

# IaHHA Board Meeting

## Tentative Minutes

April 15th, 2006

The IaHHA Board of Directors met at 2:00 pm on April 15th, 2006 at the Best Western Inn in Ankeny, Iowa. Directors present were Royal Roland, Scott Smith, Mark Holtan, Larry Jensen, Nolan Van Otterloo, Jim Reese and Dan Roland. Kermit Hinshaw and Rick Mishler were absent. Others in attendance were Ron Banks and Vern Devine of the Minnesota Harness Horseman's Association and Doug Vail of the Iowa HBPA.

Doug began by discussing the thoroughbred group's discussions with Prairie Meadows for a contract in 2006. The quarter horse group agreed to a contract the prior week with a reduction in the money they receive to support their organization. The thoroughbred group has been offered roughly 2/3rds of the amount of benevolent money they received in 2005. Doug mentioned that the national HBPA does not want them to race without a contract. If they do not get a contract the IHBPA has the option of cutting of the simulcast signal, which brings in an average of \$3 million of revenue to Prairie Meadows each year.

Directors reviewed the tentative minutes to the previous meeting. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jensen, to approve the minutes as read. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. With the prepaid purses and estimated April nominations we currently have around \$265k. PAC donations are currently at \$6,760. Jim mentioned there had been a number of very generous private donations. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jensen to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes.**

Royal discussed that the racing commission is now requiring us to be a non-profit organization. He has researched this and thinks we need to file to become a 501(c)(6) organization, which is used by trade associations and sports leagues.

As a legislative update Royal mentioned that there are now two new racing commission members. Matt is going to meet with the new commission members to make them aware of our positions.

Ron Banks and Vern Devine discussed the progress in getting the track in Minnesota. It is currently expected to race some time in 2007 and that there will be 300 stalls on track. They are trying to get the law changed so they can have the card club as soon as they are open. Currently the law says they can't have a card club until they have raced a full season, which would cause lower purses the first year and a negative purse account to repay. Once everything is operational they are estimating \$3 million in purses and a \$1.1 million breeders fund. The breeder's fund would be split with 25% to mare owners and 75% to Minnesota bred supplements.

The board spent a great deal of time discussing the way Iowa breeder's awards are paid, especially at the fairs. Currently out of state residents only receive a breeder's award at the fairs if the horse is Iowa Sired. Also, the breeder's awards are paid differently at Prairie Meadows than they are at the fairs. The majority of the board members agreed the most simple solution would be get a list from Morris at the Dept. of Ag and pay the same person he would pay, but we have not been able to get him to provide that information. Royal agreed to contact Morris and discuss the issue further.

Royal and Ron both gave updates regarding the conference call with the California association and their new program. Starting in August they will be paying \$1,000 to the person that pays to ship a horse to California when that horse makes it's first purse start or successfully qualifies. There are also bonuses for each race the horse wins, with some bonuses paid to the original owner even if the horse is later claimed.

In addition to this new program, they are also starting a program to include Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin SIREN horses in the special overnight conditions as California sired horses are. For example, NW2 (Cal Bred NW4), would include Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin sired NW4 also. They are also planning a late closer series for January of 2007 with \$25,000 per class finals. The California association is leaving it up to us to define what an Iowa Sired horse is.

**Motion by Larry Jensen, seconded by Scott Smith, that we participate in the California Coalition. All Ayes.**

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Nolan Van Otterloo, that an Iowa Sired Horse is defined as a horse sired by a stallion registered with the Iowa Department of Agriculture as an Iowa Registered Stallion in the year the horse was conceived. All Ayes.**

The next topic was starting gate issues. Scott talked to Todd and he is going to take his test at Coulter's in the next week or so. Jim Newman is wanting to get the extra car moved to Sioux Center in the next week or two. Royal agreed to check with Kermit to make sure it would start to load it on the trailer. Nolan said to have Jim coordinate delivery to Sioux Center with Alan Sandbulte.

Jim had mentioned that we were short a number of head numbers from last year. Hopefully members will bring back any they find. Larry agreed to check on the possible purchase of more head numbers. Scott is going to take the 9's and 10's home to see if they can be modified and used.

The board discussed the topic of charting for 2006. There were concerns about sight issues at Spencer. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Jim Reese, to start charting at the Oskaloosa fair and chart all colt stakes race days after that except for Spencer. All ayes.**

The board discussed the judging schedule for 2006. Dan mentioned that the committee was going to try to set up a meeting with the different judges prior to the summer to try to develop some consistency in the way infractions are handled and to discuss things the board would like to see emphasized. Among the things the board identified were uniform and strict enforcement of the whipping rules (especially after the finish of a race), horses gaining an advantage by leaving the course (not just knocking over a pylon or cone) and extended breaks where drivers of the breaking horse do not pull to the outside where clearance exists. It was agreed that the judges should use the starter as an extra set of eyes on the course and that the judges should file a written report at the conclusion of each day of races.

There were two applications for the promotion assistant position. Pete Temple is a newspaper writer from Monticello. He has extensive writing experience but would not be able to attend very many of the races. Ginny Mintun also applied and would be able to attend the majority of the races. Mark Holtan and Larry Jensen stated they were confident that Ginny would do well at the job. It was discussed that perhaps Pete Temple could still do some free-lance writing. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Mark Holtan, to hire Ginny Mintun for the promotion assistant position. All ayes.**

With Ginny being hired for this position we will need to hire a new identifier to assist the vets with the drug testing. The position pays \$2,000 for the summer and it will be posted on the web site to apply by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The first drug tested races are at Bedford in late June.

The awards committee reported that the 2005 second place trophies have not been ordered yet. Royal will do that yet this spring before the races start.

The only race day issue discussed was that Jim expected that more gates would be needed at Bedford this year.

Royal mentioned that he had contacted two the two outside accounting firms mentioned at the prior meeting about doing an independent audit of the association's books and had not received a response.

There were a couple errors found in the circuit book. They will be posted on the web site so people can update their books.

The board has set the following schedule for 2006 board meetings.

July 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am – Humboldt

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1:00 – Prairie Meadows

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 – Location TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.