

MHRI Board meeting  
Thursday, March 31, 2016 6:30  
Perkins Lakeville

Present: Mark Corless, Bob Lems, Michael Banitt, Ulf Holm Johansen, Greg Budach, Jessica Johnson, Ron Banks, Vern Devine, Rick Magee and Dan Poprawski

Absent: Cindy Ivy, Justin Anfinson

Bob called the meeting to order 6:30 p.m. with the adoption of the agenda.

Mark Corless moved to approve the minutes as presented by Greg Budach 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michael Banitt & carried.

Dan enclosed a packet of county fair info regarding how other states pay for their programs. He had sent a copy to Amanda & will contact her regarding our position. Mark mentioned that everyone should feel free to attend the MRC meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to express our concerns about funding (or defunding) county fair racing. This will be our chance to let them know our position.

Treasurer's report: Jessica moved to approve the report with Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> & carried.

President's corner: Bob mentioned that he checks his e-mail every night but if you need something urgent you should contact Dan first. Dan's e-mail is not working well right now but he is taking the computer in for repair this week.

Dan updated the board on the trip to Florida & the annual HHI meeting. A lot of associations are a little down and had fairly negative reports. Our report was much more upbeat. He talked about decoupling in Florida and the possible effects throughout the industry. He also spoke briefly about Illinois and how there are much fewer opportunities there.

Marketing report: Jessica updated the board on this year's plan so far; Dan Patch night, Horse Expo night, Charity night, & Finals night. The plan is to make these as professional as possible. She mentioned the web site & the need for a serious upgrade there. Dan will do some research on what our options are & any cost will come out of our general fund & not the marketing budget.

Dan mentioned the need for clarification on membership fees, & who is considered a member especially for insurance purposes.

After discussion & review of previous board action it was decided that a membership is \$60 for an individual or a family. A family consist of a spouse & children under 18 with all adults having voting rights & being covered under HHI's liability insurance umbrella.

Bob talked about the condition sheet & mentioned how Nancy is easy to work with & plans to be flexible depending on the horses she has to work with. Dan mentioned the proposed \$57,000 per day in purses while Bob mentioned the need to work to increase handle as well as field sizes. Rick mentioned the need to do a better job educating the betting public.

We discussed our options for newspapers and Dan mentioned he is working on the St Paul Pioneer press & will continue to do so. It may involve some cost to get our info in there.

We worked on conditions for Minnesota Breds so we can present our info to Nancy. We would begin with 3 year olds on May 28<sup>th</sup>, pacers Saturday & Trotters Sunday. We would be looking at 12 starts for 3 year olds & 7 starts for 2 year olds with a projected average purse of \$14,650. We discussed paying every starter in the race to entice more horses to enter and fill MN Bred classes. We discussed paying a \$200 stipend to any horses finishing 6<sup>th</sup> or worse. If the race splits then so would the stipend. The money would come out of the total purse prior to the 1 through 5 splits.

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2 year olds would start on 6/28, then 7/12, 19,26, 8/2, 16, 23, & 30.

Mark moved to start the 3 year olds on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 year olds on June 28<sup>th</sup> with 12 starts for 3 year olds & 7 starts for 2 year olds. We pay \$600 to the 6<sup>th</sup> place horse with the 7, 8, & 9<sup>th</sup> place horses getting \$200 ea. If the race splits then the stipend would split equally as well. Vern 2<sup>nd</sup> & the motion carried.

We discussed proposing a 10% bonus for MN Breds racing in open company & finishing 1,2, or 3. Bob motioned to pursue a 10% bonus as discussed for all MN Breds racing in open company, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ron & carried.

Bob suggested that points for year-end awards be for restricted MN Bred races. We tabled the discussion till the next meeting.

We discussed the requirements to qualify for Finals Night. Ricked moved that money earnings must be from restricted MN Bred races & must have 6 starts (3 for 2 year olds) or half of their money starts in feature races. (Feature races are limited to MN Bred classes for both 2 & 3 year olds). Ulf 2<sup>nd</sup> & the motion carried.

County Fair races 2016- Jessica moved to pay \$40,000 per event with 6 events totaling \$240,000 with the conditions the same as last year but adding a MN Owned or Bred FFA trot on 7/4 & 8/10. Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> & the motion carried.

Housing- The old hotel will be available again at \$18.00/ day. There will also be 10 RV's available at \$18/day as well & pads for those that wish to bring their own campers.

Veterinary discussion- MRC wants us to negotiate with a vet for a minimum of 4 hours per day coverage for 5 days a week. A proposed \$75.00 /hour fee would be offset by what they earned.

Florida decoupling discussion- Florida horsemen are in a serious battle with the casino's & the Seminole tribe who are trying to decouple casino earnings from their purse contributions. If successful the tracks would only race for what it earns in live & simulcast handle which would be devastating to the Florida purses. Ulf moved to send \$1,000 to the FSOBA in support of their battle against decoupling. Mark 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion & it carried.

We discussed the Dan Patch Sculpture project & decided we need more information before we move forward with support for that project.

ADW discussion- The Finance committee passed it & the bill looks favorable after some concessions to the tribes not allowing Minnesota races to be bet in Minnesota.

Stall apps are in progress & they are looking for input from our board but the decisions will be posted tomorrow after 3:00 p.m.

Jessica mentioned that we still need a bucket list horse & trainer for this year. Please consider all possibilities.

Next short meeting after the commission meeting April 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark moved to adjourn 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica & carried

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