

# Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

April 21st, 2022 4pm – Northville Downs

## MEETING MINUTES

1. Meetings Call to Order – 4:14 PM
2. Moment of Silence - NONE
3. Motion to Excuse Absent Members - NONE
4. Guests: Carrie Marotta, Marilyn Bertera, Frank Marotta, Julie DeMull, Skip Demull
5. Approval of Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of April Agenda - Earls/Taylor/Unanimous
  - b. Approval of March Minutes - Davidson/Marotta/Unanimous
  - c. Approval of March Financial Statements – Terrell/Marotta/Unanimous
6. Reports:
  - a. President – President Barrett gave his updated report and highlight the roughly 195k in purse money spent during the first mini series. He also indicated to the board that potential use of the trackmaster system in a 2<sup>nd</sup> mini-series in response to several issues with the NDs race office. He also gave an update on what he has heard related to the development of NDs and his belief that 2024 or 2025 would be the last year of racing at the current location.
  - b. Treasurer – Treasurer Terrell gave her update and highlighted several figures including that simulcast handle was up 3.2% year over year, that live handle was roughly 30k through 11 days (which was done slightly year over year) and that the current purse structure was 78k/night which was a little higher than we had budgeted at the beginning of the meet.
  - c. Legislative – Midwest Strategy Group gave an updated related to the HHR legislation currently in House Regulatory Reform Committee. The Board has reviewed a draft substitute and continues to support both the HHR legislation and legislation raising or removing the cap to the AEIDF from internet/sports wagering with the hope of sending all those bills to the Governor together. Additionally, the MHHA is also looking to get an increase in the annual spending lines for the AEIDF in this years budget which would lead to increases in purse money for MOB horses at NDs, fair programing, and the Sire Stakes program.
  - d. Scholarship - Claudia Davidson gave an update related to the scholarship committee and noted that they were ready to review the submitted applications ahead of the May meeting for final board approval of the scholarships.
  - e. Pari-Mutuel Track – The board talked at length about a number of items related to NDs, the facilities, and the race office.

- f. Colt Stakes – Midwest Strategy Group noted that the number of horses nominated to the summer programs was up year over year and that final MDARD applications from the fairs were received and the fairbook was in draft ahead of the summer program.
- g. Horse Racing Advisory – Thomas Barrett indicated that the HRAC had not met since the last board meeting with the next HRAC meeting scheduled for May. He did note that 56 MSU students were attending NDs on Friday night as part of a partnership between Brian Nielson the HRAC chair and NDs/MHHA.

7. Old Business:

- a. Click Members – Membership Database Management Update – Midwest noted that implementation on the new member management software was underway and that in May they hoped to present to the board a more detailed update on the system, how it works, and the benefits to members.
- b. GL Amateur Series Follow Up – The GL Amateur series will start on Fridays beginning May 6<sup>th</sup> at NDs.
- c. Mini Series Discussion – The board talked at length about a new mini-series to close the meet and utilize licensed track line money. The board discusses the potential of using the trackmaster system to draw divisions and that horses would be drawn inside if they had a lower trackmaster score. The goal is to finalize mini-series conditions ahead of the next board meeting.
- d. Northville Race Office/MGCB – Brett Boyd
- e. Fair Overnight Program – The board took up Kim Pluta's proposal to subsidize the overnight fair purses with ADW money. The board approved spending to get purses to an est. purse of 2500.00/race for the 2022 summer races. (Davidson/Boyd/Unanimous)

8. New Business:

- a. 2022-2023 AEIDF Budget Presentation – MWSG gave a presentation, available online related to the AEIDF fund, and the ability to create a self-sustaining program that prefunds all the line items year over year. With the board's support the MHHA is pushing for this inclusion in the budget.
- b. Gate Training Discussion – The board discusses and approved the spending of 1000/track who hosts a gate training day. Boyd/Pluta/Unanimous.
- c. Conversation about a Track Liaison – The board discussed the possibility of getting a track liaison to deal with issues related to the track and facilities, but ultimately were concerned about the cost and concerns about hiring an individual as an employee. Right now, the MHHA has no employees.
- d. HISA (Horse Racing Integrity Authority) Conversation – The Board discussed the latest related to HISA and decided to urge the MGCB to opt out of the program. A letter will be sent from the MHHA indicating our opposition.

9. MHHA Member Comments – Marilyn Bertera provided the board with a written list of race office issues from the spring meet.

10. Board of Director Comments

11. Adjourned 7:16 PM - Next Meeting – Northville Downs May 19th, 2022

DRAFT