



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for November 27, 2021** **conducted online via Microsoft Teams**

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

Meeting called to order at 2.37 pm

1. ADDITIONS TO and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Discuss intent to restart the Alberta Standardbred 4-H Project in the future

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Neil Malloch that the agenda with additions be approved. **Motion Carried**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on June 26, 2021.

Moved by Jackson Wittup and seconded by Neil Malloch that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of September 11th, 2021, be approved. **Motion Carried**

3. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall: (HRA Report)

Comments: Jackson congratulated Don, John, Fred, and the entire team on their efforts on obtaining the 5-year purse allocation plan.

Don deferred his HRA report to his President's Report.

4. 2021 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind (Report)

As there was no racing for 5 months, the budget shows underspent in promotions and travelling, along with receipts for wage and rent subsidies which carried the organization.

The Yearling Sale showed a small profit of about \$3,000. There was an issue with the Yearling Sale voucher raffle where it did not fully reconcile, and the tickets were destroyed. In accordance with AGLC regulations, raffle tickets are to be held for a minimum of two years.

With a surplus predicted for the end of the year, the plan is to purchase a term deposit to replenish emergency funds used over the previous two years to keep operations going.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Tim Lake that the interim financial report as of Oct 31, 2021, be approved. **Motion Carried**

b) Handle/Purse Report – Fred Gillis

Fred reported that there is a surplus for the first time in a long while, which will carry over to maybe allow 12 races a day in the year depending on how the rest of the year proceeds.

Comments: Jackson queried on if the surplus was from days cancelled or from the horses being sick? Cancellation came from cancelling due to the sickness in the best interest of the horses.

c) President's Report – Don McDougall (Report)

In preparation of the AGM in April, Don anticipates the Board should meet preferable in person, sometime in January and again in March.

Fred mentioned regarding the regulatory that at one time (2008) HRA had definite rules of conduct and fines that were strictly adhered to, which have since evaporated. Don requested if those could be tracked down to be reinstated.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining Presentation of Stakes Schedule

The only comment Harold received in the Breeders committee meeting was to return the third leg of the Sire Stake nor did the committee have any comments for Tim's request for Awards. Fred commented that the funds are currently not available, but there are plans to add it back in 2023. The schedule as presented is approved for the money, but dates require the approval of the Board.

After numerous observations, the Board agreed the schedule dates require adjusting. **ACTION ITEM #1**
Don requested the draft schedule be emailed to the Board for approval within 10 days, after Fred discusses with Paul (Ryneveld) for confirmation of Century Events as well as any other recommended adjustments with Harold.

b) Owners Committee – Randy Smith

Nothing currently to report.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

- i. Nathan conveyed the feelings from the backstretch that there would not likely be enough horses to run a full card and conveyed misgivings on putting up a condition sheet.
- ii. With the illness in the barns and expenses piling up due to no racing, owners and trainers are asking for financial help.
- iii. Also, horsemen are wanting to know if HRA can relax the qualifying rules.

It is the opinion of the Board that an attempt should be made to post the condition sheet to see what is available before cancelling.

Regarding financial assistance, the Board was reminded to note those in dire need, there is a Benevolent Fund to access.

ACTION ITEM #2 Fred is to reach out to Doug Fenske/HRA to inquire their stance on qualifiers after the horses recover from sickness.

Depending on the number of horses available, the races will be rescheduled for this year.

d) **Structural Committee – Jackson Wittup**

No meeting, nothing currently to report.

e) **Awards Committee - Tim Lake**

No meeting, nothing currently to report. Requested the committee members to respond to an email sent previously. Any changes will now be implemented to next year's racing and awards.

f) **Promotions Committee – Dave Kelly**

No meeting, nothing currently to report. Would like to have the videos worked on at Century Mile.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Race Dates 2022**

B Race dates are scheduled for 3 days a week toward the end of August 2022 for the Track on 2, which will include temporary stall for those who require it. A condition claiming series is also in planning stages. Fred is also to talk with Track on 2 for events they are planning.

b) **Horse Population Shortage (Century/ASHA Initiative)**

There are currently two approved applicants for the initiative, so far, the previous initiative of the Outlaw Stable horses lost less than \$2,000.

c) **Retention 2022**

Retention for Stakes eliminations has been approved and added to the HRA budget.

The Stakes Book requires review prior to January so that Colleen has enough time to make changes to the book.

d) **Contract with Century 2022**

As the contract between ASHA and Century group becomes due for review, John requested that someone else chair the contract committee. Fred stated that if the Board approves, that Bill Andrew would be willing to assist. **ACTION ITEM #3** Upon Fred reaching out to Bill to confirm his involvement, Don and Fred to communicate to the Board for who the rest of the members are for the Contract committee in the following week.

e) **Yearling Sale**

Mostly covered in John's financial report. Don brought up that the issue with the live stream will be addressed for the next year as it would be a benefit to bidders.

f) **Date for the ASHA Awards**

The Board decided the best date for the ASHA Awards will be March 5th to be held in the Calgary region.

g) **Intent to resume the Alberta Standardbred 4-H Project for 2023**

The Board approved that the Alberta Standardbred 4-H Project should proceed.

Don was texted prior to adjournment that Jordan Cook, the track vet, has been conducting x-rays, ultrasounds, etc. for free, and recommended she be compensated in some way. As there is a cost for sending swabs to Ontario, **ACTION ITEM #4** Fred recommended Jordan bill it all together for compensation between HRA and ASHA. Additionally, Don brought forth a pilot project from Jordan for the horsemen to consider for a cost reduced vaccination program. Many horsemen on the Board did not believe any benefit for such a project, but nothing decided at this time

Motion by Jocelyn Giesbrecht to adjourn at 4:45 pm

ACTION ITEMS

New Items from November 27th, 2021

1. **ACTION ITEM #1** Don requested the draft schedule be emailed to the Board for approval within 10 days, after Fred discusses with Paul (Ryneveld) for confirmation of Century Events as well as any other recommended adjustments with Harold.
2. **ACTION ITEM #2** Fred reach out to Doug Fenske/HRA to inquire their opinion on qualifiers after the horses recover from sickness.
3. **ACTION ITEM #3** Upon Fred reaching out to Bill to confirm his involvement, Don and Fred to communicate to the Board for who the rest of the members are for the Contract committee in the following week
4. **ACTION ITEM #4** Fred recommended Jordan bill all costs pertaining to the pro bono work conducted during the recent wave of horse influenza for compensation between HRA and ASHA.

UNRESOLVED/TABLED ACTION ITEMS from June 26th, 2021

(Minutes from September 11, 2021)

1. **ACTION ITEM #2** – Fred to communicate back to the board with interpretation from Tim and Jackson on the exact wording in the 2021 Sire Stakes book regarding standings for 2-year-olds for Super Finals
2. **ACTION ITEM #3** – Tim to report back to board for awards criteria update.
3. **ACTION ITEM #4** – Don to present an update to the Board on the promotions with Century for track and online for 2022.
4. **ACTION ITEM #5** – Fred to email the Board with dates and locations of the meetings to determine who can attend with him for these meetings.
5. **ACTION ITEM #6** – Don to email the Board the Draft Proposal as it was to be sent earlier.

UNRESOLVED/TABLED ACTION ITEMS from June 26th, 2021

(Minutes from June 26th, 2021)

1. **(ACTION ITEM #4)** Fred to speak with Track On 2's race secretary for more consistent classes. (Status – unknown)
2. **(ACTION ITEM #6)** Jocelyn to present her findings in the interest reviving the Race Bike Insurance program (Status – Unknown)

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**REMINDER!** - All Committee Chairs are requested to email their reports to Michelle Desjardins one (1) week prior of scheduled Board Meetings so they can be sent as one package to all members of the Board.

## MOTIONS LOGBOOK