

FINAL

Horse Industry Board Meeting
April 7, 2015
Virginia Department of Forestry, Charlottesville

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The Horse Industry Board Annual Grants Review Meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at the Virginia Department of Forestry in Charlottesville by Chairman Harold McKenzie.

PRESENT

Harold McKenzie, Chairman

Beryl Herzog, Vice-Chairman

Brian Felts

Eleanor Jones

David Lamb

David Lands

Nancy Paschall

Sue Mullins, *designated proxy for the Virginia Horse Shows Association*

ABSENT

Debbie Easter

Bridgett McIntosh

Ann Walker

GUESTS/STAFF

Andrea Heid, Program Manager, Virginia Department of Agriculture
& Consumer Services

II. APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING. The minutes of the previous meeting {December 11, 2014} were approved without change.

III. FINANCIAL UPDATE.

Ms. Heid referred to the financial statement showing the current cash balance in the Virginia Horse Industry Board Promotion and Development Fund (Coggins Test fees) as **\$301,238.28** (as of March 2015). Income through March 2015 totals \$38,664.93 – which includes a payment from the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) for the current fiscal year in the amount of **\$3,050.45.**

Outstanding estimated expenses are \$5,700. Additionally, deducting the monies for the University of Virginia Equine Survey to be conducted over the next 12 months from this fund{\$126,459.56}, leaves an estimated re-adjusted balance in this account of **\$169,078.72.**

Monies collected in the Equine Feed Checkoff Fund as of March 2015 totaled **\$153,098.53.** This is higher than last year(\$141,634.35) and re-bounded to previous collection levels for 2012-2013.

The current cash balance in the Equine Feed Checkoff Fund {as of March 2015} is \$231,565.66. Outstanding current grant balances total \$105,742. Deducting these from the Equine Checkoff Fund Balance leaves an estimated working balance of **\$125,823.66—**available for grants to be reviewed at the meeting.

Board members discussed, particularly in light of the fact that the Horse Board will be spending more than \$126,000 on the equine survey over the next year, and agreed that, in reviewing and awarding grants for 2015-2016, adhering to the available budget was a high priority.

IV. OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES.

Equine Survey. Ms. Heid commented that, after approximately seven revisions, the agreement with the University of Virginia{UVA} was finally signed last month. She shared with the Board the estimated costs for each phase as prepared by the University of Virginia and the total estimated cost of \$126,459.56. With the survey not getting underway until March 15th, UVA staff estimate that all phases will be completed by February 2016.

Virginia Horse Festival. David Lands provided an update on the Festival, held March 27-29, at Meadow Event Park. He said in speaking with Glenn Martin during the Festival that, despite bad weather, they had met the gate totals they were hoping to achieve{i.e., over 6,000}. Also, attendance was reportedly greater than at the 2013 “Virginia Equine Extravaganza.” Mr. Lands said he felt that “re-branding” the event and moving the time also helped.

Statewide Indirect Cost Allocation Issue. David Lands also provided background and an update on this issue. The Virginia Horse Council, working with other agricultural groups, and the Virginia Agribusiness Council, focused on getting these assessments on commodity boards—which were initiated at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year-- removed. Legislation has been passed, but the final budget decisions between the Governor and the General Assembly will take place later this month.

It is anticipated that the monies taken from the Virginia Horse Industry Board for the current fiscal year{\$1,202.84}will be restored by June 30, 2015, and that no further such assessments will be taken from the Horse Board, or any of the other commodity boards.

V. GRANTS REVIEW.

The Board then discussed at length and voted on each of the **19** grant proposals in the areas of education, research, and marketing that had been submitted by the March 2nd deadline for consideration for fiscal year 2015-2016.

Following these deliberations, the Board approved **14 grant projects** for a funding total of **\$98,269**. Board members agreed that funding for the new grant projects, as per usual, would come out of the Equine Feed Checkoff Fund.

The projects approved by the Board at this meeting are listed below by category with the project title, submitter's name and organization, and the amount of funding awarded:

VIRGINIA HORSE BOARD GRANT WINNERS' LIST FOR FY 2015 -- 2016

Education

Virginia State 4-H Horse Show —Celeste Crisman, State 4-H Horse Show Committee	\$5,000
Virginia 4-H EquiSmartz—Celeste Crisman, VA Cooperative Extension	\$3,500
VA Forage & Grasslands Council Educational Horse Events—Carrie Swanson, VA Cooperative Extension/VFGC	\$2,500
Western Dressage Series at Airfield—Melvin Atkinson, Airfield 4-H Conference Center	\$500

Marketing

VA Horse Council: Serving the Horse Industry Across VA —Glenn Ritchey, VHC	\$33,500
A Calendar to Promote the Horse Industry in VA —Deborah Easter, VTA	\$5,800
Marketing VA: American Paint Horse Association's 2016 Convention --- David Lands, VA Paint Horse Club	\$8,000

PATH International 2016 Horse Expo --Kathy Alm, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International	\$7,500
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Research

Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis(EPM) Identifying the Immune Response and the Role of Infection ---Sharon Witonsky, DVM, VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine	\$10,000
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Solubilized Extracellular Matrix for Improved Tendon Regeneration—Linda Dahlgren, DVM, VA Tech	\$5,000
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Bone Metabolism Regulators in Equine Arthritis --Christopher Byron, DVM, VA Tech	\$9,969
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Survey of Equine Demographics and Endocrine Disease Status on Horses Used for Therapeutic Horsemanship Programs in VA –Melinda Freckleton, DVM, Haymarket Veterinary Services	\$2,500
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Optimal Forage Concentrate Ratios for Protein Utilization and Hindgut Metabolism—Patricia Graham-Thiers, Ph.D., Emory & Henry College	\$4,000
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Targeting New Deworming Strategies Towards Tomorrow’s Horse Industry Leaders---Carrie Swanson, VA Cooperative Extension	\$500
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****TOTAL GRANTS APPROVED = \$98,269**

It was moved and passed to approve the funding of these 14 grant projects at the levels listed, for a total of \$98,269.

Note: Board members who felt a grant proposal might contain a conflict of interest issue signed a form declaring such and these are listed as follows:

David Lamb	Virginia Horse Council: Serving the Horse Industry Across Virginia
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Beryl Herzog	Virginia Horse Council: Serving the Horse Industry Across Virginia
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David Lands

Virginia Horse Council: Serving the Horse Industry
Across Virginia
Marketing Virginia—American Paint Horse Association
2016 Convention

Nancy Paschall

Virginia Horse Council: Serving the Horse Industry
Across Virginia
PATH International 2016 Horse Expo
Survey of Equine Demographics & Endocrine Disease
Status in Horses Used for Therapeutic Horsemanship
Programs in VA

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE/SITE.

It was discussed and recommended that the next meeting of the Virginia Horse Industry Board be held in early to mid-June at the same location. Ms. Heid will check on the availability of the meeting room and then notify the Horse Board members of the date.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR. David Lands was elected Chairman of the Virginia Horse Industry Board as voted on by the members, and Nancy Paschall was elected Vice-Chairman. Members thanked Harold McKenzie for his two years of service as the VHIB Chairman.

Composition of the Grants Subcommittee {to approve small “emergency” grants up to \$7,500} for the coming year was approved as: David Lands, Nancy Paschall, and Harold McKenzie.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, Chairman McKenzie adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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