



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for 17th of November 2017

In Attendance: Don McDougall, John Hind, Connie Kolthammer, Jamie Gray, Blair Corbeil and Diane Bertrand (Bill Andrew, JF Gagne, and Kelly Hoerdts attended meeting via conference call). Also, present Fred Gillis, and Michelle Desjardins. Absent was Rod Starkewski. Meeting called to order at 12.49 pm.

- 1) **a) Approval of Agenda - Moved by** Connie Kolthammer and seconded by John Hind, that the agenda is approved. **Motion Carried.**
- b) Approval of Minutes held on August 5, 2017- Moved by** Don McDougall and seconded by Diane Bertrand that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of August 5th, 2017 approved. **Motion Carried.**

2) **HRA Update – Blair Corbeil/ Bill Andrew**

Bill and Blair reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:

- HRA discussed purse allocations for 2019 and forward with the breed representatives. ASHA agreed on three options to present at the next meeting to avoid arbitration. John will generate a draft for Bill of the three proposals to present to the committee. **Moved by John Hind and seconded by Jaime Gray that ASHA opposes the current proposed split from the previous meeting and will offer three options to be ready for the meeting on November 23rd.** **Motion Carried.**
- HRA is incurring a significant deficit, with the major expense being the (appeals) tribunal. Currently, there are requests for the costs to be covered by the minister, as well as a change in the act. Potentially to save cost going forward, HRA Board members would sit on the tribunal with respective breed member sitting in. Also, there will be review on what will be appealable.
- Bill discussed the simulcast revenues to the end of October.
- Diane wanted to know if HRA had discussed retention barns, or drug testing, but there has been no meeting to discuss this. *Bill and Blair will push this on the meeting on the 23rd.*

3) **2017 Racing**

a) **Financial Report 2017 – John Hind**

John presented the budget which is on track. **Moved by John Hind and seconded by Connie Kolthammer to accept the financial report as presented.** **Motion Carried.**

b) **2017 Handle Report– Fred Gillis**

- Fred mentioned there was an omission in the minutes of the conference call of Wednesday October 18th, of a motion made by Don and seconded by Bill to take \$100, 000 from the ASHA reserve to maintain the overnight purse level, as well as a motion for \$60 000 approved to go to ASHA if needed.
- Fred brought to the attention of the board the Handle is slightly over run. He reviewed the numbers with the board; with Simulcast allocation, the \$100, 000 from the reserve and all other factors, purses for 2018 are budgeted with essentially no room for shortfalls.
- Northlands requested of the Standardbred industry to race 10 days in January and February on the schedule to secure simulcasting from January 1, 2018.

4) **Committee Reports:**

a) **Breeders Report – Connie Kolthammer**

- There are three applicants for the 2018 4-H program. To date, only one breeder/yearling matched, and we need two more.
- An issue occurs every year with yearling sale entries withdrawing before the sale but after the catalogue is published, presumably to sell privately. **Moved by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by Diane Bertrand that entries to the Yearling Sale catalogue withdrawn up to July 1st will not be penalized. From July 1st up to the sale withdrawals without a vet certificate will be penalized \$500 for withdrawing without a vet certificate. Upon receipt of the consignor package, the penalty remains \$1500.** **Motion Carried.**
- The 2017 Yearling made a small profit of \$460.53.
- The 2018 Stakes Schedule and Race Calendar were presented in draft. Three dates will be added in the Northlands meet. **Moved Connie Kolthammer and seconded Diane Bertrand that the stakes schedule be accepted as presented.** **Motion Carried.**
- Connie questioned the requirement behind members needing to be present for voting at the AGM (as opposed to voting by proxy). John clarified this is due to nominations for positions are taken at the AGM instead of in

advance making a proxy vote impossible. Additionally, Blair reminded the board it's in the By-Laws that members must be present to vote.

b) Owners Committee - Diane Bertrand

- There are serious concerns with the way the draws are conducted at Northlands.
- Also, Diane requested an update on the retention barn and the soda machines. Fred clarified it was in the hands of HRA. Don recommended that it should be written on the conditions sheet that horses can be put into retention for any race any time to better prepare for random testing. *Fred is to take this request to Doug Fenske.*
- There is concern that the condition sheets are not consistent between Northlands and Century Downs. *Fred and Blair will be talking with the Northlands race secretary.*
- Don addressed the price of the condition claimers needs to change. Blair suggested Don ask Kelly, Connie and Diane revisit the conditions, and Connie replied it should be maintained for the remainder of the meet, and revisited next year.
- Diane brought up the Lacombe race day and requested clarification of the races as A or B races, and will the wins count. Connie recommended that the B meet wins should not count. This is a regulatory issue to address with Doug.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Kelly Hoerd (No report, due to bad reception on Kelly's call)

d) Presidents Report – Blair Corbeil

- Blair addressed concerns surrounding conditions sheets and entries on Tuesday and will be meeting with Scott Sinclair and Jason Teague on Tuesday (November 21st)
- Fred and Blair participated in an Standardbred Canada industry wide conference call. All participants agreed they wished to see uniformity in rules and regulations within the Standardbred community. Also, marketing is another area where participants believe there should be more consistency and stronger through all the Associations to make a stronger national presence.
- Jamie brought up that there is a spike in the Handle once Mohawk is finished for the night and the board discussed is adjusting the scheduling for the simulcast.

5) New Business-

- a) 2018 ASHA Awards – The request from Colleen is for the second weekend of February and to keep it at Northlands which the Board agreed, with a director's meeting same weekend as the Awards Banquet.
- b) 2018 AGM 2nd or 3rd Saturday in April 2018
- c) Multi-year membership renewal – a new membership form is available for term membership of up to three years.
- d) Problems with communication from horsemen surrounding staying on near the end of the winter meets, especially with a new facility under construction, was brought up, as it's difficult to plan race dates when there are no horses.
- e) Don wished to know if there was any headway on the grants that were investigated from the previous board meeting. Fred replied that there are three applications to be presented and reviewed by the minister of finance to accept or reject.
- f) Don discussed more ideas with the website and social media. He recommended a split site with an area specific to the horsemen and another area specific to the public. There may be a requirement to request the assistance of the original web designer to accomplish this. Also, toward the beginning of February there will be an opportunity to apply for Media Ambassador term position. The board wishes to have successful candidate ready for early in the new racing season.
- g) John brought up CREG that the group will be reconstituted within three or four days to have the issue finally resolved, regarding the bonus shares.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm