



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for May 1st, 2021**

conducted via video call at 6:30 p.m.

Attended by: Don McDougall, Jackson Wittup, John Hind, Harold Haining, Randy Smith, Tim Lake, Neil Malloch, Jocelyn Giesbrecht, Rod Starkewski, Dave Kelly, and Nathan Sobey. Also attending (no vote) Executive Director Fred Gillis, Administrative Assistant Michelle Desjardins.

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Dave Kelly to approve the Agenda, with the following additions:

- i. The addition of the HRA Government review,
- ii. Resolution of signing officers,
- iii. Contract Committee
- iv. Loan from Willie Wychopen.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on March 27th, 2021.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Harold Haining that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of March 27th, 2021 be approved.

Motion Carried

3. HRA UPDATE—John Hind reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:

- a) The new chair of HRA is Diana McQueen, and by several accounts is very qualified.
- b) HRA's budget is at this time a guessing game given a date to resume racing is still unknown. There are predictions, but until anything is official funding is recalculated on a near weekly basis.
- c) An RFP was submitted for a 2021 Horse Racing Alberta Governance Project. (marcommworks.ca/hragovernance) Wade Wilson of Marcomm Works wants input from people in the industry for a new governance model independent of HRA. A Stakeholder Registry list will be published soon.
- d) The HRA Committee meeting adjusted the purse grants and BIP, given the current financial/pandemic.
- e) With the Track On 2 applying to be a Racino, a commitment of 15 days is required from Harness Racing.

4. 2021 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind

John presented a breakeven budget for ASHA; subsidies coming in from CERS and CERS.

With the change in Executive Board members, the bank will require new signatures for signing cheques.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Jackson Wittup that William Andrew be removed as a signing authority and Jackson Wittup be added as a signing authority, and that Don McDougall, John Hind and Fred Gillis continue as signing authorities.

Motion Carried

b) Handle Report— Fred Gillis

i. There are purse funds carried over from the last race dates in December have assisted along with HRA with funding horsemen with feed and hay. The balance of funds, along with HRA grant funds are reserved for start up costs for racing.

ii. A revised condition sheet was presented, to be submitted to the race secretaries at Century Mile.

Moved by Dave Kelly and seconded by Harold Haining that the new condition sheet be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

iii. The revised Stakes Schedule was also presented, with a short fall of \$230,000.

Moved by Neil Malloch and seconded by Harold Haining to approve the revised Stakes Schedule as presented.

Motion Carried

iv. Owner William (Willie) Wychopen has offered a loan to aid the industry to race of about \$250,000.

Moved by Dave Kelly and seconded by Tim Lake to approve the possibility of a loan from Willie (William)

Wychopen for a maximum of \$250,000, *if required*.

Motion Carried

c) Presidents Report – Don McDougall

Don reminded the board members to be professional when dealing with conflicts/members on Social Media or and try not to engage in conflicts at all. HRA has applied with positive feedback for an exception to allow spectator less horseracing as we remain in our own bubble with zero outbreaks.

- i. Social Media Update – Don continues to be involved with the HRA update calls as well as working with Storm Dafoe on articles from the Backstretch. As racing returns there will be more focus on that, and on the upcoming Yearling Sale with the challenges it will present should the pandemic continue.
- ii. ASHA Working Committees – All members of the Board have been placed in different committees developed by Don to assure everyone has a more active role within the Board of Directors. After each Board meeting, a backstretch meeting attended by two (varied) members of the Board to update the members on the activity and answer questions to provide better transparency to the membership.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Chair– Harold Haining

- i. The Breeders Committee requested the approval of moving the deadline for sale entries to June 1, but with financial considerations, payments can be made up to July 1st, 2021.
- ii. The Breeders wish to request the Board ask Century to re-examine their policy of Coggins for Yearlings brought to the track for training, and for the sale.
- iii. Although it cannot be done this year, there is continued interest in Sales Stakes and mentioned to keep it on table.
- iv. The breeders committee would like to see the reserve left as an option for breeders but in no way is the reserve a mandatory thing and breeders can buy back if they choose.
- v. It was recommended by the Committee that ASHA/HRA use funds from the Broodmare acquisition program, or the loss coverage, to pay Storm Dafoe to go to breeder’s farms and video yearlings entered in the sale. Scheduling and mileage to be considered.
- vi. The committee wanted to know if the auction will be conducted solely through online or a combination of online and live. Fred and Harold to investigate further about conducting the auction online in conjunction with the way we normally conduct the sale.
- vii. The YS Voucher raffle was questioned if it has been profitable (for the benevolence fund). John had the figures and although there has been a small loss occasionally, it will remain. Members of both Breeders Committee and Board are strongly encouraged to sell at least one book each, and it will again be publicized to relevant online locations.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Dave Kelly to approve the change of date for YS Entries from May 1st to June 1st, accepting payment up to July 1st. YS Entry name with sire and dam will be published to the website, but not the TrackIt link and or publication to the catalogue until full payment is received. **Motion Carried**

b) Owners Chair – Randy Smith

Randy stated he was looking forward to his role as the Owners Chair but had nothing to report this meeting

Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

Anticipating racing resumes sometime in the future, Nathan requested protection of the horses that have stayed in the province through the pandemic. Feedback from the board felt this would resolve itself with racing one day week for three weeks. Qualifiers at Lacombe (May 2) were discussed as the track has typically had issues with frost heaves. The surface is acceptable for qualifiers.

1. NEW BUSINESS

a) Coggins – Tim Lake

In every other jurisdiction, Coggins is a two-year requirement instead of annually in Alberta. As all breeds agree it requires change, and given the last positive was in 1979, John stated it could be dealt of with a vote with regulatory in HRA.

b) 2021 ASHA Awards Night

The list of finalists is ready for the judges.

Brandon Campbell queried through Fred if he was now eligible as his case was adjudicated. He remains ineligible as a class 3 offense, as per the criteria for the awards.

c) AGM 2021 Review

Although there were challenges and some expectations were not delivered, the consultant provided a good service, and she supplied a discount due to the issues. There was excellent feedback, much of it positive. The Board felt that having a video option in the future is something to add to allow participation from those unable to physically attend.

d) Financial Aid to Trainers

(discussed under Handle report) Funds and hay supply is running low so the need to return to racing is dire.

e) **New HRA Representative to replace Blair.**

Don requested approval from the Board to be the ASHA representative on the HRA Board.

Moved by Jackson Wittup and seconded by Tim Lake to approve Don McDougal as the ASHA representative on the HRA Board. **Motion Carried**

f) **B-Track Dates –**

The B track (Track on 2) would like to have race dates begin the July; 15 days minimum are required at the B track for funding. Extra days could be added in the fall.

g) **Contract Committee**

Paul Ryneveld suggested that although the contracts (between ASHA and Century Downs) are not due for fourteen months, with option to extend, that they be reviewed earlier as opposed to waiting until closer to the due date. The structural committee will tend to this.

Next meeting date TBD.
Motion to adjourn at 8:52 pm