

**MARYLAND HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 8, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Timonium, Maryland

Board members present were: Erin Pittman, Keith Wills, Carol Wicker, Charles C. Fenwick, Jr., Jim Steele, Michelle Jennings, and Trish Gilbert.

Also present were: Rob Burk (for Secretary Hance), Beverly Raymond, Peggy Morgan, Steuart Pittman, Sam Pittman, and Andy Pittman.

Board members unable to attend: Dorothy Troutman, Kathy Howe, Dr. John Lee Jr., and Eli Solomon.

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

- **Moved: Charles C. Fenwick, Jr.**
- **Second: Trish Gilbert**
- **Motion: Passed**

2. Academic Equine Community update by Erin Pittman.

- Erin reviewed some of the upcoming activities of the University of Maryland – Equine Studies program.

3. Maryland Horse Council by Steuart Pittman and Keith Wills.

- Steuart Pittman presented the Maryland Horse Industry Board with a list of legislative and policy priorities of the Maryland Horse Council (MHC) for the coming year. Among those issues presented:
 - Horse Park and Competition Venue Support – the MHC pledges to support and encourage the activities of the MHIB to identify a site for the Maryland Horse Park.
 - Livestock Import/Export Facility – the MHC supports efforts to move this project forward.
 - Statewide Marketing initiative – the MHC is working with its members to move forward a plan on this matter. The MHC believes that the MHIB was created to market the industry to the public.

- Promote Racing and Implement Slots - the MHC has discussed the future of racing in MD and has pledged to mobilize support of the racing sector when called upon.
 - Protecting the Bay and Going Green – MHC sees the environmental community as a powerful future ally. MHC supports the efforts of the soil conservation programs of MD, and the research of the University of Maryland in the area of pasture management.
 - Preserving and Protecting Our Farms from Bad Public Policy – Is monitoring closely the zoning and land preservation regulations in the counties. The MHC is working to see if the new law related to defining equine activities as agricultural in nature can be used to assist in these matters.
 - Educating and Expanding Our Work Force – The MHC will introduce a new MHC Business Network to their membership in the near future.
 - Maintaining, Expanding, and Improving Trails – MHC is looking into ways to build the Trail Riders of Today (TROT) and MHC relationship. The MHC pledges to work hard to preserve federal trails money, and keep public trails open to equestrian use.
 - Follow – up with the Governor – MHC will follow to the Maryland Horse Forum and stay in contact with the staff in the Governor’s office and find every opportunity to keep the MHC’s issues on the Governor’s agenda.
- Stuart and Keith Wills also discussed the upcoming Annual Barbeque of the Maryland Horse Council, set for September 19.
 - Stuart expressed his reservations about the 2010 Maryland Equine Census.
- 4. Licensed Stable Operators update by Carol Wicker.**
- Carol updated the Board regarding activities on her farm, and of the Pasadena Horse and Pony Association.
- 5. Maryland Department of Agriculture update by Rob Burk.**
- Rob updated the Board on current MDA activities, and the current budget status of the MDA.
- 6. Organized Shows and Competitions Update by Charles C. Fenwick, Jr.**
- Charles reported on the preparations for the upcoming Legacy Chase at Shawan Downs scheduled for September 26.
- 7. Thoroughbred Sector update by Jim Steele.**
- Jim provided updates on the Maryland Million scheduled for September 26.
 - Jim also spoke briefly about the status of the Maryland racing and breeding sectors.
- 8. Budget update by Rob Burk.**
- Rob supplied the Board with a final budget report for the 2009 fiscal year. He reported that the board spent \$63,819.74 in General Funds, and \$80,957.90 in special funds.

- To date the MHIB had raised \$44,700 in General Funds from licensing and inspection, and only \$69,826.21 in Special Funds from the Maryland Equine Feed Assessment.
- Rob provided the Board with the budget for the current FY 2010 budget. To date the MHIB had spent \$8,301.06 in General Funds, and \$11,505.58 in Special Funds. Rob estimated the Special Fund revenue for FY 2010 to amount to \$182,206.15.
- For FY 2010 the Board has committed to funding the following special funded projects:
 - \$45,000 towards the Maryland Equine Census, with two additional payments to be made in the following 2 fiscal years, for a total of \$155,000.
 - \$20,693 towards grants.
 - \$8,750 towards the Maryland Horse Forum.
 - \$84,830.46 in routine administrative/staffing costs.
- Jim Steele reported that he and Rob Burk had met with the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service and had them agree to spread the Census payments over a three fiscal year period. He also reported that they would be working to convince the Department of Business and Economic Development to invest in either the census or an additional economic impact report.
- Finally Rob Burk reported that he estimated the MHIB special fund budget from the Maryland Equine Feed Assessment to go up to \$209,478.63 in FY 2011.

9. Feed Update by Rob Burk.

- Rob Burk reported that to date the MHIB had received \$76,533.10 in special funds from the assessment on equine feed for the 2008 calendar year. He reported that there were 2 delinquent companies as of January 30, 2009.
- He reported that there were 3 delinquent companies for the assessment due by April 30, 2009. To date the Board had received \$17,741.65 in special funds for that quarterly assessment.
- Finally, he reported that there were 4 delinquent companies in reporting for the assessment due on July 30, 2009. To date the Board had received \$17,632.78.

10. MDA Proposed Legislation by Rob Burk.

- Rob reviewed the proposed legislation from the MDA which would direct the funds currently generated in the licensing and inspection of Maryland stables from the General Fund to the Maryland Horse Industry Fund. It would also raise the fees to cover the cost of licensing and inspecting Maryland's stables. The theory is that the program would become independent of General Funding.

11. Health Updates by Rob Burk.

- Rob reported that 3 Maryland animal health laboratories would be closed, Frederick, and Salisbury will be the remaining facilities.
- The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 15, at College Park. (that meeting has since been rescheduled for October 29).

12. Maryland Horse Forum by Jim Steele.

- Jim and the members of the Board discussed their impressions of how well the Maryland Horse Forum ran.
- Rob reported that the committee is currently working on the report and it should be complete by November.

13. Promotions by Rob Burk, Beverly Raymond, and Peggy Morgan.

- Rob, Peggy, and Beverly reported on the Maryland State Fair and provided copies of some of the coloring contest entries for the Board to review.
- Rob discussed the efforts of Ellie Trueman, and Ross Peddicord to develop a marketing plan for the Maryland horse industry.

14. Stable Inspectors Reports by Beverly Raymond and Peggy Morgan.

- Beverly and Peggy reviewed recent inspections. Peggy supplied the Board with a written report of her inspections from July 24, 2009 through September 8, 2009. Beverly gave a verbal report.
- Rob supplied the Board with the latest numbers of licensed stables.
- 461 currently processed for the new fiscal year; sent the license for 2010
- 147 that are missing, some probably waiting to be processed
- 42 delinquent stables
- 64 unlicensed

12. Welfare Committee Report by Beverly Raymond.

- No new information.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Burk