

**Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2020 | Montana Beef Council Office, Billings**

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome and Introductions:** President Kiley Martinell called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed attendees and made introductions.

**Members Present:** Kiley Martinell (President), Brett Dailey (Vice President), Kathy Creighton-Smith, Bill Cok (virtual), Walter Schweitzer (for Gary Wold), Jim Taber, Andy Tuss, Andy Kellom, Heather Fryer, Travis Choat, Shane Flowers, Jan Allen (for Corey Schultz). Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles and Tammy Bridges. USDA: Kahl Sesker (virtual). CBB: Lynda Grande (virtual). Not present: Katie Cooper, Turk Stovall. Guests: Wes Jensen, Ethan Wilfore, Kim Dallas.

**Approval of Agenda:** President Kiley Martinell asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Brett Dailey moved to approve the agenda as printed and Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes:** President Kiley Martinell asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the minutes from the May 19, 2020 meeting. Andy Tuss moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

**Financial Reading:** Business Manager Sue Broyles shared MBC's financial standing as of September 22, 2020 with the members. The board reviewed the proposed amendments to the FY2020 budget and chose to act on it. Brett Dailey moved to approve, and Walter Schweitzer seconded. Motion passed.

**Officer Reports:**

**President-** Kiley Martinell thanked the staff for hanging on through the lawsuit and congratulated them on getting the escrow funds returned to Montana. She shared that she presented an update with Chaley Harney at the Montana Stockgrowers Association midyear meeting.

**Vice President-** Brett Dailey shared that he was pleased with the project funding request presentations and potential partners.

**Executive Director-** Chaley Harney provided an update on the status of the R-CALF v. USDA lawsuit as well as a program update for the year. A printed copy was provided for each board member.

**National Reports:**

**CBB:** Lynda Grande provided an update on the most recent Beef Promotion Operating Committee meeting results and plans for the upcoming fiscal year. She also shared updates from the Export Growth committee.

**Federation-** Kathy Creighton-Smith, Andy Kellom and Kiley Martinell shared their reports from the most recent annual meeting that was held virtually.

**USMEF-** Jim Taber shared a recent USMEF webinar video and presentation with board members. Board members received a copy of the latest export statistics from USDA and USMEF.

**Committee Reports:**

The board heard reports from the following committees:

**Executive-** Chairwoman Kiley Martinell

**Budget-** Chairman Brett Dailey

**Bylaws-** Chairman Andy Kellom

**Education-** Chairwoman Kiley Martinell (for Corey Schultz)

**Producer Communication-** Chairman Travis Choat

**Promotion-** Chairman Brett Dailey

**Special Committee Reports:**

The board heard reports from the following special committees:

**Collections and Compliance-** Director of Collections and Compliance Tammy Bridges

**\$.25 Montana Research-** Chairwoman Kathy Creighton-Smith

**Nominating-** Chairwoman Kiley Martinell opened nominations for the USMEF and Federation of State Beef Council representative seats. Walter Schweitzer nominated Brett Dailey and Heather Fryer to serve as the USMEF representatives. Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed.

Brett Dailey moved to re-elect the current Federation Directors—Kiley Martinell, Andy Kellom and Kathy Creighton-Smith. Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

**Montana Department of Livestock Welcome and Introduction:** Ethan Wilfore and Kim Dallas from the Montana Department of Livestock introduced themselves as new employees and shared their ideas for collaborating with Montana Beef Council.

**USDA Update:** Kahl Sesker with USDA Agriculture Marketing Service provided an update and answered questions from the board.

**Unfinished Business:**

**FY2020 Budget Amendments-** The board acted on this item during the financial reading.

**MBC Federation and USMEF Investment-** Kiley Martinell shared that the executive committee and the budget committee had reviewed the Federation investment options and proposed the investment for three representatives. The executive committee will review and determine a prioritized category for the investment to be directed. Kiley Martinell shared that the committees had also reviewed the USMEF investment and proposed to keep the level the same with one USMEF representative and an alternate.

**Escrow Fund and MBC Consented Funds Account-** The MBC staff shared that the escrow funds being held by the Cattlemen's Beef Board during the preliminary injunction had been officially released and returned to MBC and are being held in the \$1 checking account. MBC staff shared that the newly created Consented Funds account would not necessarily be needed going forward and could be closed. The board discussed the options and chose to keep the account open for now and pay out any final expenses that were designated to come out of that account. The board also directed staff to pursue options for checking account options that returned interest.

**New Business:**

**Terms of Office Review-** The board reviewed the current terms of office for any necessary changes or updates.

**Annual Meeting Notices-** Chaley Harney stated that any upcoming annual meeting dates from the various organizations represented on the board should be shared with the office. She also shared that staff is available to assist if any member needs a presentation, notes or assistance at any meetings.

**Membership Verifications-** Kiley Martinell shared that all organizations, except for Montana Angus Association, had met or exceed the minimum membership requirements as outlined in the MBC Bylaws. Kiley Martinell proposed that the Montana Angus Association could have until January 1, 2021 to get to the minimum membership requirement and that the seat should be placed on probation during that time. Andy moved to approve the proposal and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

Chaley Harney requested that due to Kathy Creighton-Smith's probation status, another Federation Director should be elected as an alternate if the Montana Angus Association is unable to meet the requirement in time for the next national meeting. Brett Dailey volunteered to serve as a one-time alternate. Andy Kellom moved to approve Brett Dailey as a one-time alternate for the Federation Director seat. Jim Taber seconded. Motion passed.

**New Business (continued):**

**Review and Approval of FY2021 Budget-** The board reviewed a digital version of the proposed 2021 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council based on estimated beef checkoff collections for October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021. Kathy Creighton-Smith moved to approve, and Jim Taber seconded. Motion passed.

**Review and Approval of FY2021 Marketing Plan-** The board reviewed a digital version of the proposed marketing plan compiled as a result of the proposed budget for MBC's upcoming fiscal year. Brett Dailey moved to approve, and Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed.

**Annual Conflict of Interest Statements-** Each board and staff member received a copy of a conflict of interest statement to review and sign.

**Adjournment:** President Kiley Martinell asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none she called for adjournment. Brett Dailey moved to adjourn, and Andy Kellom seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place at 8:00 a.m. on January 15, 2021 at the Montana Beef Council office in Billings, MT.