



MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING

Minutes of Board Meeting: CONFERENCE CALL – February 15, 2017 – 10 a.m.
Conference Call

MEMBERS ON PHONE:

Chairman: John Hayes, Great Falls
Vice Chairman: Dale Mahlum, Missoula
Member: Sue Austin, Kalispell
Member: Susan Egbert, Helena
Member: Ralph Young, Columbus
Executive Secretary: Tom Tucker, Corvallis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shawn Real Bird, Hardin

PUBLIC ON PHONE:

Raleigh Swensrud, Ron Reed

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman John Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He welcomed those on the call and asked for roll call. All board members were present except for Shawn Real Bird, Hardin. Chairman Hayes asked for any corrections or additions to the November 9, 2016 meeting in Helena. Member Egbert moved to approve the minutes as mailed, Member Austin seconded the motion, Motion passed.

Before the board started into the financials Vice Chairman Mahlum asked how the tracks were coming with jockey insurance. Chairman Hayes announced there wasn't much change and it didn't look like legislation to change any way the insurance was viewed in Montana would be introduced this legislation.

Agenda item number 3 was a review of the financials by Executive Secretary Tom Tucker. The financial report consisted of a look at the current income and expenses along with a breakdown of simulcasting, advance deposit wagering and fantasy sports. After the presentation, Member Austin moved to approve the financials and Dale Mahlum seconded the motion. Motion passed. Sue Austin asked about any new ADW companies and Tucker explained the process of tracking some of these companies down.

Chairman Hayes asked for any public comment. None being, the board moved onto an update on rule changes. All rule changes must be listed on the state website and await public comment. If no comments are made, they can go onto adoption. Hearings would be set at the end of January 2017 if needed. Tucker then gave an update on SB128 that would allow the board to negotiate take-out rates and distribution rates with Fantasy Sports companies. Senator Dan Salomon from Ronan is carrying the bill for the board and Tucker hopes to get this through by mid-March.

Agenda item number 7 is the hiring of the summer officials. No changes are anticipated and all the officials have responded to the summer employment letters except for the State Veterinarian - Dr. Kelly Manzer. Tucker hoped to speak with her over the next few weeks and felt it was just a matter of people's busy schedules that have caused the delay in arranging Dr. Manzer's summer contract.

The Multiple Medication Violation rules have been in place for a few years by the ARCI. The Montana Board of Horse Racing has supported this step towards monitoring racing violations around the country. Tucker asked that the board discuss the issue and formally take a stance in support. After some discussion, Member Young moved to have the board support the MMV as well as the Controlled Therapeutic Medication Schedule for horses. Montana has some of the more stricter laws when it comes to medication as no foreign substance other than bute or lasix may be found in the horse's system when racing. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

Agenda item number 9 was to update the board on the Fantasy Sports Agreement. This agreement has been completed and the board will be working with the Montana Lottery to improve the game as well as make adjustments as time goes by. It has been an excellent working relationship and the Montana Lottery has raised very much needed revenues for the board with Fantasy Sports.

Chairman Hayes asked for any public comment. A short discussion then took place on the purses in Great Falls in conjunction with the additional race day. Chairman Hayes told the board they were reviewing the costs of keeping the purses the same as 2016 or possibly reducing them a little, but still providing more racing opportunities along with more total purse money to race for.

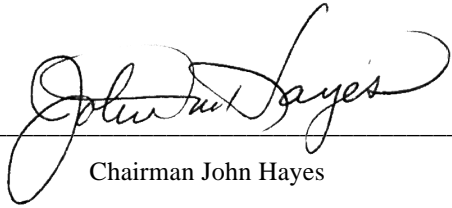
No one had anything under Old Business.

Under New Business, Member Young gave a brief discussion on the AQHA Challenge races. Tucker then discussed some of the problems with the Jockey Insurance and the need for rates to be maintained for even lowered with a larger pool of participants. Montana is just short of racing, which causes one accident to triple daily rates.

Discussion of a possible horse/breeder's sale being put together by Jim 'Champ' Christianson. Many of the details were unexplained and the board members were concerned of something taking place without questions being answered of this possible new enterprise. All board members agreed sales and breeder auctions can be beneficial to the industry, but only after a clear and detailed plan is laid out. Member Young was in favor of such an event, but had many questions that needed to be 'flushed' out.. Member Mahlum was concerned how such an event would affect the race meets in the state.

The board then set the next meeting at the July race meet in Great Falls. The next board meeting will be Saturday, July 29, 2017 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls. Meeting time is set for 10:00 a.m.

Member Egbert moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Austin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.


Chairman John Hayes

July 29, 2017

Date

