

Minutes from April 21st, 2024 board meeting at Holiday Inn & Suites Des Moines Northwest

The meeting started at 12:00 pm. Board members in attendance were Jim Reese, Scott Smith, Tony Paris, Cory Larson, Larry Mather, Duane Roland, Joel McDanel, Mike Telfer, & Jeff Carey.

To start off the meeting Matt Eide came and talked about the legislative items.

The people doing the horse study that the racing committee wants done, will be at Prairie Meadows on June 16th and June 17th to check out Prairie Meadows. They will arrive sometime in the evening on June 15th. Some of the items they talked to Duane Roland about are:

- How much we pay out in purse money?
- What percentage of that is paid to people racing that live in the state of Iowa?
- How much out of state?
- When and where to Iowa owners race out of state?
- Is the Iowa incentive the same for all 3 breeds?
- What jurisdictions are the strongest competitors to Iowa?
- What jurisdictions competing with Iowa do we believe are weaker?
- How does the growth of Standardbred racing in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio affect Iowa?
- How does the contraction of Standardbred racing in Michigan and Illinois affect Iowa?
- Where does the Standardbred industry see itself going in Iowa?
- How do you feel the purse distribution is?
- What are the ideal number of race dates per week or per year?
- How many horsemen are Iowa based?
- How many come from elsewhere?
- What is your relationship with the legislature?
- Is the industry, as a whole, aligned for the greater good.

That was the first group of questions. They did ask us to confirm what we paid out in purses the last three years.

According to Duane, Judy had this information from 2007 when they did something like this. It says that the change in foals by breed show a dramatic difference for the overall change. Thoroughbred breeding has decreased by 38% from 2000 to 2007, while Quarterhorse foals have decreased by 39% in the same period. Counter to this downward trend, harness horses have increased 121% from 2000 to 2007. This was done right after Chet Culver became Governor.

Next item was the minutes from the January 20, 2024 board meeting. Cory Larson made a motion to approve the minutes and Tomy Paris seconded the motion. The vote taken was all ayes. The minutes are approved.

The Treasurer's report was the next item. Jim went thru all the different entries like memberships, fines, dues, PAC, nominations for Iowa Registered, Iowa Sired and Aged horses. Jim explained the reason behind different checks passing back and forth between the Iowa registered and Iowa sired accounts. Then there was more discussion about the checking account for entry money and purse distribution. Jim Reese discussed the opening of the new account that Connie Roland will be writing checks from. Dana made a letter to the bank stating what the board had agreed upon at the January meeting stating for her to open the account. Duane Roland made a motion to have Jim Reese and Cory Larson added on to the account that Connie has opened. Tony Paris seconded the motion. A vote was taken for this with everyone voting yes. Dana will send a paper to Connie so she can take it to bank so they know who will be added to that account. It will be in the same type of form that the minutes are so they can see who is at the meeting and how the vote ended. Scott Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurers report. Duane Roland seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Treasurers report was approved.

Racing issues are the next items.

The starting gate was taken to Brad Kohlwes to repair the rattle in the right front that has been there for 2 years and to check the throttle cable that works one time and then not the next time and they can't pull the lever back. He said the best thing to do with that is to put in a new one. The exhaust system was pushed up against it. Brad is going to go thru it and check everything over. The best thing for right now is to keep up on the maintenance and check each year what the options are to purchase a different starting gate.

The starting gate insurance was discussed next. Mike talked to Pekin Insurance and they didn't want to cover the starting gate moving forward. Then after Mike checked around for another insurance, they changed their mind. Last year we paid \$885 for the year. This year it went up \$8 so we now pay \$893.00. Duane Roland made a motion to approve the dollar amount for the insurance, Cory Larson seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, the different insurance was approved by the board.

Next Tony talked about video broadcasting. We submitted an application to the USTA to cover part of the cost of the YouTube broadcasting. WE were approved and the USTA has bumped up the amount given so we now will get \$10,000 towards the fee charged for the broadcasting. Live coverage dates, Johnny Miller and his wife Chrissy, love horse racing. They will be doing June 29th for Iowa sired races at What Cheer and they will stay and do the races on June 30th. Then they will be in Humboldt for the races on the 4th & 5th of July, then back to What Cheer on the 12th, 13th & 14th at What Cheer. They will cover July 27th at Oskaloosa for the Iowa Sired races and they will stay for the 28th of July also at Oskaloosa. Then they will do August 3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th, 31st August 1st, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 22nd, and October 5th. The contract needs to be approved for these dates along with the cost of doing these. Tony Paris said it is 26 dates, 2 more than the 24 they did in 2023. The vote taken approved the dates to video.

Track maintenance was next. Joel will get new limestone this year to put down on the Humboldt track. Steve Shelangoski is the new Treasurer for the Non-Profit account. Cory Larson will be the contact person to get ahold of Steve when we need an invoice paid. Then the track at Eldon needs product put on. Our association will pay \$750 and they will pay \$750, so they will have the money to get the product needed.

There are 257 Iowa registered horses nominated, 87 Iowa Sired horses nominated and 38 Iowa Aged horses nominated. The forms will need to be redone for this coming year. There were too many mistakes or blank items on the different forms sent in for 2024 racing.

Legislative day is July 13th. They will have 4 legislative people come to the races and participate in 2 horse field races with 1 of them and 1 IHHA driver. There will be 2 races. We donate money to what every organization or non-profit they donate to.

The board meetings to start the 2025 racing season have been set for Jan 19th and April 20th of 2025 at Holiday Inn & Suites Des Moines Northwest. Dana is going to set up a date in the middle of October on a Sunday, to have a meeting about the banquet in November.

There was a short discussion about Roberts Rules of Order regarding how the vote should be taken for board members re-elections.

Scott Smith had items for discussion. He needs the registration and stickers for some of the trucks. He paid the invoices and changed the address on the back and has not seen the new stickers. Duane Roland had some of the ones that Scott was looking for. The one for the promotion trailer was give to Dana. Mark Holtan has some of them for the items in Humboldt. The others were passed out to the appropriate board member.

There was discussion about arrival time on race day. It was agreed upon that drivers, trainers, and horses must be on the fairgrounds by 11AM and entries must be paid by 11:30.

The post parade was discussed. The board along with other people have made it clear that the post parade takes to long with the horses just walking to the gate. The board decided to try and speed that up at the 1st couple meets to where the starting gate picks up the horses on the back stretch and take them in numerical order around to the front stretch to do the post parade. Then when they get thru corner 2 the put the wings out and start making their

way to the start of the race. People that are warming up once the starting gate starts moving into place, are to stop the warming up and exit the track so the race can start.

TC02 testing will resume as it was in 2023. The board agrees that the testing in Iowa will be the disk that checks TC02 only.

Officials for the races are:

Kim Larson will do all the charting

Mike Morales will be the judge

Lesia Peters will be the starter for all races south of hwy 20 and Brian Larson will be sitting in to train

Mike McDanel will be the starter for Humboldt and Nashua

Lyle Miller will be the starting car driver

One other item about Connie Roland writing the purse checks is that she will also take entry money and will pay the charter along with the other race day expenses at each track. Cory Larson made a motion that the charters payroll will now be moved to the race day expense budget. Scott Smith seconded the motion. Vote was all ayes. The motion passed.

There was discussion that the draw will be held a day earlier than in the past except for 2 days.

The horses must meet qualifying standards and not be distanced two charted races in a row, otherwise they are will be but last in their next races until they are competitive again.

The progressive pick 10 will be done again this year, just as last year in What Cheer and Humboldt. There will be a matching amount of \$1000 from the association and \$1000 from What Cheer Fairboard. Humboldt will get their extra \$1000 from the entry money paid for the pick the winner throughout the season of racing. Tony made a motion for this and Larry Mather seconded the motion. Vote was all ayes. Motion passed.

The veterinarian for Humboldt will be Dr Aubrey from Humboldt Vet Clinic, Scott Smith will touch base with Royal Roland for the veterinarian that will be at What Cheer. Also, Scott will need to find the veterinarian will be for Oskaloosa.

Larry Mather made a motion to end the board meeting. Cory Larson seconded the motion. All in favor so the meeting concluded at 2:00PM.