

IaHHA BOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2015  
Best Western, Ankeny, Iowa 1:00 P.M.

Present: Royal Roland, Mark Holtan, Joel McDanel, Dan Roland, Scott Smith, Jeff Carey, Brad Kohlwes, Jim Reese, Executive Secretary Lindsay Sponheim  
Absent: Rick Huffman

President Royal Roland called the regular board meeting of the Iowa Harness Horseman's Association to order at 1:00 P.M. on January 18, 2015 at the Best Western in Ankeny, Iowa.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by all members present. Joel McDanel moved to accept the previous minutes and Mark Holtan seconded, ayes by all directors.

Jim Reese gave the Treasurer's Report. Dan Roland moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and Scott Smith seconded, ayes by all directors.

Joel McDanel moved that that 2015 IaHHA officers remain the same as the 2014 IaHHA officers and Scott Smith seconded, ayes from all directors.

Matt Eide joined the meeting via phone to give the legislative report. He reported that there is a new bill being presented that would ban smoking in all Iowa Casinos. Prairie Meadows is against this bill as well as many other casinos. Matt does not expect this bill to pass. Also, Dave Maxwell is willing to sponsor a bill that would require the new casino in Greene County to make up for the money that Prairie Meadows would lose due to this new casino taking customers away from Prairie Meadows. Jim Reese stated that he has seen where this bill was brought up a few years ago.

Lindsay Sponheim has written a few articles summarizing the annual banquet and sent it to a few of the directors and asked them to send them to local papers to help promote Iowa Harness Racing. Lindsay is also going to look into getting posters made with the 2015 racing schedule and Iowa Harness Racing photos on them. Jeff Carey suggested possibly getting some businesses to sponsor the posters to help offset the cost of them, and also gives those businesses some advertising.

There was some discussion about ways to improve the website. Some suggestions were to add new links to the site for a classifieds page, obituary page, and articles written about the association. It was also proposed that we put a list of all Iowa Registered Stallions on the website with contact information for owners so breeders can get ahold of stallion owners. It was also suggested that articles about the association be put on the Facebook page.

The Iowa Horse Fair is set for April 10, 11, and 12 2015. Lindsay is currently working on getting all of the paperwork sent in so that the IaHHA has a booth at the fair. She is also working on acquiring some people to bring their Standardbreds for the Parade of Breeds and Breed Demonstrations.

The IaHHA is currently seeking a corporate sponsor for the 2015 racing season. Lindsay prepared a proposal and sent it to the Casey's General Store promotions committee and is waiting to hear a response. In the event that Casey's turns the proposal down other corporate sponsor options are Theisen's or Orschlen's. Board members also talked about having race day sponsors this season. It was suggested that a few races a day could be sponsored by local businesses to help encourage locals to attend the races. It is also possible to get the businesses to donate money to sponsor a blanket for the race winner.

Royal Roland let directors know that the Minnesota Harness Association is currently working on putting together paperwork/pamphlets to send out/give to people about the harness racing industry. These pamphlets are geared towards attracting new owners and people in general to get involved in the sport. Royal suggested that the IaHHA work with them or possibly the USTA to get a general pamphlet together to have at the Iowa races to hand out to spectators. The directors agreed that Lindsay should attend the 2015 Minnesota Harness Racing banquet in February.

The IaHHA is going to try and have some meetings this spring to try and get new owners involved in the sport. We are going to try to advertise this first on Facebook to see if there is any interest and where the meeting would best be held throughout the state.

Scott Smith let the directors know that Tony Paris is already booked to announce most of the races this summer, except for the races in Sioux Center. The directors were informed that Gary Philipps is no longer going to be in charge of the races at Eldon. Lyle is going to continue to drive the starting gate in the 2015 racing season. Jim Newman has shown interest in coming back and starting some of the races this summer if he is needed. Jeff Carey suggested that the association could have Mike McDanel start the Iowa Registered Races and Jim start the overnights. Joel McDanel reported that Mike would like to start some of the early meets to help him get back in the swing of things for the rest of the summer. The directors are also looking into having more judges for the summer so there are plenty of options in case more judges are needed.

The starting gate was dropped off in November and has not been fixed yet. Brad Kohlwes reported that he had talked to the gentleman working on it and he thought he knew what the problem was, but has not gotten it fixed yet.

The board agrees that the IaHHA needs to look further into the use of backstretch cameras. The camera that was used last year has some limitations to it. Mark Holtan suggested having something like a deer stand on the backstretch/turns with someone running a camera standing on them. Scott Smith suggested the possibility of using drones. He has an acquaintance that has one and uses it to tape his son's motor-cross races. Scott has flown it and says they are very easy to use. They are run by GPS signals, very quiet, and have great HD cameras. Scott stated that the one he flew cost around \$2,000. Further investigation into drones is going to be looked into.

Mark Holtan suggested adding a by-law that no member of the IaHHA board could be on the Iowa Sire Stakes board due to conflicting interests. Royal told the directors that by-law changes must be

submitted to the board and then voted on at the annual meeting by the entire association membership. Mark was going to send everyone a current copy of the IaHHA by-laws.

It was brought to the attention of the board that there needs to be rule consistency when it comes to the "pylon rules." There is much inconsistency when it comes to drivers going inside the pylons, also the height, and distance between the pylons.

The 2015 racing schedule was finalized. Humboldt is going to hold and early meet on Saturday May 30. Lindsay Sponheim and Curtis Carey went to the Louisa County Fair Board meeting on January 12, 2015 and they are very interesting in hosting harness races this summer. They were willing to hold races on both of the open dates this summer. Dan Roland moved to allow them to have one day of racing and see how they handle it before the IaHHA gives them more dates. All directors agreed on this. Columbus Junction chose to race on June 28 and have been given August 30 as a rain date.

The board discussed the Sire Stakes board making a decision to hold all three Sire Stakes races at What Cheer. It was decided that since the funding for the races comes from the IaHHA board they ultimately have the final say in this matter. Dan Roland made a motion to move one of the Sire Stakes races from What Cheer to Humboldt, Brad Kohlwes seconded, passed by majority vote. The August 29<sup>th</sup> Sire Stakes races have been moved from What Cheer to Humboldt.

Royal Roland reported that the money the IaHHA will be receiving from Prairie Meadows is only going to be down approximately \$20,000 instead of the early figure of \$50,000 that was originally budgeted. It was passed by the board that the Iowa Registered & Iowa Sired race purses will be no higher than \$6,000. The number of Iowa Sired horses is set to go up by 50 horses next year and another 50 the next year. Due to this the 2016 racing season is expected to cost approximately \$100,000 more in purses. This was not a hard fast decision but discussion to let members know how the board feels about dealing with the projected deficit at this time. Royal came up with a few options to off-set these costs. The board felt that cutting the purses for each race by 7% was the fairest way to deal with the projected budget short fall. The final decision will be made this fall.

Royal Roland recommended that the board make a change to the Iowa Registered Aged racing conditions due to the fact that the geldings won 38 races and mares won 6 races last summer. Mark Holtan suggested having one division of geldings/colts, one division of fillies/mares, and any other divisions after that be mixed with the fillies/mares able to draw the inside post positions. Mark moved to split the first divisions by sex, filly and gelding divisions, and then the other divisions be mixed with the fillies drawing the inside, Dan Roland seconded, ayes by all directors.

The rough draft of the 2015 Drug Policy was heavily discussed. Brad Kohlwes talked to T.C. Lane at the USTA and he stated that the USTA has nothing to do with drugs, they just supply information to the racing commissions. The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission has yet to come up with a Cobalt level. Brad went and talked to the State Vet and they are currently working on getting information together to present to the IRGC and hopefully get a Cobalt level set. The board decided to table setting a Cobalt level to see if the IRGC comes up with a threshold.

Pre-race TCO2 testing was also an area of discussion. Board members expressed concerns on how people will be alerted that their horse/race is going to be tested on race day. Some suggestions were posting a list at the judges table, announcement over the loud speaker, and requiring people to be at the track by a certain time prior to post. Dan Roland moved to table the TCO2 testing till the April meeting so that it can be discussed further and the proper procedure can be written into the policy. All directors agreed.

The 2015 nomination papers are ready to be sent out. Jim Reese suggested keeping the stakes payments the same for this year; all board members agreed.

The board agreed that the only way for a horse to be taken off of a drug on race day that they were declared on at the date of entries is to go to the judge and let them know that the horse is not on said drug.

The 2015 board meeting were set as follows:

Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at Best Western in Ankeny, Iowa

Saturday, July 4, 2015 at ~4:00 P.M. (after the races) in Humboldt, Iowa

Saturday, September 26, 2015 at ~4:00 P.M. (after the races) in Humboldt, Iowa

Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at Best Western in Ankeny, Iowa.

Mark Holtan moved to adjourn the meeting and Joel McDanel seconded, ayes from all directors

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes take by Lindsay Sponheim, IaHHA Executive Secretary