

Minutes from April 22, 2023 board meeting.

The board member in attendance were Jeff Carey, Tony Paris, Cory Larson, Jim Reese, Larry Mather, Joel McDanel, Mike Telfer.

The Secretary's report of the minutes from the last board meeting in January was approved prior to this board meeting, on a conference call, The minutes from this board meeting were from some of the conference calls. Dana handed out the small schedules for the year to each board member so they have them to pass out. Dana also handed out information to everyone on what fairs do not have their paper work into the USTA. Also included was a list of horses that according to the USTA website do not have microchipping done yet. She will continue to monitor the fair paperwork and the microchipping to make sure it is all done on time. Next topic of discussion, from the minutes, was the gates that were bought as the traveling trailer with gates. Some of the board members are going to take the new trailers to What Cheer and get the new trailers organized for the upcoming season.

Tony Paris made a motion to approve the minutes. There was a short discussion on the bleachers to the west of the grand stand in What Cheer. Because of the insurance, they have taken out the bleachers and now have picnic tables. Larry Mather seconded the motion. All ayes. The minutes are approved and they will be uploaded to the website.

As the board was getting ready to go thru the treasure's report, Matt Eide arrived. He went thru different legislation items including that the session should conclude by the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, with budget deals, property taxes, Prairie Meadows regarding the Thoroughbred horse racing to lessen the number of races or to eliminate them all together. There is a lot of things still in the works that there will still be discussions needed at the state level and with Prairie Meadows. There was a sub-committee meeting on the online gaming and online slot machines right on your phones. It is structured like sports betting where you make your deposit ahead of time and then draw down. They need to see big drops in revenue over on the Council bluffs casinos when Lincoln and Omaha really fire up. The casino association was about 70% opposed to going to online gaming and this year after about 2 years it is now about 70% in favor on online gaming. They are still working on legislative day at the races for them to come watch and participate in a day of racing sometime this year. The board wants to do something with the pork and/or beef producers or other ideas so Matt is going to try to get more information to us since we need more than a 2 or 3 week notice. They are looking to do it at What Cheer during the fair. The board is hoping to get a few different people.

Next Jim Reese went thru the treasurer's report. He gave a rundown of expenses for Jan to March 2023 and a comparison of spending over the last 2 years. Larry Mather made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Cory Larson seconded the motion. The vote taken was all ayes. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Next on the agenda was the resignation of Brandon Jenson. According to Joel McDanel, there was a caucus of a few of the Humboldt people and the suggested Joel McDanel take the district 6 board position until the end of 2025 which is when that position expires. Then the At-Large position would be open and the board feels that might be an easier position to fill. Jim Reese made a motion to move Joel McDanel to District 6 and open the At-Large position. Mike Telfer seconded the motion. The vote taken was all ayes. The board accepted the change to Joel McDanel's board position. Then they have opened the At-Large position. Dana was going to have a text sent out to all members to let them know of the change and for anyone interested in the At-Large position to call or text her by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. That position will expire

at the end of 2023 so it will be refilled at the annual meeting. Then Dana will set up a conference call with all the board members to discuss each person and make their decision from those people.

Scott Smith contacted Jeff Carey to let him know that all the racing officials have been notified and are scheduled for 2023.

Nominations were discussed next. They are updated and posted online. Dana went thru the USTA website and checked out what fairs have their paperwork in to the USTA. The list of those that are missing was given to each board member in attendance. There was a small discussion that when there is a deadline it needs to be upheld. There were a few nominations that were sent in for Iowa Sired but they did not do the Iowa Registered. They are sending their payment in including the late fee.

Next Troy Thompson who is the Director of Sales at the Holiday Inn & Suites, came in around 1pm to give us a tour of the facility. All members and Dana went thru the walk thru. Everyone agreed on this is where the banquet will be for the few years, and the first 2 board meetings of the year will be held. Troy gave us a tour of the facility. We discussed the room size where each of the separate meetings thru out the day, during the annual meeting, will be. At the end of the meeting, Joel McDanel made a motion to sign the contract with Troy Thompson for 3 years to have the meetings at the Holiday Inn & Suites Urbandale, IA. Larry Mather seconded the motion. All ayes.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Tony Paris, Jim Reese, Jeff Carey, and Mike Telfer went to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission had their annual meeting at Ameristar in Council Bluff. What Mike said in the meeting was we need to keep Prairie Meadows neutral which helps harness racing. They had about 10 questions to answer before going into the meeting. The thoroughbreds are wanting a lot more barns, dates, money etc. Prairie Meadows is giving them 3 years to get more participation on race day or other things will change. The thoroughbred people are suing Prairie Meadows now so the waters are muddy regarding racing at Prairie Meadows. Harness racing is hoping that this development will strengthen our request of getting more money in the future. Prairie Meadows does not care how the money is broken down for Iowa racing, if they don't have to pay another penny. The final vote is up to the legislation so it is critical we have legislators that are willing to back us when it comes time to vote on this. The board is trying to get Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission backing us and if Prairie Meadows stays neutral, we have a good chance that it will come out in our favor. The increase would need to be changed in the state code. The way to get the percentage up in our favor is to talk to the legislators and explain our situation. We would give the legislators a percentage we want and then they would create a bill based on that. It would need to get thru the committee then the house and senate which is where our PAC money comes into effect. Then it would be given to the Governor for her (or him) to sign off on it. You need to first make sure there is interest by talking to the legislators and greasing their wheels. The board would need to make sure they give all the important information to the politicians. That way they can decide based on facts. We get 8.75% and Mike Telfer talked about trying to double that amount by taking some from the quarterhorse's. Right now it is legislated that the money from Prairie Meadows is 15% of the slot gross income goes for purses. Iowa Harness Racing only get 1.8% of the 15%.

Then the by-law changes the Mike Telfer wanted discussed was the next item. He stated he wondered if we should have something in the by-laws for when a district board member resigns and they do not have anyone to replace them, should they make that an at-large position or combine districts. No one wanted to decide on this at this time but said it could be discussed later.

Next discussion is the triangle drag in Humboldt. The drag teeth are almost gone. Jeff Carey has a bucket of teeth that he will get to someone for Humboldt. Adam Hauser and Brett Erickson stated that they would put the teeth on when they get them. Joel McDanel will oversee making sure the drag and

conditioner are ready to go for the season. He will get parts ordered if needed. Joel McDanel also stated that he will need a couple more dump trucks of material to be put on the track. He will take care of that.

Drug testing is the next item for discussion, Tony got a quote from John Kokinos. He is a New York vet from Vernon, NY. He will provide an Abaxi vet scan blood analyzer to Iowa Harness Racing at no charge for the unit for a lease or option to buy which is right about \$10,000. The machine will analyze the TC02 levels as well as complete chemistry. Dr. Kokinos provides the equipment and the rotors to run the tests. The cost will be \$100 per test and we will need to provide needles, syringes, blood tubes to operate the machine and vet to be able to pull. We will need to refrigerate the rotors and keep them in a cooler. There is no fixed rental cost, only the variable cost to run each test, cost to ship and the shipping of the machine and the cylinders from New York. He will explain how to operate, input, do a Skype meeting or teams meeting to train the Veterinarian. This equipment is very portable. Each test takes 12 minutes to run. The equipment is accurate enough to tell if a horse has been given an excess amount of bicarbonate or other items. If the test is high, it will be able to tell if the horse is dehydrated enough to elevate the levels avoiding false positives. By using the test as a pre-race screening, you can also call a horse in high levels unfit condition to compete. It is written in the USTA by-laws that the judge can scratch the horse and Mike Morales is also going to talk to T C Lane about being able to administer days and a fine is there are high levels. The equipment can also be used to run a blood chemistry to diagnose any other diseases such as liver problems, tying up, colic and other things.

It is a very high caliper piece of equipment. If the association wants to pull blood on a horse, a vet can pull and be able to diagnose what the problem is with the horse, The cost is \$100 per test. After a lot of discussion, Tony Paris and Mike Telfer will get a proposal together to send to the USTA to see if they would be able to help with funding for this testing. There needs to be something available that gives clear and concise information on what the threshold levels are.

Next discussion is the promotions. The posters are being put together. Also, Dana talked to the radio station in Humboldt and got the price quote for putting the races on their community calendar. It is \$10.. for each race weekend. When the information is given to the radio station, all the information will be on their website and on the station 2 times each day. Everybody agreed that this should be done. Dana will take care of it. The other concern from Humboldt Fairboard is the fact that there is not the same number of dates as there is in What Cheer. They have always had the same number of dates. It was discussed that there is one weekend that we can't race in Humboldt due to the rodeo and we also don't race during the fair in Humboldt anymore. One other discussion on promotions was the give aways that are done during the races for pick the winner. Dana is going to make \$5.00 coupons as a giveaway that can be used towards merchandise instead of the prizes.

Next promotion item is Duane that does the YouTube videos is wanting a list of people for the commercial advertising that goes in-between the races. He will oversee setting up how each of the advertisers are getting their flash up ads or commercials or pictures etc. done. There can also be stallion ads if anyone is interested in advertising their stallions for breeding. Tony Paris has given Duane a list of businesses like Big Dee's, Featherweight, Mast Harness and Pennsbury, Zinger. If anybody has any other people or businesses please get ahold of Tony for him to pass along the information to Duane. Larry Mather suggested Morris at On-gait and Tony will forward that. The options will be a picture ad where you pay a set amount for the season and your picture flashes up between the races, also live videos that Duane will produce. Duane is putting different packages together so hopefully he will have that information to Tony soon. The USTA gave us \$5,000 from a grant towards the YouTube recording. Anyone interested in ads or commercials needs to get ahold of Duane prior to race day so he has time to record or produce the ads.

Chad Svendson took over the microchipping for Minnesota, Wisconsin. Garry Philips does North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana is done by Bernard Demars.

Tara has been having cell phone issues. Tony Paris is going to investigate what is going on with the cell phone and investigate what other options we have for her. That cell phone is used for entries, texting, etc. There might be other options, like a landline for incoming calls so he is going to find out what the charge would be before we decide.

Larry Mather is going to keep going with the planning of the Legislators Day at What Cheer.

There was a discussion as to whether we have 2 or 3 entrees for the banquet and what the price will be for this year's banquet. Dana will work on it and get the information ready in time for the banquet. It will be going out the paperwork at the end of the season.

Mike Telfer made a motion, at 3:07pm. to adjourn the meeting. Cory Larson seconded the motion. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.