Montana Beef Council
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Montana Beef Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2026 | Virtual

Call to Order: President Jake Callantine called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

Members Present:
Jake Callantine (President), Montana Angus Association; Justin Iverson (Vice President), Montana Stockgrowers Association; Debbie Andersen, Montana Dairy Association; Jake Newton (for Corey Schultz), Montana Livestock Auction Market Association; Pamela Bilyeu, Montana CattleWomen Inc. Charlie Hollenbeck, Montana Meat Processors Association; Travis Choat, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen's Association;

Staff: Chaley Harney, Sue Broyles, Tammy Bridges Al Koenig; Anna Sponheim. USDA: Kinley Hartman. Guests: Bill Bergin.

Not present- Wes Jensen, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Trent Stoltz, Montana Farmers Union; Andy Kellom, Montana Cattle Feeders; Andy Tuss, Montana Food Distributors Association; Brett Dailey, ex-officio; Verna Billedeaux, CBB; Connie Ahlgren, CBB.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: President Jake Callantine asked if there were any additions or amendments to the minutes from September 14, 2026. Justin Iverson moved to approve the minutes. Ken Morris seconded. Motion passed.

President Jake Callantine asked if there were any additions or amendments to the agenda. Charlie Hollenbeck moved to approve. Debbie Andersen seconded.

Financial Reading: Business Manager Sue Broyles shared MBC's financial standing as of September 30, 2026 with the members.

MBC Reserve Policy Review: As a directive from the previous meeting, the Budget Committee worked through options and proposed a policy for the full board to consider. The proposed policy is as follows:

A reserve will be maintained to provide financial stability during periods of reduced revenue, unexpected expenses, or other circumstances affecting operations. The reserve target will generally equal four to eight months of budgeted general and administrative and program expenses, with six months serving as the preferred target.

Reserve adequacy will be evaluated annually as part of the budget development process, using the five most recently completed fiscal years as a reference for revenue and expenditure trends. Temporary fluctuations above or below the target range will not require immediate corrective

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action or amendment of this policy. When appropriate, the Board may address the reserve level through future budgets.

Use of reserve funds must be authorized in advance by the Board of Directors, either through adoption of the annual budget or by separate Board action. The amount, purpose, and authorization must be documented in the official meeting minutes.

Justin Iverson moved to accept the proposed policy and Pam Bilyeu seconded. Motion passed.

FY2027 Marketing Plan Review: Chaley Harney presented the new fiscal year marketing plan to the board for review and approval. The marketing plan reflects the previously approved budget and partnerships for the new fiscal year. Justin Iverson moved to approve the plan and Debbie Andersen seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation- BeefFit Sticks Program: Jenny Stovall with BeefFit Sticks shared a final report with the board about the success of the program with the help of MBC funding and plans for the future of the program.

Adjournment: President Jake Callantine asked if there was any further business to come before the board.

Ken Morris asked for an update on CBB member appointments and Kinley Hartman, USDA, provided an update all Montana nominations have been received and the packet has been sent to the Secretary of Agriculture for review.

Chaley Harney shared that there are no required action items for the board to consider at the December 14 meeting and the board agreed to cancel the meeting.

Seeing no further business, President Jake Callantine called for adjournment. Justin Iverson moved and Pam Bilyeu seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 11, 2027 (virtual)