

Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2025 | Sidney, MT

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: President Andy Kellom called the meeting to order at 12:54 p.m., welcomed attendees, and asked for introductions.

Members Present: Andy Kellom (President), Montana Cattle Feeders; Travis Choat (Vice President), Montana Stockgrowers Association; Justin Iverson, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Wes Jensen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Charlie Hollenbeck, Montana Meat Processors Association; Debbie Andersen, Montana Dairy Association; Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen's Association; Corey Schultz, Montana Livestock Auction Market Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. USDA: Kinley Hartman. Guests: Jason Zahn, Joy Patten, Jess Nehl, Denise Rohweder, Val Wagner, Lane Marshall, Carmel Miller, Travis Maddock, Nicole Wardner, Jessi Hummel, Mark Voll, Kari Goldade.

Not present: Jake Callantine, Montana Angus Association; Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc.; Tammy Bridges, staff; Brett Dailey, ex-officio; Ben Peterson, CBB; Verna Billedeaux, CBB.

Approval of Agenda: President Andy Kellom asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Corey Schultz moved to approve the agenda as printed, and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: President Andy Kellom asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made to the minutes from the December 16, 2024 meeting. Justin Iverson moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Reading & Investment Update: Business Manager Sue Broyles and Budget Committee Chairman Travis Choat shared MBC's financial standing as of April 29, 2025 with the members and reviewed current investments.

Corey Schultz moved to allow the Executive Committee to continue reviewing and approve the action to be taken on bonds and CDs as they mature. Ken Morris seconded. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President- Andy Kellom did not have any updates.

Vice President- Travis Choat did not have any updates.

Executive Director- Chaley Harney and MBC staff provided a review of projects over the last few months and a status update on all contractors with reminders for upcoming events.

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update: Kinley Hartman shared that there has been no further activity in the R-CALF v. USDA Administrative Procedures Act. A summary judgement had been issued and the next deadline for an appeal would be May 27, 2025. There have been some staffing losses at USDA AMS that may affect the speed of material review and approval.

Industry Updates

U.S. Meat Export Federation- Justin Iverson reviewed his recent market access trip to Monterrey, Mexico with the board including pictures, video and a written report.

Federation- Justin Iverson, Wes Jensen and Travis Choat reviewed their attendance at the Cattle Industry Convention and a written report was included in the board packets. Andy Kellom shared his experience completing his term as Region V Vice President, and his continued service as a Beef Promotion Operating Committee as well as a committee co-chair.

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee- Chaley Harney shared that the Executive Committee proposed adding monthly one-hour virtual board meetings. The meetings will contain a brief financial update and an educational presentation. The following dates were proposed: May 12, June 9, July 14, September 8, October 20, November 10. All meetings would be from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Charlie Hollenbeck asked that the board consider creating a long-term strategy for the 25-cent funds.

Justin Iverson moved to approve adding monthly one-hour virtual board meetings. Charlie Hollenbeck seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment: President Andy Kellom asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none he called for adjournment. Corey Schultz moved to adjourn, and Wes Jensen seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Next Meeting:

May 12: virtual
June 9: virtual
July 14: virtual
August: 28-29: in-person
September 8: virtual
October 20: virtual
November 10: virtual
December 16: in-person

Note: The Board observed the North Dakota Beef Commission board meeting in the morning.