

DRAFT MINUTES
OQHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 24, 2009
Heritage Place Club, Noon

Meeting was called to order by Phillip Stewart, President.

Directors Present for meeting: Phillip Stewart, Lake Newcomb, Butch Wise, Matt Witman, Leon Red, Mark Sellers, Dr. Bullock, Bobby Webb, Wendy Ingersoll-Keener, Dee Raper, Clayton Keys, Eddie Willis, Connie Barnes, and Sammy Hester. Guests included Tommy Thomas, Haley Atwood, Darren Williams, and Donald Kendrix.
OQHRA Staff: Debbie Schauf

Tommy Thomas and Haley Atwood gave an update and led discussion on 2009 Legislative issues. There was an active discussion of the dentistry issue.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Dr. Bullock) moved that OQHRA should support language that does not require a veterinarian to perform or supervise tooth floating including the removal of enamel points and leveling of the dental arcades in cattle and horses, and non surgical removal of wolf teeth in horses. Motion Carried

Discussion on SB 820 which increases the percentage of OKB funds that can be used by the commission to administer the program and would allow expenditures from the Oklahoma Breeding Development fund for care of retired or unwanted racehorses. OQHRA previously voted not to support legislation that used OKB funds for that purpose. The directors expressed the following concerns and asked Debbie and Tommy to work with bill sponsors to address the concerns:

1. not restricted to Thoroughbreds
2. no limitation on amount of fund that can be used for unwanted or retired OKB horses.
3. doesn't specify OKB Accredited or that have raced in OK
4. OQHRA would support language to make this possible upon request by the recognized horsemen's representative organization for the breed(s) of horse that will be eligible for the program, if the legislation is amended to clarify or specify that only Accredited OKB horses that have raced in Oklahoma would be eligible for participation.

Tommy reported that he had a discussion with the lobbyist for the Cherokee tribe and was told that as of that time she did not have instruction to further pursue legislation to move Fair Meadows races to Will Rogers Downs.

The board then discussed hosting a legislative reception at the History Center to showcase the Quarter Horse industry and to encourage participation by the various farms and Heritage Place to give them a sense of the scope of the industry in Oklahoma.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Bobby Webb) moved to have staff plan a reception for legislators at History Center. Motion Carried.

Dee asked Tommy to check into what changes there were in current law that would affect farm vehicles and require CDL licenses.

Phillip then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting

MOTION: Butch Wise (Dr Bullock) moved to approve minutes of February meeting. Motion carried.

Due to illness of Finance committee chairperson, Ed Melzer, Debbie presented the current financials and reviewed the proposed 2009 budget recommended by the finance committee. The directors went thru the line item totals proposed for income and expenses.

MOTION: Dee Raper (Butch Wise) moved increase the compensation for the lobbyist by \$500 per month beginning in April, 2009. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Dee Raper (Lake Newcomb) moved to approve lease agreement for office with the revised term of 2 years with an additional option to renew for a third year under the same lease terms. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Dee Raper) moved to approve the proposed budget for Capitol Expenditures, the 2009 proposed operations budget for OQHRA without the inclusion of income from the TRAO endorsement fee, and the proposed budget for 2009 Marketing and Promotion. Motion Carried.

Debbie reported on an inquiry with regard to Benevolence as to whether the expense of counseling would be an eligible submission for payment or reimbursement.

MOTION: Bobby Webb (Dr. Bullock) moved to allow consideration of claims for counseling so long as the amounts paid do not exceed either the individual or family limitations in the current guidelines. Motion Carried.

The board considered the issue of acceptance of the TRAO check that was intended to represent 10% of the TRAO net revenue for the alliance they have with Remington Park Disseminating Company for simulcast distribution to Oklahoma Tribal locations. Previously the board had voted at the February meeting to accept the check if the attorney felt confident there is no apparent liability for OQHRA or establishment of a precedent by acceptance of the check. Debbie reported that based on her conversations and exchange of emails with the attorney and the accountant she did not feel comfortable making the decision to deposit the check without further direction from the board.

There was a lot of discussion from directors and questions about the response of the attorney and accountant with regard to the issue. There was also conversation about the history of the offer of compensation from tribal simulcasting that was previously not approved by OQHRA and the implications of accepting that type of compensation at this time. Some members expressed concern about the unwillingness of the RPDC principals

to disclose information about the sources of the funding and the expenses deducted to arrive at the net income. Several of the directors spoke as to their personal reasons for supporting or opposing the acceptance of the funds.

MOTION: Dee Raper (Matt Witman) moved to return the check to the TRAO. Motion Carried with two dissenting votes.

MOTION: Bobby Webb (Matt Witman) moved to approve OQHRA acceptance of the AQHA Affiliates agreement for 2009. Motion Carried.

The board discussed the order issued by the racing commission at the February meeting to distribute the simulcast breakage and unclaimed ticket money from Fair Meadows for the Oklahoma Bred Program based on the number of races for each breed as approved in the 2009 license application.

MOTION: Bobby Webb (Matt Witman) moved to formally request the racing commission determine the appropriate distribution of the simulcast breakage and unclaimed ticket money from the dark days before, between, or after the live race meetings at Remington Park for the Oklahoma Bred Program in 2009. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Matt Witman) moved to request that the racing commission make further determinations with regard to the appropriate distribution of simulcast breakage and unclaimed ticket money for the Oklahoma Bred Program at all Oklahoma racetracks a part of the annual licensing process. Motion Carried.

The board reviewed the number of horses with papers in the office by breed at Remington Park Quarter Horse meet and Will Rogers Downs Mixed Meet for 2009.

Debbie talked about the problem filling some of the P&A races, especially at 870 yards and related a request to consider allowing mixed breeds to run in those races. The board discussed the issues surrounding the mixing of the money for the breeds when the races have mixed breeds. No action was taken but the tracks will be encouraged to use races for P&A with conditions that are difficult to fill with less than full fields if those horses have not been afforded opportunities to run during the meets.

The board members discussed possible persons to be submitted for consideration of an appointment to the racing commission and were encouraged to stay at Heritage Place for a 6 PM reception for Lt. Governor Jari Askins.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.