

April 20, 2021 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. via ZOOM

Present: Scott Banitt, Greg Budach, Cathy Dessert, Rick Magee, Rick Bertrand, Kyle VanOtterloo, Mark Corless, Justin Anfinson, Bob Lems, Nick Roland, Jessica Johnson, Patty Strand.

Special Guest: Steve May (MRC executive director)

Steve May addressed the group and stated how happy the progression has been with the county health departments in preparation for the upcoming season. All are taking the planning very seriously and eligibility for the vaccine is very good no matter where people are from. The MRC will have test kits available if needed. He warned of the possibility of a shutdown if large outbreaks occur depending on the percentage of people that are vaccinated.

We will need to follow the CDC guidelines regarding masks and social distancing. He mentioned that he is grateful for the help our lobbyist has given at the capital with the legislative updates. The proposed changes will put us in a much better position should something happen to shut down racing resulting in fewer than 50 days of racing. Horsemen will still have input with the MRC and any change resulting in fewer days will require our approval.

Mark Corless asked about ship in requirements for horses shipping in the day of racing and requiring examinations by the state veterinarian. Steve will check on requirements and share with the horsemen.

Agenda: **Mark Corless moved to approve the agenda which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & carried.**

Mark Corless moved to approve the March minutes which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & carried.

Condition book discussion: New this year horses that win three out of the last four races for a condition will be forced to draw outside. Non -betting (undercard races) will race for the full purse.

Justin will check if they will consider Minnesota Bred races filled with 5 entries.

The condition book should state that Finals night races will be limited to 9 instead of 10 and we will be removing the limitation of 2 entries for an owner both at Running Aces and the fairs.

Rick Magee expressed concern about purse levels and claimers are going for too much money. Maidens and Non-Winners of 1 should get purse preference over claimers. Claimers should not go for more than 70% of value other than the bottom claiming classes. Rick will do some comparisons with other tracks and how they structure purses for claimers.

Combined claimers should go for the higher purse

Justin mentioned a meeting with Taro and he agreed that we will race for a minimum of 3.7 million and if projections hold we will race for 4 million in 2021 with a plan to hold back \$650,000 to \$ 700,000 for 2022.

Planned Covid protocols for 2021 include no visitors in the barn area; fans will need to go on-line to reserve tickets which will be limited to 650 with 50 in the restaurant area.

The horsemen's lounge and driver's room will be closed along with bathrooms in the office area.

Patty will send us their updates as they occur and Mark will contact Taro to push back on some of these rules.

Rick Bertrand has agreed to provide at least one horse for the Summer Fling stable.

Jessica suggested that at other tracks fractional owners can request checks be sent to them by the track instead of waiting till seasons end.

Annual meeting discussion: according to the buy-laws, it is required that we have a meeting. Patty had talked with Taro who suggested we could do a meeting under the tent in June or July.

Rick Magee suggested a Zoom meeting to meet our obligation.

It was decided that we will do a Zoom meeting on May 29th at 4:00 p.m. and Patty will put an invite out to all of our members.

Cannon Falls meet is set for May 1, & 8th.

Mark Corless moved & Justin Anfinson 2nd to approve the treasurer's report which was given by Greg Budach which then carried.

Horsemen's purse account discussion: We agreed to fund the Minnesota Bred 2 & 3 year olds at the same level as last year, 10 legs for 3 year olds and 6 legs for 2 year olds. In 2022 we will have 12 legs for 3 year olds and 8 for 2 year olds.

Justin Anfinson moved as discussed above and Mark Corless 2nd which carried.

Director's comments: Jessica Johnson mentioned the horse expo which we agreed last meeting to not participate this year.

She also suggested we talk with other tracks about driver's room protocols and suggested pushing for a golf cart for winners circle photos. Kyle VanOtterloo suggested we could drive a truck with winners riding in the back.

Next board meeting, Wednesday May 19, 7:00 P.M.

Mark Corless moved to adjourn which was 2nd by Kyle VanOtterloo & carried