

USBCHA BOD MEETING

APRIL 15, 2026

Attending:

Director: Haley Hunewill, Michele Howard, Jan Stebbins, Terry Murray, Bob Allen, Rachel Ritland, Kay Stephens, Russell McCord, Jeanine Henigin, Lori Perry, John Campbell, Shane Scallan, Paul Batz, Sue Schoen, Marianna Schreeder, Fiona Robertson, Peter Gonnert, Scott Glen, Bob Washer, Bridget Strang

Officers: Lori Cunningham, Linda DeJong, Russell McCord, Marianna Schreeder

Approval of January 2026 Meeting notes

Motion to approve: Michele Howard

Second: Marianna Schreeder

Passed without objection

Financial Advisors annual call-summary

Summary was that investments did exceptionally well last year. Based on Financial Advisor's direction, investment portfolio was moved into more conservative slant in anticipation of some market uncertainty,

Updates on sheepdog and cattledog Finals:

National Committees:

Sheep:

Committee: Haley Hunewill (chair), Bryan White, Suzy Applegate, Faansie Basson, Nancy Penley, Blake Byrum

Update:

Open will be on same field as last year, nursery will potentially be on a different field. Meeker set our crew will provide set out on horseback.

Cattle

Cattle Committee: Brian Brown, Michael McNutt, Joni Tietjen

Update: Brian will be invited to attend next BOD Meeting

Cattle will do a Facebook page instead of website. Fundraisers are being organized and more trials have been added to schedule to give more qualifying opportunities.

Awards

Rachel Ritland and Terry Murray volunteered to be on awards committee to work on designs for buckles, ribbons and special awards for Finals.

The BOD received a request for two thank you gifts this year to be presented at Sheepdog Finals.

Motion: Lori Perry \$300 to each

Second: Michelle Howard

Passed unanimously.

2027 Carbondale bid

In process of working out details. Proposal sent to Bridget. To be put on agenda for next meeting

Day Qualifying details-

The BOD discussed details for managing the one year trial of using day qualifying for making into the semi finals of the Sheepdog Finals. Several potential scenarios were discussed. BOD felt it important to notify handlers of how day qualifying would be managed.

PROPOSAL: Proposal to manage unequal number of runs per day/number taken in to Semis and the uncertainty of daily ties:

A. Equalize the number of dogs a team must place above to advance into the semis.

For example: If we run 150, on days we run 37 dogs, 10 dogs advance to the semifinals. The 10 th place dog has outscored 27 dogs. On days we run 38 dogs, 11 dogs advance to the semis. The 11th place dog has outscored 27 dogs. This would result in 42 dogs advancing. The number dogs each team must outscore to proceed into the semis is equal and eliminates the “disadvantage” of drawing up on a day that runs an extra team.

B. Preliminary Round ties will be broken by the tie breaking process we have in our rules and ties will not advance to semis.

Because of the increased chance of preliminary ties and the likelihood that the proposal above will result in two extra dogs advancing into the semis, preliminary round ties will be broken according to existing rules tie-break language. This will provide some predictability to be able to manage the long semis day and still have time to reset the course for the Double Lift.

C. Double Lift Finals qualifying, number of team advancing to DL, and current practice taking ties remain the same.

As day qualifying has no effect on the process for semis scores advancing to the Double Lift, no changes need to be made to current practice and ties in the semis can continue to advance to the Double Lift (top 17, including ties.)

Discussion: Various options and pros & cons of proposal

Motion: Bridget Strang: motion to adopt proposal as presented

Second: Haley Hunewill

Passed unanimously

Facebook: USBCHA information-only page proposal

It was suggested that there be a national Facebook page for USBCHA- notices only- no comments. Tara is willing to set it up

Discussion: Suggested set up more accessible spot on official website for breaking news rather than a Facebook. There were concerns about managing the sight and information accuracy

Motion: Russell McCord: motion to take no action on Facebook proposal

Second: Bridget Strang

Passed unanimously

USA World Trial Team

Selection of 5 teams to count for "Team" Score

Discussion: merits of guidelines

Proposal to follow guidelines as written: The ISDS requires that five (5) USA WORLD TEAM members be identified prior to the trial for the purpose of the official team competition. The scores of these five teams will comprise the team score. The five (5) handler/dog teams with the highest qualifying scores from the USBCHA NATIONAL SHEEPDOG FINALS for the year prior and/or two years prior to the WORLD TRIAL shall represent the USA for the team competition.

No objections

Team: Alasdair/ Moss

Patricia/ Nite

Bob/ Bluey

AJ/Kate

Bob/ Rock

Request for HA to resume holding/distributing WT funds: Bridget Strang

Discussion: concerns about decisions how to disburse the funds and responsibility for making those decisions. Bridget will do further investigation and make a more detailed proposal, so tabled discussion.

New Business: None

Adjourned