

**MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 16, 2009**

**Meeting called to order at 10:15 AM.**

**Fair Hill Natural Resource and Management Area, Elkton, Maryland**

**Board members present were:** Ronald MacNab, Karen Fulton, Kathleen Tabor, Erin Pittman, Keith Wills, Dorothy Troutman, Jim Steele, Kathy Howe, Eli Solomon and Trish Gilbert.

**Also present were:** Rob Burk (for Secretary Hance), Beverly Raymond, Peggy Morgan, Liz Farmer, Joanne Young, Ralph Young, and David Yeats-Thomas.

**Board members unable to attend:** Dr. John Lee Jr.

**1. Motion was made to accept the September Meeting Minutes of the MHIB.**

- **Moved: Dorothy Troutman**
- **Second: Ronald MacNab**
- **Motion: Passed**

**2. Introduction of the new MHIB members by Jim Steele.**

- All those in attendance introduced themselves.

**3. Academic Equine Community update by Erin Pittman.**

- Erin reported that the November Maryland Horse Symposium that is normally put on by the University was cancelled. There is no longer a horse extension coordinator to organize it.
- The University is working on organizing the University Seminar Series for the January 21-24, 2010 Maryland Horse World Expo.
- All State employees have mandatory furlough leave during the current fiscal year.

**4. General Public by Dorothy Troutman.**

- Dorothy provided updates about the Prince George's Equestrian Center.

**5. Officers of Human Societies by Kathy Howe.**

- Kathy reported that unwanted horse numbers remain high and the rescues are full.

- The number of starvation cases is on the rise.
- Kathy has been invited back as a member onto the Unwanted Horse Coalition.
- Kathy feels this will trickle down to animal control as more owners are unable to care for the horses they have.
- Kathleen Tabor noted that her clients are reporting leased horses being returned to their owners in poor condition.
- Rob noted that there was discussion at the Forum about having a longer forum dedicated to the Unwanted Horse. Beverly noted that there are 8 new licensed rescues. Beverly and Kathy said they would meet on having the MARES group host an Unwanted Horse Forum in Maryland.

**6. Licensed Stable Operators update by Karen Fulton.**

- Karen discussed wanting a list of email addresses for licensed stables in the State.

**7. Maryland Department of Agriculture update by Rob Burk.**

- Rob reported that the MHIB and the Vet. Board are moving to a different location within the MDA building.

**8. Standardbred sector by Eli Solomon.**

- Eli thanked the members in attendance at the July meeting of the MHIB and invited all of the new members to attend the summer meeting of the Board at Ocean Downs in 2010.
- Eli reported that Mr. Rickman was awarded a license for slots in September. Mr. Rickman estimates a slot opening at Ocean Downs by Memorial Day 2010.
- Cloverleaf Enterprises the management arm of Rosecroft Raceway went into bankruptcy in June. There continue to be hearings on this matter. The contract for sale of Rosecroft with Mr. Vogel has been signed but is awaiting approval of a racing license, and that the contract is approved by the bankruptcy court. A number of Thoroughbred entities have filed motions to block the sale but they have been rejected. Any creditor that wants to file an objection has to do so by October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Rob reported that Eli bred the winner of the Old Oak and Bucket in Delaware, Ohio in world record time.

**9. Thoroughbred Sector update by Jim Steele.**

- Jim provided a review of the Rosecroft sale from his perspective.
- Jim reported that the Keeneland sale was off by 33%. Maryland mirrored that decline however the average did not go down, but the median went down. Jim felt that at this point very few breeders are making any money at the moment. He stated that there will be major changes to the industry in the next year.
- Jim discussed the current bankruptcy proceedings of Magna, the owners of the operating Thoroughbred tracks.
- Rob reported that Jim bred the winner of the Juvenile race at the Maryland Million.

**10. General Public by Kathleen Tabor.**

- Kathleen is looking to compile the contact information for all those companies involved in the Trade and Support Industries.
- Beverly discussed the Maryland Horse Council Business Network and Crystal encouraged Kathleen to be actively involved.

**11. Trails and Recreational Riding by Ronald MacNab.**

- Ron spoke of the great success of the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum.
- He addressed the need for county coordinators. He stated that they were lacking one in Prince George's County.
- Ron stated that they had received permission from the Patuxent State Park and WSSC to do trail clearance.

**12. Maryland Horse Council by Keith Wills.**

- Keith reported on the current activities of the MHC.
- Keith reported that he no longer sits on the executive board of the MHC.
- November 17 is the joint meeting of the MHC and the MHIB and Keith encouraged the board to attend. This was a date change from the original MHIB schedule. There was a discussion of why that time of year was chosen for the meeting, the main reason was that it would allow the industry members to become familiar with Annapolis at a time other than during the legislative session.
- There was a review of the MHC annual BBQ.

**13. Budget update by Rob Burk.**

- Rob reviewed the MHIB budget. Rob reported that the current General Fund balance was \$47,034, and the Special Fund balance was \$149,843.
- The MHIB had spent \$14,234 in General Funds, and \$33,157 in Special Funds during the current fiscal year.
- Rob discussed the status of the MHIB revenue. Ronald MacNab asked if the account rolled over at the end of the fiscal year, and Rob reported that yes as of the current fiscal year.
- Rob discussed the expenditures the board has already agreed to for the current fiscal year.
- There was a discussion about the need to replace the vehicle of Beverly Raymond as it was now over the mandatory 100,000 miles of use required by the State, and it was starting to experience more regular repairs. Rob reported that it will need to be covered by the special fund of the board according to the budget office of the MDA. If the Board does not purchase a new vehicle for Beverly by January 2010, she will have to wait until January 2011. There was discussion of the type of vehicle that was needed. Rob was informed by Assistant Secretary that he was not in support of trucks being purchased. The Board could purchase a hybrid, but Rob felt the cost was not cost effective for the Board.
- Rob discussed the vehicle that Larry Blickman (Vet. Board) currently drives a Chevy Colorado.

- **Motion was made to table purchasing a new vehicle for Beverly until the next fiscal year and to look into purchasing a vehicle with a higher clearance than Ford Focus.**
- **Motion: Kathleen Tabor**
- **Second: Dorothy Troutman**
- **Motion Passed**

**14. Feed Update by Rob Burk.**

- Rob discussed the feed assessment increase and showed the Board the new store signs that are being distributed around the State. All manufacturers have been notified of the increase.
- Rob reviewed all of the assessments from the previous 3 quarters.
- Rob felt the continued decline of feed assessments were most likely due to the loss of breeding horses in the State.

**15. SWEBO update by Rob Burk.**

- Rob discussed the location of a business center for the Swedish bio-energy firm SWEBO to Annapolis, MD. They specialize in converting horse waste into energy.
- The board discussed possible locations for the pilot project in the State. The board discussed various sites including the Prince George's Equestrian Center.

**16. Census update by Jim Steele.**

- The Board discussed setting up a census committee, reviewed the census publicity brochure and the survey. Rob supplied those to the Board for further review.
- Crystal, Erin, and Kathleen volunteered to be a part of a census committee. Erin asked who else would be a part of the committee, and Rob stated that yes there could be any number of additional members of the committee.
- Rob discussed additional questions that should be asked in the census.

**17. Horse Forum Report Update by Rob Burk.**

- Rob updated that status of the Horse Forum Report, and he stated that Kathy, Jim, Steuart, and Crystal had not supplied their sections yet, and the deadline was quickly approaching.
- Rob will send out the report via email to the Board for review.

**18. Promotions by Rob Burk.**

- Rob discussed that there is an effort being led by Ellie Trueman to develop a marketing plan for the industry. Rob will continue to provide updates on that effort.

**19. Stable Inspectors Reports by Beverly Raymond and Peggy Morgan.**

- Beverly reviewed her inspections over the past several months.
- Peggy provided a review of her inspections.

- Rob noted that he is going to review all of the applications because he has been hearing that there are facilities that are listed as not having been relicensed, and they state that they did apply for a license.
- Kathleen asked if the application could become non-date specific. Rob discussed some minor issues that might arise from a non-date specific form. Rob said he would work on it.
- There was a discussion about pro-rating late licensees. Rob stated that it would have to be a statutory change.
- Rob stated that there were 500 current licenses, and 160 delinquent licensees in the database. There is an additional 64 facilities under investigation for operating without a license. There was a discussion over the investigation process.

**20. 2010 Meeting Schedule by Kathleen Tabor.**

- Kathleen asked that the meeting continue to move around the State and that the schedule be distributed in the near future.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Burk