

Iowa Harness Horseman's Association

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2025-----1200 hrs

Bennigan's Meeting Room, Urbandale, IA

- I. **Call To Order:** All board members were present.
- II. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Reese gave the treasurer's report. After the treasurer's report and discussion, Tony Paris made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Larry Mather seconded the motion. All directors voted to approve the treasurer's report.
- III. **2025 Election Of Officers:** Joel McDanel made a motion to keep the officers the same as in 2024 (Jeff Carey as President, Tony Paris as Vice-President, Mike Telfer as Secretary and Jim Reese as Treasurer). Larry Mather seconded the motion. All directors voted to keep the officers the same as in 2024.
- IV. **2025 Committee Assignments:** Committee assignments were discussed, and the following directors have been assigned to the committees listed below.

Legislative: (Mike Telfer, Duane Roland, Jim Reese)

Officials/Racing/Drug Policy: (Scott Smith, Tony Paris, Cory Larson)

Promotions/Banquet: (Mike Telfer, Tony Paris)

Hall Of Fame: (Joe McDanel, Duane Roland, Jeff Carey)

By-Laws: (Mike Telfer, Jim Reese, Larry Mather)

Finance: (Jim Reese, Cory Larson, Mike Telfer)

- V. **Legislative Report:** Legislative Lobbyist Matt Eide addressed the directors about the current legislative session and other topics.

Eide stated Representative Bobby Kauffman is going to introduce an equine sales tax bill this session with language similar to the one approved in Texas.

Eide stated the on-line gambling bill is still alive with just a few casinos still resisting it. He didn't know if it would pass this year or not but is optimistic it will pass in the next few years.

Eide was asked if he knew the date of the upcoming IRGC meeting were they are going to make recommendations from the horse study. Eide stated he did not but would find out and let the directors know.

Eide was asked about moving the IHHA Legislative Day from What Cheer to Humboldt during the 4th of July. Eide thought it was a great idea.

- VI. Budget:** Cory Larson went over details of the 2023, 2024 and 2025 budgets. Larson stated Prairie Meadows revenue was down but sports betting was up so the 2025 budget is almost the same as 2024.

After a lengthy discussion about the budget, Cory Larson made a motion that the goal of the IHHA would be to try and maintain a million dollars in the non-profit account. Joel McDanel seconded the motion. All the directors voted to approve this motion.

In an attempt to stay within budget, Cory Larson made a motion to keep the purse amounts for 2025 the same as 2024 including continuing with having an eight-horse field if there are fifteen or sixteen entries in the same age, sex and gait to avoid having a three-way split of the A class. Scott Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed with all directors voting for the motion except Tony Paris.

- VII. 2025 Racing Schedule:** The 2025 tentative racing schedule was discussed in length. Donnellson was removed from the schedule due to too many race dates in a row and the anticipation of not having enough horses. The final sire stakes race was discussed because of a conflict with the rodeo at Humboldt and the old iron show in Eldon. Due to the conflict, a motion was made and seconded to move the final sire stakes race to Eldon. Tony Paris, Mike Telfer, Joel McDanel, Jim Reese and Duane Roland voted for the motion. Larry Mather, Scott Smith and Cory Larson voted against the motion. The motion passed.

Duane Roland made a motion to approve the 2025 racing schedule. Mike Telfer seconded the motion. All directors voted to approve the following 2025 racing schedule:

May 25th	@ What Cheer - Overnights
May 31st	@ Humboldt - Overnights
June 8th	@ Nashua - Overnights
June 11th and 12th	@ Eldon – Overnights, Aged
June 21st	@ West Liberty - Overnights, Aged
June 28th	@ What Cheer – Sire Stakes

June 29 th	@ What Cheer – Overnights, Aged
July 4 th and 5 th	@ Humboldt – Registered
July 11 th , 12 th and 13 th	@ What Cheer – Registered, Aged
July 16 th	@ Bloomfield - Overnights
July 17 th	@ Monticello - Overnights
July 20 th	@ Kahoka, MO - Overnights
July 26 th	@ Oskaloosa – Sire Stakes
July 27 th	@ Oskaloosa – Overnights, Aged
August 2 nd and 3 rd	@ Humboldt – Registered, Aged
August 9 th and 10 th	@ Humboldt – Registered, Aged
August 16 th and 17 th	@ What Cheer – Registered, Aged
August 23 rd and 24 th	@ What Cheer – Registered
August 30 th and 31 st	@ What Cheer – Registered, Aged
September 6 th and 7 th	@ Humboldt – Registered
September 13 th and 14 th	@ Humboldt – Registered, Aged
September 20 th and 21 st	@ Humboldt - Registered
September 27 th	@ Eldon – Sire Stakes
September 28 th	@ Eldon - Overnights

VIII. 2025 Officials: The potential 2025 officials were discussed. Several officials are getting ready to retire so we need to find replacements. If members have an interest in being an official, let Scott Smith know. The judge’s salary was discussed and tabled to the April meeting.

IX. Drug Policies: We discussed out of competition testing and the different ways to test horses at the tracks (blood, urine and hair). Depending on cost, urine and hair testing will be looked at as possibilities.

Duane Roland made a motion that horses can’t be given medication until one hour after competition unless it is approved by the judge. Scott Smith seconded the motion. All directors voted to approve this motion.

X. Racing Issues: Larry Mather made a motion to make the entry fees \$30 for overnights and “B” races. Duane Roland seconded the motion. All directors voted to approve the motion.

Tony Paris made a motion to spend no more than \$5000 per year on the Humboldt and What Cheer tracks for resurfacing. Scott Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all the directors.

The What Cheer and Humboldt early meets were approved to be chartered. It was also discussed that qualifiers can be held at the end of each race day as

long as it didn't cost the association any additional money and the horses were entered by the race entry deadline.

XI. 2025 Staking Changes: In 2025 the Iowa registered number needs to be on the stake payment or horses aren't eligible to race.

XII. Other Topics:

USTA Broadcasting Funding – Tony Paris stated he submitted a broadcasting request to USTA in the amount of \$24,000.

2028 Sire Stakes Change – Duane Roland made a motion that in 2028 all horses racing in the sire stakes must also have an Iowa registered number or they will be ineligible to race. Tony Paris seconded the motion. All directors approved this motion.

Potential By-Laws Change: The proposed by-law change that was submitted in writing to the by-laws committee was that the Iowa sired purse money will be 25 % plus or minus 5 % of the Iowa registered purse money. This potential change will be discussed and talked about at the 4/19/25 board meeting. If approved, it will be voted on at the next regularly scheduled board meeting in August or September.

2025 IHHA Legislative Day: The IHHA legislative day has been set for July 4th at Humboldt.

Miscellaneous Topics: Jim Reese expressed his gratitude to Cory Larson for helping with the budget, etc. Reese stated he was going to give Larson some of his treasurer salary.

The three-year annual banquet contract (which will be expiring at the end of 2025) was discussed. It was agreed upon that Mike Telfer can begin negotiations with the Holiday Inn in Urbandale for another three-year contract.

Putting a purse cap on the "B" class was discussed but nothing was motioned or approved.

It was approved that the draw can be shared before being finalized but the judge is the only person who can make changes.

We talked about promotion ideas and advertising.

We discussed vet agreements and the need to find replacement vets. We also discussed the discrepancy between the amount the vets are charging per hour.

The starting gate insurances have been paid.

The next regular board meeting will be held on 4/19/25 at Bennigan's in Urbandale and noon.

XIII. Adjourn Meeting: Larry Mather made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Roland seconded the motion. All directors voted to end the meeting.