



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for September 11, 2021**

conducted at Track On 2 via live and call in

Attended: Don McDougall, Jackson Wittup, John Hind, Harold Haining, Neil Malloch, and Tim Lake. Attending via conference/video call: 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 6:41 pm

ACTION ITEM #1 Due to the numerous technical issues preventing good communication through the platform used and a very inconsistent signal at the Track on 2, Michelle to assure better connection/conference calling set up for future board meetings, specifically for Lacombe.

1. ADDITIONS TO and APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- e) **Communicating with the Industry**
- f) **History on Mental Health Support**

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

Motion Carried

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

Moved by Tim Lake and seconded by Jackson Wittup that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of June 26th, 2021, be approved.

Motion Carried

3. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall:

- a) Estimated purse support for 2022 will be \$12,500,000 for the industry. ASHA percentage share could be similar to 2021.
- b) Estimated BIP for 2022 will be \$3,400,000 for the industry. ASHA percentage share will be similar to previous.
- c) The industry purse support is the largest since 2015
- d) Both purse support and BIP should be larger in 2023 as the advance will be repaid by April 2023
- e) Warrior relay races at Track on 2 included pari-mutual betting which is the first time there were pari-mutual betting on relay races in Alberta.
- f) Strategic growth committee is working on a fantasy racing app.
- g) Don reported on regulatory; items up for discussion are Coggins requirements and change management.

4. 2021 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind

i. We are slightly overspent but will be in better shape after the upcoming purse assessment which will be enough to carry through to the end of the year. Excess funds should be returned to term deposits as these were utilized over the past year. Wage and rent subsidies through the Government aided the budget overall.

ii. Action item 3 from last minutes was presented: ([Breakdown of Betting Funds](#))

iii. If there are questions regarding the breakdown or any ASHA Financials, contact John.

b) Handle Report– Fred Gillis

B Track projections indicate a small surplus if the number of races stay the same. With the A tracks, there was an unbudgeted allocation of \$45,000 due to the overproduction of slot revenues, which means a surplus earmarked for an increase to the Mile, and to a term deposit.

Q. (Jackson Wittup) Was money ever borrowed from Willie Wychopen for the Race Initiative Program?

A. Yes, \$20,000 was borrowed to purchase four 2-year-olds; HRA has been presented with the initiative.

c) Presidents Report – Don McDougall

i. Rates and contract negotiations under New Business.

ii. Yearling Sale videos are now in edit mode as all the video captures are completed.

iii. The Executive Committee has not had any urgent need to meet at this time, with no major issues.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining ([Attached report](#))

i. Preparations for the sale are moving forward.

ii. Brought to the board from the breeders committee was an extension of the deadline and one-time supplemental increase of \$100 for an owner who missed paying Yearlings to the ABSS.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Dave Kelly to allow late payment of \$100 each up to November 1, 2021 (only) on “the big 4” open stakes. (Discussion) **Motion Denied (10 opposed, 1 for)**

iii. Terry McIsaac resigned from the Breeders Committee as he is no longer a breeder.

iv. Due to an error in the Sire Stakes book, clarification of the 2 Year AB Sired Stakes between points over money earned was discussed.

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

b) Owners Committee – Randy Smith (Attached report)

The Owner’s Appreciation Day was very well accepted and hopes it will be done again. Neil commented positively on the regular e-mail updates received. As an owner, it helps him (and others) feel included in the industry.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

Nathan reported that the track is still needing work as well as the conditions sheet and the horse population continues to diminish.

d) Structural Committee – Jackson Wittup (Attached report)

No meeting, nothing currently to report.

Don would like to see as part of the Structural Committee the Board member roles to be posted on the ASHA website with the intent of informing potential candidates and current members information as to the expectation of their position on the ASHA Board of Directors.

e) Awards Committee - Tim Lake

As detailed criteria for the Awards are progressing, Tim requested input from the Drivers and Trainers for what qualifies eligibility and what success looks like for their award(s). A request was made to Harold for the Breeders and Neil for the Owners. A draft of the criteria is anticipated for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM #3 – Tim to report back to the Board for awards criteria update.

Tim recommended that Super Finals carry more weight in how 2 and 3 years stand towards the awards. Don agreed, but Jackson recommended that it should be something the Committee bring forward as a motion to the board.

f) Promotions Committee – Dave Kelly

i. Due to some equipment difficulties and time constraints, Storm has not been able to return to the track to conduct interviews and driving videos but hopes to in the next week or two.

ii. Between ASHA, Paul and Century, meetings are scheduled for track and online promotions.

ACTION ITEM #4 Don to present an update to the Board on the promotions with Century for track and online for 2022.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Race Dates 2022

Meeting dates with HRA for all breeds to discuss race dates are September 23rd and October 7th.

Depending on where the meetings are will decide who can attend.

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.

b) Horse Population Shortage (Century/ASHA Initiative)

Through discussions with Century/Paul, Don has created a draft proposal for this new initiative which had four (4) 2-year-olds purchased for conditional sale though online auction. Other initiatives are under consideration.

ACTION ITEM #6 Don to email the Board the Draft Proposal as it was to be sent earlier.

c) Retention 2022

Due to lack of funds, there is no retention for eliminations on the “big 4”. Currently, retention is only for finals over \$50,000. The board agreed that eliminations for all big stakes must be included in retention.

John urged that a letter should be sent to HRA to have the additional retention included in their budget.

ACTION ITEM #7 Don to send a letter to HRA to include retention for Stake Eliminations included in their budget for 2022.

d) Contract with Century 2022

The contract with Century is up in 2022 and required renegotiation. A contract committee will be needed to review and make recommendations to be formed along with Bill Andrew who was asked to part it.

e) Yearling Sale

Nathan is obtaining the hay (for the sale), and Kelly is obtaining bleachers for viewers from a Lions Club for a \$200 donation.

f) **Communication with the Industry**

Due to confidentiality, specifics and dates cannot be discussed, but it is Don's intention to speak on the positivity of the future of the industry, such as possible increases to the purses. A backstretch meeting within a week of a board meeting to talk to the horsemen and generate goodwill seems to be the right direction.

g) **History of Mental Health Support**

Prior to the pandemic, Colleen had established resources for horsemen to call when struggling with issues. A precedent had been set for a couple members who requested rehabilitation; ASHA paid 25% of the fee directly to the institution, and some benevolent funds are also accessed. Funding is determined by the Board Executive on a case-by-case situation.

Next meeting date TBD.
Motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm

ACTION ITEMS from September 11th, 2021

1. **ACTION ITEM #1** – Michelle to assure better connection/conference calling set up for future board meetings, specifically for Lacombe meetings due to the numerous issues. (Status – incomplete; under investigation)
2. **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
3. **ACTION ITEM #3** – Tim to report back to board for awards criteria update.
4. **ACTION ITEM #4** – Don to present an update to the Board on the promotions with Century for track and online for 2022.
5. **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.
6. **ACTION ITEM #6** – Don to email the Board the Draft Proposal as it was to be sent earlier.
7. **ACTION ITEM #7** – Don to send a letter to HRA to include retention for Stake Eliminations included in their budget for 2022.

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)

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