

**MARIAS RIVER LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023**

The Marias River Livestock Association board of directors met online through Zoom on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:12 p.m. President, Dean Lerum called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were: Dean Lerum, Clayton Gernaat, Jeff Habets, Maureen Hoggan, Becky Kimmet and Carrie Lerum.

Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting that Carrie sent out. Motion carried. Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Jeff Habets attended a meeting hosted by the Department of Livestock about Foot & Mouth disease. We need a list of facilities available if there was a major outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease. There will be another meeting in April in Great Falls to work on disaster preparedness for the disease.

Clayton sent out scholarship applications to local schools and Maureen will send an email campaign to promote the scholarship. We will also put it on our website. The deadline to apply is April 30, 2023.

Mid-Year Membership meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 in Shelby, MT. Jeff will contact Rocky Forsyth to be the guest speaker. He will talk about backgrounding calves. We will also contact Ty Thompson or Joe Goggins to speak. Clayton moved to cover the cost of the meal and it was seconded by Jeff. Jeff moved to able the motion until our next meeting to wait for potential sponsors. Clayton seconded. Motion carried.

Dean gave a Legislative update.

Jeff mentioned that his business just went through a Work Comp audit and he reminded the board that any time you hire someone to work for you "ask if you have an Independent Contractors License or if they are covered by Workers Comp". After some discussion, it was suggested to host a program about Work Comp and farm safety. Farm Bureau has a safety coordinator and Dean will ask Holly Hovland to speak. We could have a burger bar and try to host the program in May.

Dean gave a FSA update. When you are calving keep records in a calving book. It is very helpful when submitting losses. Be sure to take pictures of your hay for NAP programs.

Maureen reported that the RFID sheep tag is not required for small flocks in Montana. Sheep do need scrapie tags.

Clayton moved and Jeff seconded to purchase a \$75 gift card for the Frontier Bar & Supper Club in Dunkirk, MT for the MRLA Spring Photo Contest. Motion carried. Maureen worked with Shawn Simmes and used more than 100 videos about working with a premature calf called Buddy. It has been getting lots of views.

Jeff talked to Al Kenig and he will come up to the Marias Fair on Saturday, before the auction sale to show his display about beef cuts if it is alright with the Livestock Committee.

Our next meeting will be in April at the MVGC clubhouse in Shelby, MT.
Meeting adjourned. Respectfully, Carrie Lerum Secretary