

**MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING
BOARD MEETING
11:00 AM, July 23, 2010
MONTANA LOTTERY PADDOCK CLUB
MONTANA EXPO PARK – GREAT FALLS, MT**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Al Carruthers	Chairman	Mike Tatsey	Board Member
Susan Egbert	Board Member	Shawn Real Bird	Board Member
Topper Tracy	Board Member	Carol Lambert	Board Member
Sue Austin	Board Member	Ryan Sherman	Executive Secretary
		Sherry Meador	Legal Counsel

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Bill Christian, Marvin Krone, Bill Boettcher, Kelly Manzer, Nikki Myers, Jeffery Jones, Jerome Carpenter, Chet Monson, Burton Stanley, Ron Reed, Dave Wheeler, Bryan Krone, Joe Briggs, Lisa Bracco, G.W. Egbert, Bill Weatherwax, , Janis Schoepf.

CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Carruthers called the meeting to order at 11:00pm.

MINUTES: Member Austin moved to approve the June 8th, 2010 board minutes. Member Egbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY’S REPORT: Ryan gave an update of the Board’s budget for 2010. Fantasy sports NASCAR handled over \$50,000 in wagers with the Board receiving \$8,000. ADW has earned \$41,000 for racing (\$38,000 in purses and \$4100 to the Board). 2.2 Million for simulcast handle.

2010 LIVE RACE MEET PROGREE REPORTS:

- a) **MILES CITY – MC’s** handle increased by just over \$12,000. The track has refunded the money it collected for jockey insurance.
- b) **GREAT FALLS –** The Board thanked the efforts of Lisa Bracco and Joe Briggs in their support of the race meet. Without the tremendous efforts on behalf of the county, the race meet would not be successful. There are currently nine races scheduled for Friday, ten for Saturday and ten for Sunday. Dwayne Diedrickson will be there to manage the meet. Ryan reported that he’s had numerous calls on stalls as people weren’t getting responses from corporate, so he helped the racing secretary place people into stalls and worked with him on lowering late payments to increase entries into the Quarter Horse derby.
- c) **MISSOULA –** The county is working on the grounds. The condition book is out. Chairman Carruthers reached out to the horsemen to help fill the races there.

- d) YELLOWSTONE DOWNS – Stall applications and stakes nominations have been coming into management. The racing portion to metraPark received minimal damage and everything is repaired that did see damage. Stalls are full.
- e) KALISPELL – Janis Schoepf reported on the progress of preparations for the race meet. Chairman Carruthers read the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the MBHR and the Kalispell Race meet. Member Lambert moved to approve the MOU. Member Tracy seconded the motion. Janis asked if the Board heard from the Governor’s Office. Sherry reported that she spoke to the Governor’s chief of staff who stated that the Board would be able to temporarily operate with a negative balance until funded is replenished in the winter.

JOCKEY LICENSE APPICATION: Ryan reported that Bill Christian has applied for a license to ride in Montana. He was ruled off in Washington in 1988 and received a lifetime ban in 2008. He requested reconsideration of the ban in 2005, 2007, and 2008 but was reused. He has paid his \$700 fine in full. Ryan reported that he ran an FBI check on Christian through the Department of Livestock and the report came up clean.

Christian presented his case to the Board. He stated that he admits to race fixing and wants a second chance. The horsemen in Great Falls have been very welcoming to him. Member Egbert asked what he has been doing since he was banned. Christian stated that he raised two children with his wife and had a roofing business for fifteen years. He galloped horses in Laredo, Texas, and has been galloping at Great Falls since July 1st. Brian Krone vouched for Christian’s dedication and hard work in Great Falls. Member Egbert asked if Christian has ever had a bad test for alcohol/drugs. Christian reported that he was ruled-off for 30 days for a bad test in 1986 but that he has no current problem with alcohol and drugs.

Ryan reminded the Board that it took a chance with Jeff Jones 2 yrs ago and that Jeff had the same infraction and has proved himself a model citizen in Montana. He said that this would be the second time MBHR has gone against the reciprocity rule with Washington but that twenty-two years is a long time for the offence, and that if Christian agrees to race in Montana for three years, he would recommend approval of a temporary license. Christian agreed to the commitment. Member Lambert asked if he would be subject to other conditions. Ryan stated that he would be subject to random drug/alcohol testing. Jeff Jones spoke on Christian’s behalf. Christian stated that he was going through a bad time and everything snowballed but that it was totally his fault. He is older now and knows what he did was very bad.

Member Egbert moved that the Board grant Bill Christian a temporary jockey license subject to random alcohol and drug tests. Member Lambert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

FANTASY SPORTS GAMES UPDATES: Ryan provided the Board an on-line printout of the new machines Montana Lottery is putting out for Fantasy Sports. It will make it

much easier to play and less hassle for the tavern owners. He reported that Montana Lottery is working on a golf game and that Intralot moved its central office from Helena to New Mexico. Chairman Carruthers stressed that the board and staff needed to keep on them to improve the fantasy sports handle.

EMPLOYEE BUDGET: Ryan provided the Board an employee and purse expense chard for the 2010 meets. He reported that he will be filling in as State Security at the Kalispell meet and there would be a replacement for steward. Member Egbert requested that the employee costs be brought to the Board earlier in the year. Ryan stated he would bring the proposed costs to the Board for approval in January. Member Egbert asked how Montana's costs compare with other states. Ryan said that the current costs are the same as under the previous executive secretary and are about \$200/day less than in Idaho. He pointed out that calculations for his costs are his regular fees and not in addition to. Member Egbert stated that she understood the need to keep employees consistent but that the Board wants to work toward less travel costs to Kalispell. She appreciated the itemized employee cost sheet.

LEGISLATION UPDATE: Senator Taylor Brown has received the bill draft number LC 178. The Board discussed inviting Senator Brown to the September Board meeting in Billings.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Comment period for the proposed rule change ends August 12th. The Board needs to address comments and vote on amendments on the 13th to push to get rules published in the next publication. The Board will hold a meeting by conference call on August 13th from Missoula.

OTHER BUSINESS: Member Tracy commented that it is hard to write articles as a public employee because they would appear to be the opinion of the Board. Ryan agreed and stated that he has stopped writing articles for national publications since May.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Greg Egbert suggested the Board look into developing a fantasy rodeo game.

ADJOURNMENT: Member Egbert moved that the Board adjourn. Member Lambert seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Signature

Date