

# ASHA Board of Directors Meeting

## Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016



**In Attendance:** Bill Andrew, Rod Starkewski, Connie Kolthammer, Ryan Grundy, Jamie Gray, Jim Rhodes, Sam Johnson and Diane Bertrand. **Regrets:** John Hind, Norm Kennedy. Also, present Fred Gillis and Michelle Aschim. Meeting called to order at 5:14 pm.

In Norm Kennedy's absence, Bill Andrew chaired the meeting.

### **1) Review and approval of the Agenda**

The board reviewed the agenda with the following added:

Request from Sam Johnson to add follow up report for actions taken from the February 18<sup>th</sup> conference call. Jim Rhodes moved the approval of the minutes and seconded by Diane Bertrand.

**Motion Approved.**

### **2) Approval of Minutes of previous Director Meeting, held on December 4th, 2015**

With no errors or omissions noted, Sam Johnson moved the approval of the minutes. Motion seconded by Jim Rhodes.

**Motion Approved.**

### **3) HRA Update:**

Jim Rhodes addressed that HRA approved and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup> for a new ten-year agreement with the following breakdowns:

In the first year for 2016-2017, the funding to HRA from the Albert Lottery Fund will drop from 51½ percent to 50 percent. It drops in 2017-2018 from 50 percent to 45 percent, and from 45 percent to 40 percent by April 2018. It will remain at 40 percent for the remainder of the ten-year deal, which will expire in 2026.

Bill Andrew talked about the negotiation where it was better to give on cut as opposed to duration of the deal. Discussions followed regarding the situation for Northlands as the deal affects the industry as a whole. Decisions not finalized, but discussion continued around the possibility of building a new racino outside of Edmonton. Bill Andrew requested a volunteer from the Breeders Committee to investigate how the cuts will affect the breeders. He suggested Connie Kolthammer as the best choice.

Jim Rhodes also addressed that HRA has committed to paying for and installing cameras in the race barns as requested. Under discussion is the retention barn with 24-hour security. Bill Andrew stated that with blood testing going to a competition lab in Hong Kong (the same lab which tests for the tennis and Olympic athletes), along with the addition of cameras and a retention barn raises Century Downs to the same level as the larger metro centres.

Connie Kolthammer raised the question regarding changes with the judges. Bill Andrew responded by informing that HRA (Shirley McLellan) is bringing in one or two experienced harness racing judges from outside Alberta to evaluate the performance of our current judges.

Fred Gillis informed the Board that Shirley McLellan and Paul Ryneveld were invited and shall be attending the ASHA AGM to address issues raised by the horsemen.

Questions and discussion continued regarding the Appeal Tribunal, and changes are coming; as well as uncoupled entries. Bill Andrew suggested that the Drivers/Trainers committee should take the requests to the HRA Board. Additionally, Bill Andrew suggested holding a paddock meeting to advise the drivers about the procedures surrounding informing the judges about problems with the race(s), as well as a meeting with the race secretary to discuss changes to the conditions sheet and with uncoupled entries.

Additionally, HRA has set up a special license for clubs who own a racehorse, particularly to the new Century Downs Club. Century Downs covers the liability of the members as opposed to requiring an ASHA membership from each club member.

#### **4) 2016 Racing:**

- a) Financial Report 2015 – Bill Andrew for John Hind  
Bill Andrew discussed the financial report as presented through a summary by John Hind. We appear to be on budget with a small surplus. Bill Andrew requested a motion to approve the Financial Report for presentation at the AGM. Motion seconded by Diane Bertrand.  
**Motion Approved.**
- b) 2016 Handle Report – Fred Gillis  
Fred Gillis discussed the allocation of the purse structure. Currently without the Stakes entries we are a little over allocation but this evens out when Stakes season begins. Due to the new MOU, there is no anticipated change to the purse grant for this year. HRA is strongly requesting a decision in the immediate future for the fall meet as it will change the overall days racing. In addition, Northlands will not release the simulcast money until there is a contract. Between ASHA and HRA, they opened a trust account to deposit the funds for the Simulcast money.
- c) 2016 Race & Stakes date changes - Fred Gillis  
The Alberta bonus will decrease to 12% due to the number of race days. Discussion continued regarding payment to the new future open stakes. There is concern that the payments are not enough payments to contribute to the estimated purse.

#### **5) Committee Reports:**

- a) Breeders Committee – Connie Kolthammer  
With the announcement of the ten-year deal, the reaction is positive since breeders wanted to hear positive news for the future. Connie addressed issues with the Yearling Sale and the following are the changes to the next year sale:
- Payments must be made within fifteen (15) days for all purchases
  - The adding of transfer payments to the purchase and a SC rep will conduct the transfer at the time of the sale.
  - The enforcing of Authorized Agent forms regardless of purchaser.
  - There will be an Application for Credit form for first time purchasers.
  - Purchasers must list their current address at the time of sale for invoicing of payments not made at the time of the sale.
- b) Owners Committee – Diane Bertrand  
Dianne Bertrand brought up most of the Owners concerns during the HRA report. ASHA has committed to the 2017 World Driving Challenge; the events begin on August 12<sup>th</sup> at Century Downs in Alberta. The drivers continue on to Ontario for the next two regional races on August 14<sup>th</sup> at Mohawk and August 15<sup>th</sup> at Georgian Downs. The fourth leg takes place in Quebec on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Hippodrome and the final leg goes to PEI at the Red Shores on August 18<sup>th</sup>. The Western Regionals for the National Driving Championship are June 26<sup>th</sup> at Century Downs. Fred requested general approval of funding \$5,000 to publish a commemorative book for the event put together by Larry Reznitzky of Prince Edward Island. ASHA, HRA and Century Downs will all contribute to the funding of the books. The consensus of the Board was approval. Fred Gillis will have Jeff Robillard of HRA email Diane Bertrand with a letter of commitment. Promoting this event needs to start as soon as possible.  
Signing in of horses or checking of the tattoos is the primary concern as addressed by Diane Bertrand. Jim Rhodes assured a staff member of Century Downs conducts this.
- c) Driver/Trainer Interim Rep. –Rod Starkewski  
All the Driver/Trainer concerns were addressed under the HRA report.

## **6) New Business:**

- a) By-Law change for AGM ( How we send out AGM notices etc)  
As the by-law states, thirty days notice is required for Notice of the AGM. The decision is that the most efficient way to notify the membership would be to place a page in or with the Stallion Guide and Stakes Directory since this must be out to meet the stake payment schedule, which coincides with the AGM notice.
  
- b) Olds Regional Exhibition Loan Repayment – Fred Gillis  
With Century Downs opening the training barns at the new track, the numbers at the Olds training facility has dropped and there is difficulty in meeting the financial commitment to repay the loan used to winterize their barns. ASHA is willing to renegotiate the terms of the loan. ASHA stores items for the Yearling Sale and wants to look at paying less for stalls at the Yearling Sale.  
Diane Bertrand wanted more time to process all the information and motioned they (Olds Regional Exhibition) pay \$3,000.00 for this year along with use of the facility for the Yearling Sale for 2016 (total of \$5,000) and table the rest for a committee to work on a resolution. Motion seconded by Connie Kolthammer.  

**Motion Approved.**
  
- c) AGM – Reminder is next weekend on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- d) Jamie Gray requested that discussion on Lasix be added to next agenda. Bill Andrew suggested to petition, for or against, from the backstretch for the use of the product.
- e) The next Board meeting will be determined after the AGM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38