



**ASHA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes for September 8, 2023**  
**(Meeting at Century Mile Racetrack and Casino)**

**Attended:** Don McDougall, Jackson Wittup, Kelly Crump, Jacques Lambert, Jocelyn Giesbrecht, Bret Litke, John Hind, Nancy Retzlaff, Brandon Campbell, Dave Kelly, and Tim Lake

**Absent:**

**Also attending** Executive Director Fred Gillis (no vote), Administrative Assistant Laura Webster (no vote)

Meeting called to order at 4:45 pm

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Jacques Lambert and Tim Lake

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 6, 2023**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Dave Kelly and Nancy Retzlaff

**3. Review of outstanding Action Items from meeting on May 20, 2023**

No Action Items Outstanding from the last meeting.

**4. Kent Verlik / Dawn Lupul**

Kent Verlich and Chuck Ibey attended the first part of the meeting to discuss with the Board the Alberta Standardbred Horse Association 2023 HRA Stakeholder Engagement Survey.

**5. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall:**

**John Hind**

The Racehorse Procurement Incentive Program (RPIP) started in 2022 was reviewed and the program was continued for the 2023 year. The funding budgeted for ASHA for 2023 is \$200,000.

Purse support from HRA is budgeted for \$13,500,000 in 2023, \$14,500,000 in 2024 and \$ 15,000,000 in 2025. ASHA's share of the purse support is approximately 40%. The 2023 purse support budget was increased by \$350,000 in April. No increase in the 2024 purse support has been approved at this time.

The Breed Improvement Program (BIP) is budgeted at \$ 3,900,000 for 2023, \$4,200,000 for 2024 and \$4,500,000 for 2025. ASHA's share of the BIP funding is approximately 32%.

The slot revenues at Century Downs have reduced due to the new casino opening by the airport. This reduction has been partially offset by the increase in slot revenues at Century Mile. At the end of July 2023 slot revenues were slightly above budget.

My term on HRA will end in April 2024 due to the term limit of six years for a director. ASHA will have to appoint a new board member for HRA in 2024. The term is three years with the ability to be reappointed for three more years.

Sports wagering and cross merchandising with pari-mutuel horse wagering was discussed. HRA is advocating for pari-mutuel wagering to be included in any single bet sports wagering app that is approved by AGLC.

HRA is currently facilitating meetings regarding the 2024 race day calendar. No decisions have been made.

HRA agreed to pay for the tents rented for the Track on 2 summer meet. The cost of the tent rental was \$ 70,078

Respect in the Workplace course is available at no cost. Members are encouraged to complete the course.

Max Gibb was appointed to the board for a one-year term as the B track representative. Kurt Belich will be the B track representative when Max's one year term ends.

## **Don McDougall**

### **HRA Governance/Regulatory –**

Most of Don's time has been spent in meetings regarding date updates for racing. Fred Gillis will have updates at every meeting going forward about the status.

#### **6. 2023 RACING**

##### **a) Financial Report by John Hind – (report included in meeting package)**

John goes over the ASHA budget with the board. Please send John a message if you have any questions.

##### **b) Handle/Purse Report by Fred Gillis**

Fred spoke about the loss of the double headers and how our average went up to \$70,601. Even with \$106,000, we end up spending tomorrow and the two races we carry to the Track on 2. The average rate is now \$70,708 so we are \$107 per day over with 3 cancelled days. The Simulcast is down a little but has come back a little bit. The handles have gone up enough to offset the Simulcast loss. The handle is doing better than last year as it is up \$20,000

##### **c) President's Report by Don McDougall (Given During HRA Discussion)**

###### **I. Social Media Update**

###### **II. Executive Com.**

#### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **a) Breeders Committee – Kelly Crump**

Kelly Crump speaks about having had a meeting on August 29, 2023 with Century Mile regarding the 2023 Yearling Sale. Fred Gillis, Colleen Haining, and Bret Litke also attended.

##### **b) Owners Committee (Now Events and Promotions) – Nancy Retzlaff**

Discussion about how the Owner's Dinner is all set and ready to go. Nancy went through the Owners' list that was received from Laura Webster.

##### **c) Drivers/Trainers Committee – Brandon Campbell**

Brandon spoke about how the track at Century Mile is coming along as well as the Track on 2.

**d) Racing Committee – Jacques Lambert**

Jacques spoke to the 2024 Horse Population Initiative.

**e) Promotions and Events – Bret Litke/Nancy Retzlaff**

Nancy spoke to the 30/60/90-day plan that was included in the meeting package.

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**REMINDER!** - **All Committee Chairs** are requested to email their reports to Laura Webster (laura@asha.ab.ca) one (1) week prior of scheduled Board Meetings so they can be sent as one package to all members of the Board