**MRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

The Marias River Livestock Association board of directors met on Zoom on Thursday, January 18, 2024. In attendance were Bob Thompson, Maureen Hoggan, Chris Kimmet, Boo Boo Bird, Jeff Habets, Dean Lerum and Carrie Lerum. Bob moved and Chris seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Motion carried. Carrie read thank you notes to the board.

New Business

Dean talked to the board about hosting a BQA training. No cattle need to be present. There was some discussion about holding the event in Glacier County or Pondera County. Boo Boo will look for a venue in Glacier County.

Bob Thompson reported that it won’t work to tour the beef processing plant in Havre in January. It was decided to try in the spring time. It would be good to invite 4-H kids to join us. It would also be good to tour the meat processing plant in Lothair. Bob will line something up.

The board discusses the Photo contest. It will run from March 1st through April 15th. We will use Facebook and Maureen will lift restrictions. The photos will need correct pixels. Maureen will talk to Lindsey about how to set up the voting on Facebook and our website. The photo with the most votes will be the winner for each category. We will award 1st and 2nd place in each category. First place will receive a gift certificate to use at one of our Rib Tickler sponsors of their choice. 2nd place will be a $50 gift certificate. A list of all the businesses that supported the Rib Tickler dinner will be on our website. There are 3 categories in the contest.

1. Landscape 2. Calving 3. People in Agriculture

Old Business

MRLA can have a booth and received four tickets for being a sponsor to the Next Generation Conference that will be January 27th from 8 am – 4 pm. Dean, Jeff and Clayton will run the booth. Bob moved and Chris seconded to get a banner the length of the table to hang up for the conference. Motion carried. Dean will get the conference schedule.

Dean presented the proposed budget for 2024. Chris moved and Boo Boo seconded to approve the budget. Motion carried.

The board discussed hosting the Mid-Year meeting in May. There was discussion on potentially hosting a BQA training and serving a meal to draw more attendance. Jeff and Dean will talk to Al Koenig from the MT Beef Council to do the training. The board discussed possibly holding the even in Whitlash or Cut Bank. Report back next month.

The Prime Rib and Rib Tickler dinner will be Friday, November 1st at the Marias Valley Golf Course. The board decided to ask Exit 53 to perform and the second choice is the Sightliners.

Boo Boo reported on the meeting held by the Blackfeet Stockgrowers that he attended about predator control. They need more people to pay to help make the flight time more reasonable. They need 51% of the cattle represented. MRLA can promote the upcoming MOA meeting.

Possible programming ideas for 2024 are:

LRP insurance

Beef Quality Assurance training

Carbon Market

Value to Calves

Producer Profitability

Boo Boo moved and Jeff seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 8th at 6 p.m. at Marias Valley Golf Course

The March 14th meeting will be held on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Sue Lerum, Secretary