

# Board Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2022- 7:00 P.M.

Present: Greg Budach, Cathy Dessert, Rick Bertrand, Nick Roland, Jessica Johnson, Jeff Ryan, Dan Roland, Bob Lems, Vikki Pfeilsticker, Kyle VanOtterloo

Absent: Kevin Decker, Justin Anfinson

Guest: Erin Bleu (lobbyist)

Agenda was approved with no motion.

Jessica Johnson moved to approve the minutes from April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Lems then carried.

Erin Bleu spoke to the board about the sports betting bill. The house passed their version which included nothing for the tracks or racing. The senate would not agree to pass it without including the two tracks. The bill looked promising but then fell apart at the end of the session. In her opinion Erin expects that the house will flip to the republican side next year and the senate should remain with the GOP which could help get the bill passed favorably for horse racing.

Running Aces has hired Curt Dowd as a lobbyist.

Erin encouraged us to form a PAC in order to increase our influence. She mentioned that PAC contributions must come from Individuals and are limited to no more than \$200 and cannot come from a corporation. Her firm (Stinson) can help us with that formation and the rules it involves.

Treasurer's report was read with a motion to approve by Bob Lems and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker which carried.

MRC update:

New interim director is Charlene Briner; Cathy Dessert will attend the next meeting scheduled for Monday via TEAMS.

Track Committee: the 3 race paddock was brought up; we are waiting to hear from Steve Carpenito for the reasoning.

We need to push for the 4 race paddock again. Cathy will contact Justin to see if he has an answer from Steve yet. We discussed conditions and the way the race office is combining and moving conditions without contacting the trainers.

We discussed the need for Kevin to be involved in the draw and discussions regarding conditions and more sensible control.

Justin will contact Steve about some of the complaints we are getting and the need to follow our contractual agreements regarding notifications on changing conditions. Kevin needs to be included in the meeting with Steve.

We are currently at \$5,900,000 for purses available for 2022.

Darin is asking for a total of \$900 from MHRI to bring Heather Vitale here for the Dan Patch race night.

Jessica Johnson moved and Bob Lems 2<sup>nd</sup> to pay \$900 to bring Heather Vitale to running Aces for Dan Patch night which carried.

Cathy Dessert asked for \$140 to cover the licensing cost for the replacement photographer.

Jessica Johnson moved and Bob Lems 2<sup>nd</sup> that we reimburse Cathy for those cost that she incurred which carried.

We discussed Rice Lake fair and Patty Strand's request for funds to support that event.

Bob Lems moved and Jessica Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> to grant \$3,000 in support of the races at Rice Lake which carried.

Wendy Haberberg had contacted Cathy about one of her former horses that they are trying to save from the kill pens.

After discussion they would need \$700 to rescue the horse and Cathy will ask Taro if Aces would be willing to pick up half of the cost.

Bob Lems moved that we pay the \$700 to save the horse and ask Running Aces to split the cost with us which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Johnson and carried.

We discussed the race bike claim from Michael Campbell which was destroyed on opening night.

Rick Bertrand moved to pay \$1500 under the sulky insurance to cover the destroyed race bike which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Lems and carried.

We discussed the request for a refrigerator in the drivers lounge and tabled till the next meeting.

A request was made to move the vending machines back into the horsemen's lounge and out of the hallway.

A suggestion was made about contacting the state vet to change the health paper policy back to the way it was before Covid for entering the stable gate.

We discussed the need for someone to advocate for Minnesota Bred horses regarding conditions and standings and the draws when communicating with Steve Carpenito.

We discussed points vs. money earned for awards which we tabled for discussion at future meetings.

Jog Cart Rides:

Running Aces will no longer be responsible for handling this. We will need to supply the horse, drivers, and someone to manage the events.

Cathy Dessert moved to hire an intern and pay them up to \$500 for the remainder of the summer to manage the horse which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker and carried.

Jessica volunteered to take care of the details.

Jessica mentioned the need to not include the 30% MN bonus money in the horses earnings when they qualify otherwise it removes the 30% allowance Minnesota Breds receive when entering.

Rick Bertand will contact Kevin to cover the details of what we discussed and follow through needed. (Draw issues, Vending machines, MN Bred dates and conditions).

Kevin has purchased the small business license from Microsoft TEAMS, he just needs to verify & finish setting it up and it will be available for future meetings. It will also have the ability to record the meetings.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> location to be determined 7:00 p.m.

Bob Lems moved to adjourn with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Bertrand and carried.