

Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2026 | Billings, MT

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions: President Andy Kellom called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed attendees, and asked for introductions.

Members Present:

Andy Kellom (President), Montana Cattle Feeders; Jake Callantine (Vice President), Montana Angus Association; Justin Iverson, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Wes Jensen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Charlie Hollenbeck, Montana Meat Processors Association; Debbie Andersen, Montana Dairy Association (virtual); Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen's Association (virtual); Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc.; Travis Choat, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union; Jake Newton (for Corey Schultz), Montana Livestock Auction Market Association. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. USDA: Kinley Hartman (virtual). Guests: Bill Bergin, Mollie Phipps.

Not present: Tammy Bridges, staff; Verna Billedeaux, CBB; Connie Ahlgren, CBB; Brett Dailey, ex-officio.

Approval of Agenda: President Andy Kellom asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Jake Callantine 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 July 6, 2026 meeting. Justin Iverson moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

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

Financial Reading & Investment Update: Business Manager Sue Broyles MBC's financial standing as of August 18, 2026 with the members and reviewed current investments.

Officer Reports:

President- Andy Kellom shared his activities over the year as president.

Vice President- Jake Callantine did not have anything to report.

Executive Director- MBC staff provided a comprehensive review and evaluation results over the last year from partnerships and in-house programs.

Checkoff Compliance Review Update: Tom Novota of the Cattlemen’s Beef Board shared an update with the board about the regular compliance review process that is in place for all state beef councils to comply with every three to five years to ensure compliance with the Beef Promotion and Research Act and Order, Cattlemen’s Beef Board Guidelines and Investment Policies, and the state policy and procedures manual. Montana completed a review in July and there were no reportable findings.

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update: Kinley Hartman shared that there are no current lawsuits on file. She has been working to solicit and receive nominations for one of Montana’s seats on the Cattlemen’s Beef Board. She will continue to try to contact the certified nominating organizations for Montana.

MBC 2027 Meeting Schedule: The board discussed and reviewed upcoming meeting dates and options for the 2027 calendar year. The future meeting dates will be as follows:

2027-

January 11: virtual

February 8: virtual

March 1: virtual

April 12: virtual

May 3: in-person, Billings

June: no meeting

July: no meeting

August 9: virtual

August 16-18: in-person, Billings

September 13: virtual

October 12: no meeting

November 8: virtual

December 13: virtual

Committee Reports

Executive Committee- The Executive Committee will continue to review and approve the action to be taken on CDs as they mature.

Collection- Tammy Bridges and Corey Schultz were not present to report.

Nominating- Chairman Andy Kellom shared that the board would need to select representatives for the Federation of State Beef Councils and U.S. Meat Export Federation. A slate of candidates were selected for the positions.

Nominating Committee continued-

The Federation representatives presented were Justin Iverson, Pam Bilyeu, and Jake Callantine. Andy Tuss moved to accept the nominees and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

Debbie Andersen and Jake Newton were presented as USMEF representatives. Jake Callantine moved to accept the nominees and Travis Choat seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Andy Kellom then presented the slate of officers for the president and vice president as Jake Callantine and Justin Iverson, respectively. Charlie moved to accept the nominating committee recommendation and Andy Tuss seconded. Motion passed.

Review and Approval of FY2027 Budget- President Andy Kellom led the board through a review of a digital version of the proposed 2027 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council based on estimated federal beef checkoff collections for October 1, 2026-September 30, 2027.

The board reviewed and discussed the results of the presentations and budget proposed by the Budget Committee. The board further discussed the future budget outlook for MBC. The final budget includes anticipated revenue of \$1.6 million, half staying in Montana, plus using \$158,209 of net assets unrestricted (retained earnings) to cover the difference. There were no changes presented for MBC's 25-cent account.

Jake Callantine moved to approve the proposed budget for the federal \$1 Account and the 25-cent account. Pam Bilyeu 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.

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, that is a few members short. They have been granted until the end of the month to provide an update.

Term of Office Review: The board members reviewed the current terms of office document and provided any updates on leadership in their organizations.

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



Montana Beef Council
2795 Enterprise Ave., Ste. 4
PO Box 80865
Billings, MT 59108
(406) 656-3336
www.montanabeefcouncil.org

Adjournment: President Andy Kellom asked if there was any further business to come before the board and seeing none he called for adjournment. Justin Iverson moved to adjourn, and Charlie Hollenbeck seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Next Meeting:
September 14: virtual