

# **MISSOURI ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**February 14, 2023, at 10:00 AM**

The meeting was conducted via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Holly Bowie at 10:04 AM.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Holly Bowie \_X\_    Matt Allen \_X\_    JT Taylor \_X\_    Christina Elmore \_X\_  
Steve Norman \_X\_    Sandy Alexander \_X\_    Michael Layton \_X\_    Jamie Williams \_X\_  
Sara Spease \_X\_    Wendy Combs \_X\_    Kristina Baxter \_X\_    Alyssa Norsworthy \_X\_  
Beth Gillespie \_X\_

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Beth Gillespie was absent due to being on jury duty and seated in a trial. Holly Bowie said Beth had mentioned that she might have to miss the meeting some time ago. JT Taylor said he received a text from her shortly after the meeting started stating she was still tied up in the jury trail. JT made a motion to excuse her absence which was seconded by Wendy Combs and unanimously approved.

### **NON-VOTED COMMITTEE CHAIR ATTENDANCE**

Gina Tanner was not present.

### **MEMBER AND GUEST ATTENDANCE**

There were no guests in attendance.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

JT Taylor made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Sandy Alexander and unanimously approved by the Board.

### **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL**

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board. Sandy Alexander made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Matt Allen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

### **MEMBERSHIP'S COMMENTS**

There were no guest members present and no comments made.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS**

### **President's Report:**

**President Holly Bowie reported having tried to reach out to former Director Dan St Lawrence to try to get MACA property back, but she was unsuccessful. She also said she had been trying to work with Beth Gillespie and Wendy Combs to effect the transfer of MACA merchandise to Beth and storage.**

### **Vice President's Report**

**Vice President Matt Allen reported that conference registration is open and working on website. He said he tested it with my own registration, and it is working. He reported there was a small error with Paypal for board registrations, but it has been fixed. He said he and Holly had a productive meeting with Midwest Animal Sheltering Conference group on January 24. He said they extended an invitation to their group to join the conference scavenger hunt on Thursday night before their first conference day/ MACA's last conference day, with anticipation of a cash bar. He said he hoped the cash bar would reduce costs and less other issues. He said Abbie Knudson asked questions about what topics may appeal to both groups with the probability of a joint lecture time on Friday. Matt said they had decided "Compassion Fatigue" may be a possibility and she was reaching out to some of her previous sponsors about details of what may be funded that day. He said he and Holly will have another meeting when more specifics are known, and planned on including Sarah from the Oasis Hotel and Conference Center to nail down some logistical details. Matt also reported having put out a call for speakers in early February on the MACA Facebook Page and Animal Control Officers Facebook Group. He said he had received, but not reviewed in great depth, proposals from previous speakers Don Noll and Mark Kumpf. Don Noll submitted the same Barking Dog Ordinance as last year but he didn't really understand that, and felt the attendee's didn't need it two years in a row. He said he also received three different topics from Kelly Thyssen of Humane Educators of Texas that sounded interesting. He said NACA had sent a list of topics and he had also received a proposal from a man from one of the Carolina's but that he had asked for hotel, airfare, rental car, and meals, which might be too much given the Association's current financial situation. Matt said it was hard to fairly evaluate reimbursement costs at this time with all of the current budget unknowns. He did add that he had received commitments from Matt Rold and Molly Baker, and that Kevin Hearst was still on board after the conference date changes. Matt continued by saying he had reached out to Matt Rold about the possibility of getting an open records request for ACFA licensees after license renewals February 1st. He said he explained to Rold that the information would be for the purpose of marketing MACA. He said Rold said that wouldn't be a problem and Matt said he has received official communication from the Department of Agriculture that they received and are working on the request. He said he planned what he is calling a membership drive/ MACA introduction letter to be emailed to recruit new members and advertise MACA and MACA trainings. Matt concluded by saying he knew that the instructor proposals, conference registrations and award nominations filing screens on the website were working because he had used them, and he hoped the others were working as well.**

### **Secretary's Report**

JT Taylor reported that the website was up to date with previous meeting minutes. He said a review of the Association's Annual Registration Report with the Secretary of State's Office shows two things of concern. The Registered Agent has not been changed since Nycole Griffin was president and the address shows St Joseph Animal Control and Rescue. Also, the Annual Registration Report filed in 2022 is inaccurate, showing several board members as executive officers and directors at the same time, as well as his address being shown in both places as a Versailles address when he lives in Stover. He recommended a Change of Registered Agent be filed changing from Nycole to Holly, and that Treasurer go ahead and file the 2023 Annual Registration Report with correct information. Holly Bowie said she had completed the 2022 Annual Registration Report and that it was accurate, except for having Nycole Griffen's name listed as the agent. She said she had had to get a new password to set up the report and that the Secretary of States office was supposed to update the agent. JT said there was a separate form to file for that, and he would take another look.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Kristina Baxter reported a main account balance of \$1,754.53, a certification account balance of \$4,906.31, and a Paypal account balance of \$638.40. She said some of the funds in the Paypal account were from conference registrations and some were from Certification Training registrations. There was a brief discussion about closing the old PO Box and Alyssa Norsworthy turning in the key. It was decided to wait one more month. JT Taylor made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, which was seconded by Wendy Combs and unanimously approved.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS**

### **Awards:**

Kristina Baxter and Alyssa Norsworthy reported having received one awards nomination at this point.

### **Certification:**

Christina Elmore said there were 8 people registered for the spring certification program, with three rooms reserved for the committee members.

### **Constitution and Bylaws:**

JT Taylor reported that there have been no changes to the Association Constitution and Bylaws, and that the Certification Bylaws were still under review. He said the current Constitution, and both sets of bylaws have been sent to Jamie Williams for his input. Jamie said he was still reviewing them.

### **Legislation:**

Sara Spease said the legislative report was rather lengthy and that she had reported it by email. She covered briefly the status of several pieces of legislation. Per her written report:

**HB 401 Rep. Haffner – Prohibits flying drones over agricultural property. It is intended to protect factory farms from the observation of environmental violations such as overflows and spills of waste lagoons. This is to prevent using drones to collect evidence. Sara has met with a drone group, and they are already challenging this due to FFA guidelines. There is a lot of contradicting verbiage and stated the plain view doctrine would not prevent being able to collect evidence.**

**HB 630 Rep. Knight – requires civil disposition hearings of animals that have been seized and neglected to be held within ten days instead of the current requirement of 30 days. It is intended to leave abused and neglected animals in the hands of their abusers since ten days often would not provide time for prosecutors to prepare their cases and obtain all of the veterinary reports and receive pathology and other test results needed to prove their case.**

**SB 84 Senator Carter – prohibits any interference with agricultural entities by the state and federal government. It is intended to remove all regulations and laws affecting factory farms.**

**SB 115 Senator Brown / HB 801 Rep. Murphy – Prohibits all county and municipal regulations and ordinances affecting veterinary practices regardless of how cruel the practice is. Currently, this bill, if passed, would overturn the City of St. Louis and the County of St. Louis ordinances prohibiting the declawing of cats.**

**SB 132 Senator Gannon – Eliminates the disposition process for abused and neglected animals. This would often result in abused and neglected animals remaining in the hands of their abusers until a criminal trial could be held, which could be 1 – 2 years.**

**HB 88 Rep. Veit- introduces four new regulations pertaining to animal chiropractic practitioners.**

**HB 39 Rep. Burnett- Changes animal abuse charges from a class A misdemeanor to a class E felony the first offence and a class D felony on the second offence. A person can receive a class D felony on the first charge if the offense is the result of torture or mutilation consciously inflicted while the animal was alive.**

**HB 40 Rep. Burnett- This bill includes the changes suggested by HB 39 and then establishes an Animal Abuse Registry. The registry would start 01/01/2024 and be maintained by the highway patrol. They would have to allow public access to the registry. Anyone who is convicted of animal abuse, bull/cock fighting, or sex with an animal would be added to this registry. They would be on the list for 2 years first offense and 5 years for second offenses if they did not re-offend. Any subsequent offence result in their information staying on the registry. The registry does not include social security or drivers license numbers.**

**HB 300- Rep. Roberts- This is the cross-reporting bill that was proposed last year.**

**Sara said she planned to attend Humane Day and had questions to talk about during Old Business.**

#### **Historian and Photographer:**

**Jamie Williams said he didn't really have anything to report. He said he thought JT was working on the displays and photo albums. JT Taylor he was about finished compiling the old damaged photo albums into combined albums of several years. He said he would be taking the Historian notes to storage next time he goes to Kansas City.**

**Membership:**

Sandy Alexander reported that there was currently 42 paid members. Matt Allen said Paypal was accepting renewals, but it appeared there was an issue with the online form. Kristina Baxter said the renewals had gone through okay.

**Nominations:**

Matt Allen reported having sent an email out to Stephanie Bugbee as discussed last month. At this time, he has not received a response from her, or the previous four members that were emailed. He said he may reach out again after some of the April events, in hopes MACA is fresh on people's minds again.

**Scholarships:**

Wendy Combs said she hadn't received any requests for scholarships yet and so hadn't anything to report.

**Merchandise:**

Wendy Combs said she was still trying to reach Beth Gillespie to make arrangements to get merchandise to her and to storage. Holly Bowie said she had spoken to Beth who said she'd make arrangements with Wendy on her next days off.

**Exhibitors/Grants:**

Steve Norman said he had received a check and from MAAL for their booth and has a few that have agreed to exhibit but have not sent their paperwork yet. He also said he has a lot he is still waiting to hear back from. He said he did get a chihuahua sponsorship from NACA and they are checking to see if they will be able to send anyone to the conference. Steve said Walmart Grants opened up at the beginning of February and he sent out 16 requests so far for grants. He said he had applied a few other places also. He said he had 125 lanyards donated, a yeti cooler and some pens, and is supposed to pick up some donated liquor from Holladay Distillery this weekend.

**Social Media:**

Christina Elmore said she has been posting all of the scheduled events and will start posting awards nomination posts like she did last year.

**Newsletter:**

JT Taylor said the newsletter was basically done. He said he'd given Feb 15 deadlines for some potential new ads. He said he expected it to go to proofing Thursday or Friday and published over the weekend.

**Mini-MACA:**

Sara Spease reported that Mini MACA dates have been scheduled for April and June and that brochures were sent to Christina Elmore for promotion on the Facebook pages. Hotels still need to be arranged and paid for Aislinn for the Belton Mini in April. April 21<sup>st</sup> training should be relatively cheap. She said the hotel should cost around \$120 and she will pick up snacks. She said her department keeps bottled water and coffee stocked in their training room. She said they weren't planning to provide soda. Sara said the June 6<sup>th</sup> Mini

at HSMO is also in a free training room and that if a hotel is needed there, the fee would be \$84.00 She said she was thinking with lunch for speakers included, everything would cost no more than \$250. There was a discussion on paying expenses and lunch given the Association's current financial situation. Sara said Aislinn would be speaking on Missouri Animal Legislation and JT would be presenting a hands-on animal handling and equipment use. She asked about CEUs and was told to promote it as 8 hours of CEUs. Christina Elmore said she would send the Mini MACA schedule information to Webmaster Gina Tanner for updating to the website.

**Website:**

Gina Tanner was not present. Holly Bowie said the kinks appear to be worked out of the online forms.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Humane Day:**

Sara asked what all she needed to do that day. JT Taylor said she needed to let MAAL know MACA would be coming so they could have a table set ready. He said historically whoever attended would meet up in the parking tower to help carry everything in and set up on the third floor of the Capitol Rotunda. He said there was usually a display of MACA activities and information, hand-outs, small give-a-way items like MACA pens and envelop openers. He said the booth should be planned to be manned from 9 until 3 but usually it broke up earlier than that.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**KCPP:**

Holly Bowie said she had been contacted by Ryan Johnson, the new Chief ACO at KC Pet Project. He wanted to offer MACA their training room for future training programs. Holly said she spoke with him about memberships and was is interested in everyone becoming members. She said he seemed serious about getting his people certified.

**Meeting Schedules:**

Holly Bowie said that the subject of scheduling Board meetings for the year rather than one meeting at a time had been brought up. JT Taylor said the Board used to schedule meetings for the whole year, usually at the first meeting after the Annual Conference. He spoke briefly on the pros and cons of scheduling both ways. Matt Allen suggested scheduling 2 or 3 months at a time to see how things worked out. There was some general discussion on days of the week and month. Meeting were set for March 15 in Columbia, April 19 via Zoom. The May meeting will be in Springfield at the Oasis, however the date will be next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 11:00 AM. Steve Norman will be searching for a location.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**JT Taylor made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Matt Allen. The board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting and it was closed at 11:52 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

***James A. Taylor***

**James A. (JT) Taylor  
Executive Secretary**