

The meeting of the Iowa Harness Horseman's Association Board was called to order by President Royal Roland on August 24th at Maquoketa, IA approximately 30 minutes after completion of the races. The only item on the agenda was the final contract proposal from Prairie Meadows. The proposal called for fair purses of \$1.3 million, \$1.35 million and \$1.4 million from 2003 to 2005 with nine days of racing at Prairie Meadows for purses of \$350,000 each of those years. Included in the proposal would be that the track would only be scraped at the discretion of the Prairie Meadows Track Superintendent.

Royal Roland spoke in favor of the proposal. His main point of contention was that any additional money and days gained would only go to support out of state participants at the Prairie Meadows races. The other reason to agree to the contract was so members could know what was going to be available so they could purchase horses for next year.

Mark Holtan spoke against the agreement. He commented the main reason for previous decisions to take less were predicated on Prairie Meadows having less money because of tax problems. Recent court decisions have made that argument invalid because Prairie Meadows will actually have more money available. He also felt that giving up days would hurt the long-term viability of the standardbred racing at Prairie Meadows.

A motion was made by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jim Reese to reject the contract proposal from Prairie Meadows. A roll call vote was requested.

Coulter – Nay
Holtan – Aye
Reese – Aye
Hein – Aye
Jenson – Aye
McDanel – Aye
Roland, Dan – Aye

The motion was approved 7-1. President Roland will contact Prairie Meadows with the decision and determine how to proceed.

The meeting was adjourned.