

MARIAS RIVER LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The Marias River Livestock Association board of directors met on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Marias Valley Golf Course Clubhouse at 6 p.m. Attending the meeting was: Dean Lerum, Bob Thompson, Diana Thompson, Boo Boo Bird, Chris Kimmet, Jeff Habets and Carrie Lerum.

President, Dean Lerum called the meeting to order. Bob moved and Jeff seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried. Bob moved and Chris seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried. Carrie passed around thank you notes received from our youth contest winners.

Bob reported on the Predator control meeting in Liberty County. Turns out that they didn't have a pilot to fly, but now they have the position filled. They also needed more money to implement the program and it was voted 6 to 5 to increase the assessment fee.

Jeff gave a Marias Fair report. Dean, Chris and Jeff helped to cook the meat that was served for the buyer's appreciation session before the live auction. There was a lot of leftover meat. It was hot and windy that day which didn't go well for Al Koenig's booth. He recommended cooking again, but not having Al attend.

Carrie reported on the Beef Breeding contest winners. Jake Fritz was the judge this year and he did a great job. Grand Champion Cow/Calf pair was Delaney Clark, Reserve Champion Cow/Calf pair was Blake Harmon. Grand Champion Bred Heifer was Samie McCauley and Reserve Champion was Preslee Flesch. There were three contestants for the Sheep Public Speaking Contest. Samie McCauley and her little brother won the prizes.

Dean stated that the Farm Safety Program will be Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Holly Hovland from Leavitt Insurance and Taunia Cherry with Montana State Fund will be the guest speakers. Leavitt will sponsor the meal. No RSVP. We will advertise in the local newspapers, on the website and on Facebook.

Bob asked if MRLA would have Bill Jones from the packing plant in Havre, MT, may come and speak to our membership. It should be federally certified. He wants to sell common stock for the plant. It would be good to set up a tour of the Diemert processing plant (possibly in December). Jeff moved to invite Bill Jones to speak at our annual meeting; on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 p.m. Chris seconded the motion. Motion carried. MRLA will provide two tickets to Bill for the Rib Tickler dinner. Dean will invite Laura Kessler to the annual meeting to speak about some of the Ag programs available. Jeff recommended that we wait a year to invite the Land Trust people.

For old business, Bob talked to Megan Mattson Hedges, and she was hoping that our association would participate in donating beef to local schools like CJJ in Chester. She is asking for one whole beef all as burger. Someone would also have to pay for the processing that must be done at a Federally Certified plant.

Dean mentioned that we should try to book next year's Rib Tickler entertainment a year in advance. Bob