

# Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

May 20th, 2021 4 pm – Northville Downs

## Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
  - a. Moment of Silence – Cheryl Cumming and Dena Cobb
2. Motion to Excuse Absent Members (Motion made by Kim Pluta, passed unanimously)
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Past Minutes
5. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave his report and spoke of continued struggles with the Northville Downs race office and our efforts to have fewer mistakes and better communication. Additionally, he recognized the issues the trackmaster scores were creating as it related to competitive races and our desire to correct that moving forward. He noted the uphill battle we continue to face legislatively but his optimism for getting some bills passed this year that would increase revenue.
6. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave the treasurers report and noted the 10% bump to purses which is attributable to the new ADW revenue and that she believes that purse level is sustainable.
7. MHHA Member Comments: Brett Boyd spoke and gave an update about his efforts to help move legislation forward. He is particularly interested in a package that would lift the 3M cap on revenue from internet gaming.
8. Old Business:
  - a. Summer Program Update - MWSG gave a brief update on the summer program which seen an increase in horse nominate to the program from recent years. They noted that Croswell is moving their fair dates to July.
  - b. Marilyn provided an update from the USTA on the Horse Racing Integrity Act and potential lawsuits from Oklahoma and Texas. The federal act is not likely to impact Michigan as we do not currently have thoroughbred horses running in this state.
9. New Business:
  - a. Scholarship Committee and Applications – The board approved the awarding of 5 scholarships to applicants of the annual MHHA scholarship program. The five applicants received various amount ranging from 1500.00 to 500 to continue their education. (Motion Claudia Davidson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Pluta, Unanimous)
  - b. Annual Banquet/New DHHS Requirements – The board discussed the new DHHS requirements and determined that we would be able to host an annual banquet for members in June with the latest easing of restrictions. The banquet will be held on Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 4-10pm.
10. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group provided a legislative update on 3 different sets of bills moving their way through the legislature all aimed at generating more revenue for Michigan horse racing. Two of those sets of bills have passed he first chamber, while the other has passed its first committee process. The goal is to have a comprehensive package of bills signed by the Governor by the end of the year.

11. Board of Director Comments:
12. EXECUTIVE SESSION–
13. Next Board Meeting: June 17th (pending);4pm
14. Meeting Adjourned – 6:10PM