

IaHHA Board Meeting November 23, 2014

The regularly scheduled board meeting of the Iowa Harness Horseman's Association was called to order at 1:13 p.m. at the Best Western in Ankeny, Iowa. Board members in attendance were Royal Roland, Dan Roland, Rick Huffman, Jeff Carey, Joel McDanel, Mark Holtan, and Jim Reese as well as Executive Secretary Lindsay Sponheim. Board members not present were Brad Kohlwes and Scott Smith.

The treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Jim Reese and moved by Mark Holtan and seconded by Dan Roland to approve. All ayes

The board minutes from the September 21, 2014 meeting in Humboldt, Iowa were read and moved by Mark Holtan and seconded by Joel McDanel to approve. All ayes.

Lindsay Sponheim gave an update on the breeders awards. The awards have been separated and configured and are currently waiting on getting information on mare owners for the two year olds and horses that did not race last year from the Iowa Department of Agriculture. As long as the Iowa Department of Agriculture gets this information back quickly Breeders Awards should be done before the end of the year.

Royal Roland gave an update on the status of Prairie Meadows. The money wagered at Prairie Meadows was less in 2014 and it has been estimated the IaHHA will receive approximately \$50,000 less money for 2015 than we received in 2014.

The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission Meetings are going well. Nothing to do with Harness racing has been discussed in the last few meetings. It was agreed that when the meetings are located in the Western part of Iowa, Lindsay Sponheim has the approval to contact a board member that lives closer to those locations to attend the meetings.

The IaHHA is currently working on writing a Drug Policy for the association to follow. There was much discussion by the board about the threshold levels and time frames of when drugs can be given. It was agreed that the policy should not include recommended withdrawal times as this may result in the incorrect perception that all drugs given in accordance with the withdrawal guideline are ok. Dan Roland and Jeff Carey suggested having a separate document showing the ARCI withdrawal guidelines and a disclaimer saying this is not our policy.

The board chose to adopt the ARCI controlled medications schedule version 2.1 thresholds for controlled therapeutic medications, with the exceptions of Ketoprofen and Phenylbutazone. The thresholds for these medications will follow the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission guidelines, which are 10 nanograms per ml of Ketoprofen and 5 micrograms per ml for Phenylbutazone.

The use of methylprednisolone (depo) will only be allowed at levels set by the ARCI document (100 pictograms per ml of plasma). Mark Holtan made the comment that if we adopt these rules, we need to get the judge on board with our program. Dan Roland suggested that we need to have language in the policy that if a drug is not listed, refer to the IRGC or ARCI guidelines.

The use of Cobalt was also an issue of discussion. It was determined that Lindsay Sponheim would contact the IRGC to see if they are currently working on setting a level for 2015. It was also suggested

by the board that when a level is set by either the IRGC or IaHHA the penalty for a violation of the Cobalt rule will be up to the Judge that day of the races.

Testing for TCO2 levels was discussed also. We are currently waiting for the current threshold levels to be sent from Renee Novak at Iowa State. The board is looking at our current testing for TCO2 and if it is working correctly or not, or even changing the threshold level. Dan Roland suggested picking one race per race day and pre-race blood gas the horses in that race before they go out to warm-up. The board agreed that any TCO2 testing shall be done pre-race and pre-warm up and will be the Veterinarians decision which races are tested. Lindsay Sponheim is currently contacting the Ohio Racing and Gaming Commission to see how they are handling their TCO2 testing.

The proposed drug testing policy will be presented to the members at the annual meeting.

The board members agreed that the Executive Secretary, Lindsay Sponheim, shall be the designated representative for the IaHHA to be in contact with Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory regarding all drug testing at the races. If a positive test is determined ISU VDL will contact Lindsay Sponheim who will in turn contact the Presiding Judge for that particular day of racing to inform those involved in the positive test. The judge will be in charge of handing out penalties for positive tests, as well as the purse being given back and redistributed to the other horses in the race.

A legislative update was given by Matt Eide via phone. The legislation remains the same with Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans controlling the House. A couple of seats important to the IaHHA have new members in them and need to be contacted by the IaHHA to have discussions on how we impact those areas. Tom Sands remained in his seat is still the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, and is a great asset to our association. The Thoroughbreds are not happy with their simulcasting laws and are currently in discussion with the IRGC on how to resolve the issue.

The nominees for the IaHHA Hall of Fame were given to the Board members. Joel McDanel moved to accept Hannah's Sunset for the Horse Inductee and Mark Holtan seconded, all ayes. Dan Roland moved to accept CD Huffman as the Living Inductee and Joel McDanel seconded, all ayes. Royal Roland moved to accept Mike Smith as the Immortal Inductee and Mark Holtan seconded, all ayes. Lindsay Sponheim is in charge of contacting the inductees or their families to ensure they have time to prepare speeches for the banquet.

Promotional items were next on the agenda. The slogan contest was brought to an end with the board members choosing Hailie Rush's slogan "Everything's Better In A Harness" as the winner. This slogan will be put on the IaHHA shirts for next racing season. The newsletter was given good reviews on looking professional. Joel McDanel suggested having someone taking all of Katherine Carey's harness pictures, scanning them onto a disc, and have the disc run on a loop at the races, banquet, etc. Jeff Carey agreed to look into this.

Royal Roland reported that Scott Smith had been contacted by Jimmy Newman and he would be willing to help with starting at the races again.

Royal Roland reported that the IaHHA is going to receive less money next year from Prairie Meadows. In 2015 there is going to be more Iowa Sired horses racing so there will be more in purses required due to having more divisions. This year there were 90 Iowa Sired 3 year olds and 47 of them raced and next year it is projected that there will be 170 Iowa Sired two-year olds. Rick Huffman suggested capping the

Iowa Registered Races at \$6,000 per race and Dan Roland suggested doing the same for the Iowa Sired Races. It was agreed to implement a purse cap of \$6,000 per race for 2015. Dan also suggested having a committee that will work on the purses and caps for the 2016 racing year due to the increase in Iowa foal numbers. Rick Huffman moved to approved the budget and Dan Roland seconded, all ayes.

Joel McDanel reported that he had a presiding judge suggest having qualifying standards for next year. The suggestion was that after the second Iowa Registered race a two year old pacer that doesn't show a flat charted mile of 2:12.0 and a two year old trotter that doesn't show a flat charted mile in 2:20.0 must qualify and not be able to enter the A class until such standard is met. Dan Roland recommended coming up with a proposal about qualifying times and present it later. Jeff Carey commented that with having a qualifying standard we are not taking a person's right to race away, they always have the option of racing in the B Class. This issue to be discussed at the annual meeting.

The annual banquet is almost set up. It will be held again at the Best Western in Marshalltown, Iowa. The banquet rooms, hospitality room, and hotel rooms have been reserved. Lindsay Sponheim is currently working on getting the awards ordered. She has also gotten many items donated/purchased for the door prizes from Big Dee's, Finn Tack, Yonnie's Harness Shop, and JH Harness. Dan Roland is currently working on getting Rob Key to be our keynote speaker. The budget for the annual banquet is ~\$4,000.

Mark Holtan made the suggestion that we need to make the county fairs more accountable for the money they receive every year to hold the races. The fairs should have to document to the Iowa Harness Racing Association that they are making improvements.

Mark Holtan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dan Roland seconded.