

Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025- 7:01 P.M.

Present: Justin Anfinson, Jessica Johnson, Cathy Dessert, Dan Roland, Brian Detgen, Tony Huffman, Brandon Jenson, Mikaela Del Giudice, Jay DeLong, Nicole Tate, & AJ

Absent: Greg Budach

Treas. Report: **Nicole Tate moved to approve which was 2nd by Mikaela Del Giudice and carried**

Jasmine Horvat joined the meeting at 7:04

Minutes: **Tony Huffman moved to approve which was 2nd by Jessica Johnson and carried**

Marketing Committee- Social Media policy- Nicole mentioned something that has come up multiple times, there are businesses or groups asking us to share on facebook or our website. We have decided not to share. Jessica mentioned that we had shared about a boarding facility, Rice Lake conditions, & the horse sale. We will re-share but not create a document for them. We will need to stay consistent from here forward.

Purse Update- Dan revenue update report did go out. July down 8/10th of a percent. We were excited by last month's bump, this was not what we expected. We're only 2 months into the fiscal year. Purse account- overnights are down 15%. 48k MN bred up.

We're slightly over budget on stakes races. We're only about 8500 over. 100k over-budget at the moment for MN bred. 44.1% are MN starters. More stakes horses and more MN races. We need to figure out the budget. Tony asked about short term or next year.

Dan- between the over spend 2 years ago and casino he's nervous with only 300k total reserve at the moment. In the past we try for a ½ mil reserve. There will be money to pay races out, but could make future things challenging. Discussion for next year- Condition book people. Dan says it's in the book, so we can't really cut it/change it. We could suspend the stipend- but he doesn't think it would make too much of a difference at this point.

Unfinished business-

New business

Cancelled Night 7/27- trot money- how do we want to handle that for finals? 7/27 cancelled night- MN standings- partial rain out card, the A horses didn't race, B did. Dan hasn't counted that night's money, even if they raced. This happened last year. We need to Put this in the book for next year. Dan says we should not do what happened last year.

Mikaela and Brian agree. **Dan motioned when there is a partial rain out and not all the divisions of the gait get to race, none of the money counts. Multiple divisions of a sex and gait, none of the money counts. If there's any A/b at all the money shouldn't count. 2nd = Jess.**

Who's talking to Steve- Justin normally does it. We're volunteering him. Motion passed unanimously.

Track Photographer- would get pictures to people the night or the next race night. Made it clear last year she didn't want to be the soul person doing it. Requested to be in charge of it, have people under her in training. She hired Nicole Major this year. She does the majority of race nights and fairs. It's been working out well. Nicole M does not have the printing capabilities. It's a \$1000 printer. Since the remodel there is no office.

There was plastic storage container, 3rd floor, desk in the betting trailer- not waterproof, can't leave anything there. Printing has been a bit difficult. Prints NM's on a weekly basis and does the invoices. People have been upset and have not adjusted. There have been some growing pains. Dee was weeks behind when he was here. Things from board- A- things won't change, she's doing the best she can & Is going above and beyond. Support of the board for the rest of the meet. B- how to improve? C- will not be the photographer next year. Is her doing the best she can- is that enough? Photos weekly is the plan. Jess- would it be helpful if MHRI invested in a printer? Where could we keep it?

It would need to be brought places nightly, do not leave in the trailer. Is it an easy to use printer, if we hire someone who doesn't have one, or do you special training. More colored ink than a normal printer, go through lots of ink. This isn't a solution for this year- b/c she's invoicing, there's not an easy way to change it for the next 5 weeks.

Buying a printer would be a 2026 solution. How portable is the printer? Bulky and heavy, over 10 lbs.

Dan suggests the MHRI office, not ideal for race nights- can't print between races. NM won't get them done the night of, it would be days later, even with printer. Finding an office w/ RA- the board's problem. Tony suggests a trail of NM for 2026, unsure what that would/could entail. Jess suggests we move to membership committee and keeping this as is- approved.

Possible copyright removal of start you heart video- Cathy approached by the creator of the video as to why the video isn't on the website. Personal thoughts and feelings towards it. Love the video and considered it. But with the load times, it slows it down.

We didn't want to slow the downloading down. Any and all videos do that. We could put a link to it, but that didn't seem like a great idea. If we don't post at least a link on our website, he will revoke our copyright. Jess and Cathy would like to not lose rights to it.

We're hoping it's as simple as a link on the website but need to be clarified with the maker.

Jess suggests putting the link on the horsemen's resources page, then telling him it's on there. Hoping that's the solution. If the link isn't enough, then we say no, we won't go farther. Mikaela says we don't use it and he's acting like a bully about it, don't reward his behavior. Cathy will talk to him and let him know it's done. We'll go from there.

Whips- changing companies? – AJ Jess- it is not board responsibility to find companies.

The commission made the decision. It's on them. The entire board agrees. If they want to change, that's on them.

Next meeting date – Tuesday Sept 30th 7 pm.

Closed Portion

MN Bred Survey 80 responses so far. Tony sent out a summery. Do we announce there's a deadline? Deadline to look at results and make decisions. A week from tomorrow- posting tomorrow. The expanding the MN program question is vague, and maybe people are going to mis-interrupt that one. People are going to think its days or MN preferred. Not the MN only program. Which tracks people are going to- that data seems a bit skewed.

Expanding the MN Sired Program if people ask, can we talk about it now? We won't approach people about it, but the cat's really out the bag at this point. Jess said- you have to look at the little things being done, they will take things away – race days, number of races, advertising horses less, promos involving racing, - and then be like why can't get horses, we need to decouple. Dan sees our political activities committee to protect us and be proactive. Tony says we should make decisions by Sept 1st, gives people time to plan. Is that fair? Jess says no, we have a lot to decide in 10 days.

Mikaela- the sale is important, but too soon. Jess says take time and don't rush a decision.

On Track Vet- 1:35 ish Laura gets burned out and takes off a day week. Plus the farms on Friday. We need a vet 7 days a week on site. 2-3 am injecting on a race night. And if you need lasix early in the morning, it doesn't happen. If anyone has any leads for 2026.

Jess- I don't disagree at all. It could be easy taken offense. It was a nightmare in years past to find a vet. We need to do it in a careful way so she doesn't quit. MRC put it on MHRI to find a track vet pre-laura. We had a contract with cby's vet paid them a per diem. There are no requirements on hours. Pull Laura into the conversation, before we get too far into this. A lot of people don't want to come to RA- there's so many things not allowed, so they need a special vehicle for just RA. If we find a part timer- we need to split things up- lasix is good/easy money. Nicole suggested hiring someone under her, so she still gets the money and control. Vet tech not allowed by MRC. Tony suggested fresh out of vet school intern- something to consider. Internship. Dan- vet tech- finding seasonal is hard. MRC won't allow them to do anything without her there, so it doesn't actually help out. Survey comments- need another vet on the grounds. Not enough business to support 2 people. She's not opposed to have another vet, but she doesn't think it's sustainable. 3 to 9 months before people pay, not exactly ideal clientele.

Nicole is willing to check with U of MN. Worried about a different vet setting their prices, horsemen don't pay full retail, but also needs to be worth their time and finically. If we can find someone who just wants to help a little bit, but has another job, that would be ideal.

Dan added- Ian sent an email- FAN DUAL is entering prediction markets. This is the way around sports wagering. It's a big hot button thing in the USA. There's no federal regulations. 3 states are in litigation on it. Dan is forwarding the email.

Adjournment- **Nicole. Jess. 8:50 motion passed.**

Cancelled night- the pay out does not count towards finals. It does not show up on the usta b/c there's no lines to go with it. Steve does not count it. Those who did race, their money counts.

Vet- not enough work for 2. Has asked in the past- Stillwater and sunrise for emergency reasons, they won't get licenses. Must be approved by Dr. Hovda & MRC. 5 to 9 months before payment.

No appointment system. MHRI used to pay Kara to be here.

Whips- 33", no popper, no loop. Yonies makes them currently. Do we want to stay with them? Or see if another company will make them? There are different qualities from the mfg. (says Selina)

