

## **Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association**

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 4 pm — Northville Downs

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
  - a. Moment of Silence: Linda Jones, Carl Keys,
2. Approval of Agenda – (Davidson/West/Unanimous)
  - a. – A motion was made to excuse the absence of Kelly Goodwin and Ed Embach (Terrell/Davidson/Unanimous)
3. Approval of Minutes – May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – (Davidson/Earls/Unanimous)
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave the President's report and announced that the board had put in a joint application with Northville Downs for 52 days of live racing next year. Live racing would take place on Fridays and Saturday's March 20<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup> and then again on Friday's and Saturdays from Sept 11<sup>th</sup> – November 28<sup>th</sup>. The MHHA also negotiated a contract extension with Northville Downs that is also on the agenda for later in the meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave a treasurer's report and announced that Northville would deposit 2.1 million to the Ag Equine Fund this year and 1.6 million to purses.
6. MHHA Member Comments: None.
7. Old Business:
  - a. EZ Texting Update – MWSG gave a brief update on the newly installed texting service that was utilized this summer for the first time. The program seems to be very successful and welcomed by a majority of the members.
8. New Business:
  - a. Summer Stakes Program Review – The board had a lengthy discussion about the summer program and worked to implement some minor changes to help continuously improve the program moving forward. Changes likely to be implemented next year include:
    1. No longer accepting nominations over the phone
    2. Moving to one Nomination/Sustaining Book with every form rather than separate links on the websites.
    3. New Language in the condition sheets regarding charted lines and ensuring that language is more uniform across all of the summer races.
  - b. New Northville Downs Contract – The board approved a new contract with Northville Downs through December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2024. (Sweeney/Davidson/Unanimous)

- c. State of Michigan Budget Update – Midwest Strategy Group gave a brief update on the budget conversations happening in Lansing with no official deal yet made between GOP legislative leaders and a Democratic Governor with less than a week before the start of the next fiscal year.
- d. Set Nov/Dec Meeting – The board debated about holding one joint Nov/Dec meetings vs two separate meetings given the holiday season. The board opted to hold a November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (the week before Thanksgiving) and then tentatively plan on a December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting as well.
- e. Plan for Annual Meeting in January – The board set the date for the Annual Meeting and Banquet for Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> in Howell. Board member Davidson will take the lead on banquet planning.
- f. The board voted on a number of spending and policy motions:
  - 1. Becoming an associate member of the Horse Council for an annual cost of 45 dollars. (Marotta/West/Unanimous)
  - 2. Spend 600.00 for a PR package next year covering press releases on the winners of all the summer races. (Davidson/West/Unanimous)
  - 3. Spend 750.00 to purchase a double seated jog cart for the MHHA to use at events/fairs/derby day/parades/etc. (Davidson/Sweeney/Unanimous)
  - 4. MHHA supports the “Feed Bills” which would place a small assessment on feed purchases for the sole purpose of creating a fund dedicated to the promotion of the equine industry in Michigan. (Davidson/Sweeney/Unanimous)
- 9. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave an update on the pending gaming legislation in Lansing and highlighted some of the house fiscal numbers surrounding some of the gaming proposals and how much revenue that might add to horse racing here in Michigan.
- 10. Board of Director Comments:
- 11. Next Board Meeting: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4pm Location TBD
- 12. Meeting Adjourned

