property that crossbows are causing significant wounded and lost deer. Kevin thinks this individual would be a good person to testify against crossbows.

Action Item: Kevin will make contact with the state biologist to see if we can get him to testify.

Rick said he has heard some concern with Superior Archery that they do not support PTMAE and they would prefer to see crossbows. Discussed someone talking with Tom Kuglin the deputy editor for Lee Enterprises. Jerry does know him and said he would talk to him.

Action Item: Jerry will initiate a conversation with Tom Kuglin on crossbows for disabled bowhunters during archery season.

Discussion about getting something out with the Pete Siegel story we ran in the winter 2021 edition and if there are other stories we can use. No one mentioned the Spring 2022 story by Bob Berquist. Nick brought up that the success rate in Wyoming during archery elk rut season has gone up to somewhere between 47 and 50% since introduction of crossbows.

Action Item: Ken will talk to Steve Martin past Wy Bowhunters pres and find out what he knows about high success ratios.

Ken said that ND has seen significant impacts that have effected opportunities where it know takes 5 years to draw a whitetail tag. They have 17,000 crossbow permits for "disabled". Kevin said that Idaho allows disabled to use a crossbow during archery season. Marlon said he is redoing his prints for bow modifications for disabled. He hasn't talked to the individual that said he would be willing to help with PTMAE modifications.

Elk Advisory Committee

Stephanie said there will be a stake holders meeting on January 14th starting at 9pm in at Delta Hotel in Helena. MWF, BCHA, Stockgrowers, MOGA, Montana Woolgrowers, Montana for Fish and Wildlife, FWP. Each participant is to bring one potential draft bill. Steve is planning on attending and Stephanie is encouraging board members to attend.

Action Item: Stephanie will get something out for the board to review in preparation to the Elk Advisory Meeting on January 14th.

Future MBA Convention

Room rates at the last convention in Fairmont were \$180/night. Brian will check into seeing if Fairmont may consider giving us a break because we bring in a lot of people to not only stay there but also to dine, drink and swim.

Action Item: Brian will explore to see if Fairmont will give us a break on room rates at the next Convention.

Discussed some other potential locations for future Conventions. Brian said that a new Holiday Inn in Bozeman contacted him to see if we would be interested in using their facility and Brian will check into this.

Magazine

Closed Action Item: Brian will look into newsletter printing costs to see if reducing the number copies could save MBA printing costs. Brian looked into those costs. Right now our costs are \$836.70 for 1750 copies.

Brian got bids from the Chronical for 1500 copies and 2000 copies. Those costs would be \$829.95 and \$863.50 respectively, very minor savings to cut copies we now have printed and shipped. Tristan got his address issue addressed. Seems some issues with consistency of addresses for members receiving mags. Rick brought up the question of whether the extra copies were doing us any good and if people were getting information for free. Jerry thought that getting timely information out to members and nonmembers is worth the minor costs for the extra copies. Stephanie brought up an issue with not having enough content. Also Stephanie brought up some issues that Julie is having with content board members provide. 1) Articles continue to be late which postpones the printing date, 2) Photos are coming in that are not of adequate resolution to be printed, 3) Missing logos for some businesses that donate and receive free advertising which causes a problem with printing advertising for those businesses, 4) Would like to have a topic for each issue like we do for the Carp Safari and the Convention. The late submittal of articles by board members appears to be the cause of printing delays which causes the magazine info to be somewhat dated. Board discussed some ideas about providing interesting content, things like interviews or guest articles or recipes. Mandy has developed a spreadsheet that lists the topic for each edition, comments about articles, and other information to help with planning the content. She said she would email out to the board.

Action Item: Mandy will email the spreadsheet she has developed to the board.

Jeremy suggested that we do something to make the article's due dates more obvious in the newsletter. Mandy suggested articles with talking points for issues we are addressing as an organization. Brian brought up the possibility of paying Julie a stipend for being the editor of the Montana Bowhunter magazine. Board agreed.

Action Item: Brian will look into what amount would be fair to pay Julie to be the editor of the Montana Bowhunter Magazine.

Jake brought up that he was asked to write something for Eastman's mag. It would be nice if he could provide that for content for a future magazine. Jess brought up that idea of interviewing persons that may be of interest to Members. Possibly come up with a list of people that could be interviewed, questions that could be asked, etc. Cliff agreed to take the chairman position of the Magazine Committee making Jerry a happy person.

Action Item: Magazine Committee will develop some ideas about improving content.

PLWA

Closed Action Item Jerry will follow-up with Claudia to get a check written and sent to PLPW for \$500. This was completed prior to the June 10th Board meeting

Bowhunter Education

Closed Action Item: Nick and Stephanie to follow up with FWP and PLPW to express a concern with the new direction that bowhunter ed is going.

Marlon and Mary provided 2 one-day classes to give students a bowhunter education class. Marlon reached out to Region 1 bowhunter ed instructors for help but no takers. Tabor was happy with the class. This possibly provides some leverage with Commissioner Tabor. Marlon asked bowhunter ed instructors what they would like to see. He had 32 responses. Those that commented said they wanted to see field days brought back into bowhunter ed. Nick said since the elimination of the field day the number of students per year in Havre has dropped from 32 to 5. Nick suggested a letter from MBA to commissioners and Wade Cooperider requesting bringing back the field day and the ethics training into bowhunter education. Stephanie suggested a letter to the editor as well. Board is concerned that FWP's motivation to making bowhunter ed less difficult is to sell more licenses with no consideration to the reduction in ethical hunting and the impacts it may be having with access to private lands by hunters. Private landowners want to see educated hunters in the field and they want FWP to bring back the old hunters safety program.

Action Item: Stephanie will interview a private landowner about the lack of hunter ethics training in FWP's latest hunter education program.

It was agreed that the board wants FWP to do the bowhunter ed breakfast on Sunday morning after the Banquet.

Action Item: Region 2 Convention Committee arrange with FWP to host the Bowhunter Education Breakfast on the Sunday of the Convention (April 2, 2023).

There is an issue with recruiting bowhunter ed instructors. Justin said his issue as an instructor is that there is no flexibility in when those classes are provided which makes scheduling for instructors difficult. Marlon suggests that this issue is related to the county or multicounty hunter ed chief.

Action Item: Marlon will draft a letter for the Commissioners and the Director for Board approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative

Steve is the lead for the Legislative Committee this session. Jerry may not be in town for much of the session this year. Jeremy lives in Helena and will be available after the middle of January. Crossbow bill is being drafted by Senator Molnar but it has not been released.

MBEF Update

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

Marlon said that MBEF is reorganizing. Marlon will contact Paul after the Holidays

Membership Drive

Stephanie drafted the post card that we will be sending out to all persons on the list of bowhunters that was received from FWP. Plan on going to the printer next week and getting it printed and mailed. The has Board has previously approved \$1500 to be used for printing and mailing membership drive post cards to those on the FWP list.

Action Item: Steve will provide receipt for printing costs to Claudia for reimbursement.

Ron Aasheim has suggested to the Committee that we foster relationships with local archery clubs. Stephanie suggested that we ask for all the 454 because they opt in in order to be eligible for a 454 permit. Steve will investigate that.

UPOM Lawsuit

Not a lot to report been rather silent, we have not paid anything out of the \$2000 we voted to earmark for this endeavor and since this board meeting BHA has said they will invoice us for 5% of costs not covered by other online fund raising efforts. We have not been invoiced but as of December 18th it appears we will be invoiced for \$1200. BHA does not want to take in more funds than are needed to pay for court costs. Steve raised a question if we might want to be co-defendants with FWP on the crossbow lawsuit? The original decision was a temporary injunction, so final judgement has not occurred. We would have to find others to help with this, BHA could not because on a national basis they do not want to contest because this is a state issue for them.

Marketing

No update on paying Facebook money to push membership.

Congress Plus On-Line Software App

We have paid for this software for this next year which is used to track bills and communicate to legislators. Cost was \$2150.

Convention

Claudia asked who on this year's convention committee would like a temporary credit card. Kevin is the committee chair and he said would like to be issued a temporary card for use to cover Convention expenses.

Action Item: Claudia will send Kevin a temporary credit card.

Claudia requested that the committee submit a budget. Members of the committee are Kevin chair, 2nd VP Steve, Marlon, Mandy, Jackie Weidow, Claudia.

Action Item: Convention Committee form a budget for this years convention.

Claudia requested that the committee submit a budget. Members of the committee are Kevin chair, 2nd VP Steve, Marlon, Mandy, Jacklyn Dowel, Claudia.

Action Item: Convention Committee will submit a budget for this years Convention to the Treasurer.

Kevin has talked to Steve Felix to talk. Kevin is thinking about him doing a seminar. Kevin said he would pay for room and banquet. They will be finding and coordinating the other speakers with Jacklyn and Marlon in the next couple of weeks. Claudia has asked that the committee provide a date when tickets will be available online. Steve expressed a desire to see the raffle ticket process be simplified. The raffle ticket process needs to be worked out in the committee.

Action Item: The Convention Committee will look into simplifying the raffle ticket process

Old Action Item: Put together a manual for organizing, funding, and running an MBA Convention.

MBA Handbook

Ken asked if language was updated in the handbook for all general committee meeting requirement. In researching it was found that on 4/15/2022 the board voted to accept "Unless specified in the bylaws...the committees should meet a minimum of three times per year, corresponding to the Board of Directors meeting. The meetings will be organized by the Chair and can take place over Zoom, email or by phone call. At the BOD meeting, each Committee Chair will give a report on the committee meeting." That paragraph has been added to the Board of Directors Handbook.

Montana Legacy Trust aka Montana Strong

Stephanie explained that the Montana Legacy Trust is a proposed Montana Conservation Trust Fund with proceeds benefiting wildlife habitat on both public and private lands. Members of the Montana Citizen Elk Management Coalition is proposing this fund which would be part of the \$2.8 billion surplus. The Montana Citizen Elk Management Coalition is asking for our support. No idea of who may be carrying the bill.

Action Item: All Board Members study up on the proposed Montana Conservation Trust Fund and the Montana Elk Management Coalition so we can discuss in the near future via Zoom.
MBA Meeting days Friday versus Saturday.

Some board members would rather have these meetings on Saturdays. Historically we have had Friday meetings the day before the convention and the day before the carp safari. If we are going to have meetings in Helena in November at the Wild Center we will have to get notice to the center well before the meeting. Marlon brought up that the November meeting (third meeting) is to be held at the place of the Convention. That requirement is in the Handbook and not within the By Laws so it can be changed by a board vote. Also there was discussion about mileage to Helena for meetings but Ken said he checked mileage and found that Helena was pretty central for most everyone. Some discussion about changing the summer meeting to a different time to allow more time for carp shooting prior to the Carp Safari, possibly at the location of the Teen Camp late June.

REGION REPORTS

Region 1

No report

Region 2

Kevin shot a big buck this weekend. Carp Safari question, this year wants to know if we prefer the way we did it at the boat launch or do it at the group site. FWP wants to do a bowfishing survey so Kevin wondering if we can send out emails for persons registered for the survey. No but there can be a checkoff on the registration form. Marlon said they will be getting the Convention Committee going.

Region 3

No Report

Region 4

Jess said had an individual contact him with concerns about all of the people on the landscape during bow season and that there should be something done to limit the over-the-counter cow elk tags. Also this person thought we should have something in our back pocket to tweak a crossbow bill if it passes. He also voiced support for the Elk Coalition. Also he thinks we should have provided comments to the proposals from the FWP Elk Group that Stephanie was a part of. Steve said in his talk with the biologist she thinks that the season changes were meant to reduce the over crowding issue and it may take a year for them to take effect. Stephanie brought up that the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and they held their convention in Bozeman and all of the other sporting groups were there, and we should have been involved.

Region 5

Ken had individuals wanting to put a handgun season at the end of the year. Mostly firearms issues have been brought to him.

Region 6

Nick said there was a CWD deer in HD 621. He will be talking to Paul Tuss who won against Ed Hill as a Representative in Havre. They had a membership drive.

Region 7

Rick concerned that MBA membership down to about 10 even though there are a lot of bowhunters in the region but they are not joining. 1st choice only restriction had negative impacts on the season along with the 7 mule deer doe tags being allowed. Art Haze a rancher that borders Custer NF and he is seeing a lot of public pressure on the public lands. He will be attending a public FWP meeting on the 12th to reintroduce the mule deer proposal they tried to introduce during this last tenatives session which would limit doe tags to one per hunter on public land. He suggested board members research the Rose Petal effect on mule deer which goes toward answering declining mule deer populations.

Action Item: Steve will put together a synopsis of talking points that can be used when Board Members are talking to legislators about the upcoming crossbow bill and to be included in the next newsletter.

Action Item: All members let Ken know of things that need to be updated on the Website so he can work with Liberty to get it updated.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be at Fairmont Hot Springs on March 31st at 10:00 AM.

Motion

Steve made motion to adjourn.
Seconded.
Vote Passed unanimously

Committees

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:** Cliff Garness
Jerry Davis 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