

**Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2024 | Montana Beef Council Office, Billings**

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: President Andy Kellom called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, 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; Jake Callantine, Montana Angus Association; Wes Jensen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Corey Schultz, Montana Livestock Auction Market Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Debbie Andersen, Montana Dairy Association; Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen’s Association; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union; Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Tammy Bridges, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. USDA: Kinley Hartman (virtual). Not present: Charlie Hollenbeck, Montana Meat Processors Association; Brett Dailey, ex-officio; Ben Peterson, CBB; Verna Billedeaux, CBB; Steve Hobbs, 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 Travis Choat 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 May 15, 2024 meeting. Corey Shultz moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Reading & Investment Update: Business Manager Sue Broyles and Budget Committee Chairman Travis Choat shared MBC’s financial standing as of August 20, 2024 with the members and reviewed current investments.

Jake Callantine moved to allow the Executive Committee to continue to review and approve next steps for MBC’s invested treasury bonds as they mature. Pam Bilyeu seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence: The most recent correspondence received at the office was passed around and reviewed by members.

Fiscal Year 2024 Unfinished Business:

Budget Amendments- The board reviewed the budget amendments for the current financial year. Wes Jensen moved to approve the budget amendments and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President- Andy Kellom shared his activity on the national level, including his involvement as a region vice president and a member of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee. He shared his experiences from the Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting as a member of the Export Growth Committee.

Vice President- Travis Choat shared that he has stayed in contact with the office for updates.

Executive Director- Chaley Harney and staff provided a review of MBC's marketing plan results and additional projects conducted over the fiscal year. Directors were encouraged to share the information with their neighbors and representative organizations. Chaley also shared an update on the Montana Cattle Committee.

MBC 2025 Meeting Schedule- The Board of Directors selected the following meeting dates for upcoming meetings.

- December 16, 2024 (joint meeting with North Dakota Beef Commission in Sidney, MT)
- May 16, 2025
- August 27-29, 2025
- December 16, 2025

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update: Kinley Hartman gave a brief update about the ongoing Administrative Procedures Act lawsuit and additions to USDA staff.

Standing Committee Reports:

The board heard reports from the following committees:

Executive- Chairman Andy Kellom reported that the executive committee recommended to trade in the MBC vehicle. Wes Jensen also recommended that the board approve a regular three-year/under 100,000-mile trade in for future MBC vehicles. Jake Callantine moved to adopt the policy and give the Executive Committee approval authority when a car is chosen by the Executive Director and Ken Morris seconded. Motion passed.

Education- Chairman Andy Tuss reported on the proposals heard by the committee and their recommendations to the Budget Committee.

Producer Communication- Chairman Wes Jensen reported on the proposals heard by the committee and their recommendations to the Budget Committee.

Promotion- Chairman Travis Choat reported on the proposals heard by the committee and their recommendations to the Budget Committee.

Special Committee Reports:

The board heard reports from the following special committees:

Collections and Compliance- Director of Collections and Compliance Tammy Bridges shared a report with the board.

\$0.25 Montana Research- Chairman Ken Morris reported that the committee did not hear any new proposals this year. Chaley Harney shared that Montana State University had just recently sent new sponsorship opportunities for the revamped Celebrate Ag Weekend in Bozeman. After reviewing the proposal options, the board voted to support the MSU Celebrate Ag Weekend at the \$500 level.

Nominating Committee- Chairman Andy Kellom reported that the board would need to consider nominations for three Federation of State Beef Council representatives and two delegates for the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Andy Tuss moved to nominate Wes Jensen, Corey Schultz and Justin Iverson as the Federation Representatives and Debbie Andersen and Charlie Hollenbeck as the USMEF Delegates. Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of FY2025 Budget- Chairman Travis Choat led the board through a review of a digital version of the proposed 2025 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council based on estimated federal beef checkoff collections for October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025. Andy Kellom moved to approve the proposed budget for the federal \$1 Account and Debbie Andersen seconded. Motion passed.

After submitting the budget to USDA for final review and approval, the board will receive a copy. A Marketing Plan will be developed based on the approved budget and provided to the Board for final review and approval.

Business Manager Sue Broyles led the board through a review of a digital version of the proposed 2025 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council 25-cent Account. Travis Choat moved to approve the proposed budget and Ken Morris seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Verifications- Chaley Harney reported that all required organizations had submitted the necessary materials and that all were in good standing to meet the membership requirements, except for the Montana Angus Association. The board approved an extension to September 30, 2024 to submit their membership verification.

Open Reports and Comments: President Andy Kellom asked if any attendees had additional reports or comments to share. No further information was presented.

Adjournment: President Andy Kellom asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none he called for adjournment. Travis Choat moved to adjourn, and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on December 16, 2024, in Sidney, MT. This will be a joint meeting with the North Dakota Beef Commission.