

MINUTES  
Agriculture and NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Colonie, NY  
December 16, 2014

Present: Agriculture and Markets commissioner, Trustee: Richard Ball; Trustees: Peter Arrigenna & Mike Kimelman; NYS Gaming Commission Chairman Mark Gearan's designee; New York State Gaming Commission, Acting Director, Division of Horse Racing and Pari-Mutuel Wagering Ron Ochrym;

Also attending: NYS Gaming Commission Office of Racing Promotion and Development, Charlie Diamond; Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund Executive Assistant, Connie Richardson; Audience included: NYS Gaming Commission Assistant Counsel Mark Stuart; NYS Gaming Commission Senior Accountant Brian Squadere; Harness Horse Breeders of New York State, Executive Director Betty Holt:

A quorum was present and the meeting called to order.

**Agenda Item # 1 Designate a Board Member as Temporary Presiding Officer:**

A motion was made to designate Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball, a Board Member, as Presiding Officer of the meeting by Trustee Ron Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

**Approval of minutes of last meeting of October 14, 2014:**

A motion was made to accept the minutes of October 14, 2014 Fund meeting by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 2 Approve 2015 Agriculture and New York State Breeding Development Fund Budget:**

The 2015 expense budget was \$16.023 million compared to the 2014 budget of \$16.665 million. Purses remained relatively the same. 2014 breeder's awards were \$716,447. 2015 budgeted breeders awards are \$950,000.

The 2015 administrative budget is \$936,575 compared to \$697,976 of 2014 estimated final actual administrative costs. 2015 budgeted grants are \$397,300. Estimated final 2014 actual grants were \$434,664. Financials for 2014 estimates and 2015 budget is a break even, where revenue is equal to expenses.

All money coming in after June 30th will go toward next year's purses.

A motion to approve the 2015 New York Sire Stakes budget was made by Trustee Arrigenna, seconded by Trustee Kimelman All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 3 2015 Sire Stakes Purse Allocation:**

A motion to approve the 2015 Sire Stakes Purse allocation was made by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 4 2015 New York Sire Stakes Schedule :**

A motion to approve the 2015 New York Sire Stakes Schedule by Trustee Kimelman, seconded by Trustee Ochrym. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 5 2015 New York Sire States Conditions:**

A motion to approve the NYSS conditions with changes as discussed including not changing the current hobbles requirement as provided in NY Racing Rules and Regulations.

**Agenda Item # 6 2015 Harness Horse Breeders of New York Contract:**

A motion was made to table the Harness Horse Breeders of New York contract for further discussion at the January Board Meeting by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 7 Work Place Policies:**

There were 20 Work Place Policies designed as guidelines for employee's behavior, criteria for procurement, fiduciary protocols, internal controls, and ways to make the workplace more productive. The Fund sought to adopt these policies as required for state public-benefit corporations, agencies and commissions. The policies are the same as adopted last year and must be approved on an annual basis.

A motion was made to approve the work place policies by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Arrigenna. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 8 Harness Racing Update Advertising Contact:**

The advertising contract by Harness Racing Update includes artwork at no additional charge and the ad will be placed every Sunday for a weekly fee of \$300.00 for an annual expenditure of \$15,600.00, which is the same as 2014.

A motion was made to approve the expenditure for advertising with Harness Racing Update was made by Trustee Kimelman, seconded by Trustee Arrigenna.

All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 9 Approve Grant Requests:**

**The Harness Horse Youth Foundation** conducts a leadership program at race tracks and training centers in the Midwest and along the East Coast. For the past six years, Goshen Historic Track has hosted this program. The Harness Horse Youth Foundation is requesting \$6,748.00.

A motion was made to approve the Harness Horse Youth Foundation's grant by Trustee Arrigenna, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

**Racing Under Saddle** anticipates racing at 11 County Fair's in 2015. Racing Under Saddle requested a grant for \$9000.00 to increase purses to participants.

A motion was made to approve the grant request for \$5,000.00 by Trustee Arrigenna, seconded by Trustee Ochrym. All in favor.

**The Harness Racing Museum** requested a \$50,000.00 grant to be used to provide a continuation of quality support through educational programming and promotional exhibits. A motion was made to table this item for further discussion at the January Board Meeting by Trustee Arrigenna, seconded by Trustee Ochrym All in favor.

**Discussion Items:**

**Agenda Item # 10 The New York Sire Stakes Website:**

The New York Sire Stakes website is not consistent, and difficult to navigate. It has been reported that there is a lack of functionality and a need for upgrading. It was suggested that Connie Richardson and Betty Holt together determine a course of action to remedy the ongoing problem. This item was tabled for further consideration at the January meeting. All in favor.

**Agenda Item # 11 The New York State Association of County Fairs:**

The New York State Association of County Fairs requested \$5,200.00 last year to produce a brochure that serves as a directory of county fairs in New York State and also denotes the fair that host harness racing. An image of harness racing was prominently displayed on the front of the brochure. The Fund has not received a request yet, this item is being mentioned in anticipation of their request.

**Agenda Item # 12 External Audit of the Ag Fund:**

The fund must issue a Request for Proposal in search for an external auditor. It was suggested the Fund consult with Brian Squadere, Gaming Commission Senior Accountant and review credentials and past audits of the Fund. The cost of the 2013 audit was \$10,000.00.

A motion was made to send out RFQ's for an external audit by Trustee Kimelman, seconded by Trustee Ochrym.

A motion was made to break for Executive Session to discuss a personnel related item by Trustee Arrigenna. Everyone was asked to leave the room except the Board members and NYS Gaming Commission Office of Racing Promotion and Development Charlie Diamond.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 11:14 p.m. Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball requested Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund Executive Assistant Connie Richardson send a meeting notice to the Board requesting a January meeting during the week of the 26th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Ochrym, seconded by Trustee Kimelman. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 p.m.