**MRLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

The Marias River Livestock Association board of directors met on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at the Frontier Supper Club in Dunkirk, MT. President, Dean Lerum, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

In attendance were: Dean Lerum, Bob Thompson, Diana Thompson, Lance Stokes, Heather Stokes, Jeff Habets, Lindsey Habets and kids, Maureen Hoggan, Mike Hoggan, Clayton Gernaat, and Carrie Lerum.

Dean read the minutes from the last meeting. Lance moved and bob seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried. No Treasurer report was submitted. No bills or correspondence were received.

Bob gave a report about the Annual Meeting that was held on Friday, November 3rd just before the Rib Tickler dinner. We received positive feedback about the speakers but we wished there were more in attendance. Bill Jones from Montana Premium Processing Co-Op in Havre was not able to speak. FSA director, Laura Kessler spoke about farm programs available. Ian Kane from MT Stockgrowers gave an update, Senator Butch Gillespie talked about legislative issues and Dean Lerum gave a report on what MRLA did during the year.

Clayton reported on the Farm Safety Program. The program had very good content and was worthwhile. He suggested that we host another similar event this coming year.

Carrie reported on the Rib Tickler dinner. We had good attendance due to the mild weather but both the Bobcats and the Griz had a home game the next day. The band was excellent. The food was delicious. We had lots of door prizes and the 50/50 tickets earned $608 dollars.

Dean reported that Lane Gordon built shelves and added lights inside the MRLA trailer. He asked if the board would be willing to purchase a gift certificate as a thank you. Lance moved and Bob seconded to give Lane Gordon a Frontier Supper Club gift certificate for $100.00. Motion carried.

After some discussion, it was determined to have MRLA meetings on Thursday evening in February. The March meeting will be on Zoom.

Clayton moved and Lance seconded to sponsor $1000 for the Next Generation Conference. Motion carried.

Jeff and Dean will be in charge of organizing a BQA training. Jeff will see if we can schedule it after the Next Generation Conference on January 27, 2024.

Jeff moved and Bob seconded to provide 3- $1000 scholarships in 2024. Motion carried. Maureen will start advertise them in January.

Clayton moved and Bob seconded to have three categories for this year’s photo contest with the top prize being $100, second prize $50. Motion carried. The three categories are: Landscape, Calving, and family. Clayton, Lindsey and Bob will be on the committee. We will try to have the winners be voted on through social media.

Bob will schedule a date to go and tour the Processing Plant in Havre with Bill Jones sometime in January. We will try for a Thursday or Friday. Our next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 11 at the MVGCC.

Seeing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Carrie Sue Lerum