

**Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2025 | 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; 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; Jake Callantine, Montana Angus Association; Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc.; Brett Dailey, ex-officio and Montana Farmers Union. Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Tammy Bridges, Al Koenig, Anna Sponheim. CBB: Ben Peterson. USDA: Kinley Hartman (virtual).

Not present: Travis Choat (Vice President), Montana Stockgrowers Association; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union; Verna Billedeaux, CBB.

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 August 6, 2025 meeting. Justin Iverson moved to approve the minutes as mailed and Charlie Hollenbeck 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 26, 2025 with the members and reviewed current investments. The Executive Committee will continue to review and approve the action to be taken on CDs as they mature.

Fiscal Year 2025 Unfinished Business:

Budget Amendments- The board reviewed the budget amendments for the current financial year. Corey Schultz moved to approve the budget amendments and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed.

Officer Reports:

President- Andy Kellom shared his activity on the national level, including his involvement as a member of the Beef Promotion Operating Committee and co-chair of the Export Growth Committee.

Vice President- Travis Choat was not present. President Andy Kellom shared that Travis notified the office that he would not be able to commit the time to move up to the presidency. Andy Kellom and Chaley Harney shared that after discussing with the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee that the board would need to decide the next leadership slate and presented options, including Andy Kellom serving for one additional year to allow for a new vice president to serve for a year of orientation in the position. Corey Schultz moved to take care of business now and approve Andy Kellom to continue as president for an additional year. Jake Callantine seconded. Motion passed. A new vice president will be selected and voted on by the board before December.

Executive Director- MBC staff provided a review of projects over the last year.

MBC 2026 Meeting Schedule: The board discussed and reviewed upcoming meeting dates and options for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year and 2026. The future meeting dates will be as follows:

2025-

September 8: virtual
October 20: virtual
November 10: virtual
December 15: virtual

2026-

January 12: virtual
February 9: virtual
March 2: virtual
April 14: in-person, Billings
May 11: virtual
June 8: virtual
July 6: virtual
August 10: virtual
August 19-20: in-person, Billings
September 14: virtual
October 12: virtual
November 9: virtual
December 14: virtual

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service Update: Kinley Hartman shared that there has been a lawsuit filed regarding Freedom of Information Act disclosure of Cattlemen’s Beef Board records and USDA and CBB are working together to respond.

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee- Andy Kellom had no report.

Special Committee Reports

Collection- Tammy Bridges shared updates from the collection process and using the new software at the Department of Livestock.

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. By acclamation, the board approved that the following would serve:

Federation: Justin Iverson, Pam Bilyeu, Charlie Hollenbeck with Andy Kellom as an alternate.

USMEF: Debbie Andersen and Charlie Hollenbeck.

Review and Approval of FY2026 Budget- President Andy Kellom led the board through a review of a digital version of the proposed 2026 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council based on estimated federal beef checkoff collections for October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026.

The board reviewed and discussed the results of the presentations and budget proposed by the Budget Committee. Corey Schultz requested to adjust the producer communication recommendations and approve \$15,000 for Northern Ag Network specifically focused on radio and \$35,000 for Western Ag Network focused on a mix of sponsored content, podcasts, radio and television.

Jake Callantine moved to approve the proposed budget for the federal \$1 Account and Debbie Andersen seconded. The board further discussed the future budget outlook for MBC. Corey Schultz moved to eliminate funding the Northeast Beef Promotion Initiative. Jake Callantine accepted the amendment. The final budget includes anticipated revenue of \$1.6 million, half staying in Montana, plus using \$172,495 of net assets unrestricted (retained earnings) to cover the difference. 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 2026 fiscal year budget for the Montana Beef Council 25-cent Account. Charlie Hollenbeck moved to approve the proposed budget and Pam Bilyeu 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. Wes Jensen moved to approve an extension to October 30, 2025 to submit their membership verification. Pam Bilyeu seconded. Motion passed.

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. Charlie Hollenbeck moved to adjourn, and Justin Iverson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Next Meeting:
September 8: virtual