

DRAFT MINUTES
OQHRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JUNE 16, 2009 @ Noon
Heritage Place Restaurant

Directors present: Phillip Stewart, Jeff Tebow, Lake Newcomb, Andy Golden, Butch Wise, Stacy Charette-Hill, Matt Witman, Leon Red, Mark Sellers, Dr. Bill Bullock, Bobby Webb, Wendy Ingersoll-Keener, Randy Hill, Dee Raper, Clayton Keys, Connie Barnes, and Sammy Hester. Others in attendance: Debbie Schauf, executive director; Skip Stucks, Donald Kendrix, Tommy Thomas, Haley Atwood, Fred Hutton and Darren Williams.

Meeting was called to order by Phillip. Tommy and Haley gave an update on the legislative interim studies that have been requested and the fact that many of the legislators are intensifying their fundraising efforts for the upcoming election year. They will provide the board a list of recommended contributions for consideration and recommendation to the PAC committee.

Fred Hutton, RP Racing Secretary, talked to the directors about the 2010 application by Remington Park. The management would like to run the finals of the 7 stakes races on closing day, Monday, May 31. That is Memorial Day and would be afternoon racing. The board did NOT think that was a good suggestion at all. Additionally, they were informed that RP is requesting approval of conditions for the RP Futurity that would take 12 finalists from the trials to the final rather than 10. That also was met with a negative reception and there was grave concern that it would jeopardize the number of horse owners that would even be willing to pay into the race under those conditions. The application also is only for a 50 day meet with 10 races per day rather than the 11 races we had for 2009. There was extended discussion about whether to try to influence some change in the plans now, or if it was more prudent to wait and see how the sale of the track proceeds between now and September. Additional concerns were expressed with the offering of any claiming races for two year olds at a price less than \$6500 bottom, and the need to write at least one overnight handicap type stake race for OKB horses (25% above the overnight purse level) for every weekend of the meet to give the OKB horses more opportunity to compete for black type. There was also much discussion about whether or not now was the time to try to put together another Futurity at Remington with a purse of \$1 Million, and if so – which of the current programs should be targeted for the growth. Also considered was the issue of retaining or forfeiting the preference date when racing in trials and the difficulty in getting 2 year olds in races to break their maidens.

ACTION ITEM: Phillip appointed a committee consisting of Butch Wise, Sammy Hester, Clayton Keys, Lake Newcomb, Wendy Ingersoll-Keener, Debbie, and Fred to further refine the 2010 stakes schedule and racing issues and bring back to the board at the July meeting for further consideration. They also suggested having a public meeting for all interested horsemen on July 8 at FMT to discuss the potential schedule, etc. for 2010 and get input from our membership.

Lloyd Scherwinski discussed the suggestion in his letter to Scott Wells relating to establishing a funding mechanism for additional compensation to assistant starters in an effort to obtain better qualified individuals to handle the horses for QH, P, and A races at Oklahoma racetracks. There was a lot of discussion on this issue and some suggestion that it would require at least an additional amount of \$60,000 approximately to provide compensation at a level that would attract qualified hands for the job. Lots of discussion but no real solutions and ultimately the board asked for this issue to return on the July agenda for further consideration.

After a short break the meeting reconvened with regular schedule of business:

MOTION: Jeff Tebow (Matt Witman) moved to approve minutes of May regular meeting. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to approve minutes of May Special meeting. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to accept minutes of Personnel Committee meeting in May. Motion carried.

Jeff Tebow, chair of personnel committee meeting then asked about how many resumes had been received in response to notice that OQHRA was seeking a qualified Assistant Director. Debbie responded that there were six or seven submissions. A meeting of the personnel committee was scheduled for June 25th and staff was requested to email the resumes to the committee members for review prior to the meeting.

The board reviewed the current balance sheets and profit and loss statements for 2009 year to date and asked a few questions about the information provided. Debbie also informed board that the 2008 annual audit was completed and would be forthcoming for their inspection.

The members reviewed a draft of letter requested at the special meeting to inform the commission of the discussion with WRD relating to a denial of the request to extend the 2008-2009 agreement for reduction in races for QH,P, and A.

MOTION: Bobby Webb (Matt Witman) moved to approve the letter as drafted and have each member of the board present at today's meeting sign the letter prior to it being transmitted to the commission. Motion Carried.

Debbie informed the board that the commission had approved the joint request to transfer WRD funds to FMT for QH, P&A purses for 2009. As of today there has been no funds transfer, but WRD has signed the request to transfer form letter.

Debbie also explained concerns with a shortfall in the Tribal contributions to the Tulsa Area Tribal Purse Fund for the current year. Projected shortfall at this time is approximately \$1.8 Million, 40% of that for QH, and 10% for P&A. This could impact

purse levels at BRD this fall. With the carryover at BRD currently she anticipates that there will be about 10% to 12% less money available than previously anticipated.

She also reported that there is still little known about the pending sale of BRD and no application has been submitted by the prospective purchasers.

Debbie shared a request from Keith Stallborries relating to an expansion of material available on our websites and was directed to pursue a proposal from Stallborries, et al and run it past the Marketing Committee.

The directors concurred with the recommendation that a special meeting be scheduled for July 21 to further consider the racing schedules at OK tracks, the proposed stakes schedule for Remington Park, and to hear any additional recommendations from directors regarding the 2010 Stallion Service Auction, or other OQHRA race programs.

The board reviewed the agenda for the OHRC meeting on Thursday, June 18 and the proposed rules for distribution of simulcast purse money and OKB funding. There was general support for either of the alternative language proposals submitted by OHRC counsel from the AG's office but no one was quite sure what the reaction of the TB horsemen would be. The members reviewed the effects of the split based on number of races, number of race days, and discussed the effects of the proposal for 50% split based on live races and 50% split based on incoming simulcast breeds but took no action until they learned what direction the commission will take at Thursday's meeting. There was also discussion about the concerns about the burden for the cost of steroid testing on the tracks prior to implementation of the threshold, and subsequent to the implementation when it was not know at the time those tracks established their 2009 budgets.

Debbie asked each Director to take the 2008 Necropsy report from OSU home and take some time to study the information. The report is well done and provides valuable information.

Sammy Hester moved to adjourn the meeting shortly before 4 PM. Motion carried.