

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD**  
Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville, VA  
Monday, April 24, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Horse Industry Board Meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017, at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville, VA by Chairman David Lands.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Lands, Chairman  
Nancy Paschall, Vice Chairman  
Nancy Troutman  
Cathette Plumer, designated proxy for Mike Stoher  
Alison Umberger  
Bridgett McIntosh  
Sue Alvis  
Harold McKenzie

**GUESTS / STAFF**

Heather Wheeler, Program Manager, VDACS

**APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meetings (December 13, 2016) were approved with no amendments.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Heather Wheeler reported on the finances for each fund. Income and revenue are listed as follows:

**Coggins – cc 625 (Figures through March 30, 2017)**

Beginning Balance 7/1/2016	\$268,793.44
Revenues YTD	\$62,092.79
Expenditures YTD	-\$62,672.49
Cash Balance YTD	\$268,213.74
Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/16 + rev - budgeted)	\$196,761.06

**Feed Tonnage – cc 626 (Figures through March 30, 2017)**

Beginning Balance 7/1/2016	\$232,863.49
Revenues YTD	\$154,685.99
Expenditures YTD	-\$73,374.58
Cash Balance YTD	\$314,174.90
Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/16+ rev - budgeted)	\$227,268.05

**OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES**

**Horse Population Study**

VHIB is awaiting the draft of the Horse Population Study from Weldon Cooper. David Lands and Heather Wheeler met with Jim Ellis and Tom Guterbock of Weldon Cooper on April 6, 2017 by phone to discuss the counts and estimates derived from the survey of owners and veterinarians. Weldon Cooper are currently working on the final estimates and projections for the survey.

**American Horse Council Study**

The American Horse Council (AHC) is preparing to launch the 2017 equine economic impact study across the country. VHIB voted to set aside \$25,000 at the December 13, 2016 to pay for a Virginia statewide study to be completed through AHC. The cost to participate in the study is lower than originally anticipated and VHIB will be spending \$18,000. VHIB would like to see AHC complete these economic impact studies on a more frequent basis. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that VHIB and the Virginia Horse Council will formalize a request to AHC to schedule the study to alternate with the NASS study every 5 years.

**Periodic Review of the Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program**

The Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program was included in the Periodic Review during February 2017. When a regulation undergoes a periodic review, a notice is published in the Virginia Register of Regulations and on the Town Hall informing the public that it has 21 days to comment on the continued need and effectiveness of the regulation. The Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program received no public comments. Heather Wheeler has completed the documentation to continue the regulation as-is per the Board's discussion December 13, 2016.

**Grant Extensions:**

Extensions for the following grants were requested and unanimously approved:

- Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM): Identifying the Immune Response and the Role of Infection
- Acetaminophen Pharmacokinetics and Safety in Horses

- Avoidance of Pasture-Associated Laminitis
- Variances of Cortisol Levels in Horses Used in Equine Assisted Therapies

**Emergency Grant Subcommittee:**

The Emergency Grant Subcommittee approved an emergency grant request from the Virginia Junior Paint Horse Club for \$1400 to support sending three youth members and one advisor to the American Paint Horse Association Youth Leadership Conference in Irving, Texas, February 24-26,2017.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VHIB Grants Review**

Lengthy discussions were held by the members on each of the 15 applications in the areas of education, research and marketing that were submitted by the March 1, 2017 deadline for consideration for the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Following these deliberations, the Board approved 14 grant projects for a funding total of \$125,654.00. The following grants and amounts were approved:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Funded</b>
<b>Education</b>		
Virginia State 4-H Horse Show	Virginia Cooperative Extension	\$5,000.00
Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council Educational Horse Events	Virginia Cooperative Extension	\$3,000.00
Virginia 4-H EquiSmartz	Virginia Cooperative Extension	\$3,500.00
Virginia FFA Youth Contests and Proficiency Awards	Virginia FFA Foundation	\$4,700.00
Virginia 4-H Horse Teen Ambassador Program	Virginia Cooperative Extension	\$2,000.00
Richmond Police Mounted Unit Participation in the North American Police Equestrian Competition	Friends of the Richmond Mounted Squad	\$2805.00
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$21,005.00</b>
<b>Marketing</b>		
Serving the Horse Industry Across Virginia	Virginia Horse Council	\$34,500.00
2018 Calendar to Promote Virginia's Horse Industry	Virginia Thoroughbred Association	\$6,000.00
Virginia Region Pony Club Membership Campaign	Virginia Region Pony Club	\$3,925.00
Ride the Rail or Ride the Trail	Scott County Regional Horse Association	\$4,025.00

	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$48,450.00</b>
<b>Research</b>		
Bone Marrow Mononuclear Cell Therapy for Equine Joint Disease	VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine	\$13,199.00
Evaluation of Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy for Treatment of Horses with Thoracolumbar Back Pain	VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine	\$9,756.00
Determining the Effects of Acetaminophen on Equine Pain Sensation	VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine	\$13,980.00
Avoidance of Pasture-Associated Laminitis Phase II	Virginia Tech MARE Center	\$19,264.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$56,199.00</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$125,654.00</b>

### **VHIB Grants – 2016-2017 Interim and Final Reports**

The Board reviewed the interim and final reports from the 2016-2017 grant recipients.

### **VHIB Grants**

The Board discussed making changes to the way grants are currently being processed. The Board would like to move to an electronic grant form that can be completed and emailed to VHIB. VHIB would still allow for submission through the mail but would no longer require 15 copies of each proposal. The documents would be uploaded to a cloud platform that would allow members of the Board to access them. The Board also discussed making grant payments on a quarterly basis based upon the submission of quarterly interim/status reports. The quarterly dates would be July 1<sup>st</sup> (initial payment), October 1<sup>st</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that VHIB would draft a policy on how grant payments are made and how grant applications can be submitted. Heather Wheeler and Nancy Paschall will work together to draft forms and policy. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that VHIB would approve the draft policy with final approval of forms by email.

### **Marketing VHIB**

Heather Wheeler updated the Board the marketing activity of the Virginia Horse Industry Board. Since December 2016, VHIB has had booths set up at the Maryland Horse Expo, Pennsylvania Horse Expo, Virginia Horse Festival, Loudoun Equine Alliance Expo and the Great American Trail Horse Event. Heather Wheeler also attended the Fauquier Equestrian Forum. The VHIB Facebook page remains active with 3-4 posts weekly and grant recipients are beginning to send in information on their grant activity for Facebook posts.

### **Dulles Airport Quarantine Facility**

The quarantine facility at Dulles Airport continues to move forward. The feasibility study conducted by Loudoun and Fauquier Counties came back favorable for the facility. Currently,

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they are considering a 50,000 square foot facility with 48 horse stalls that would be built on 15 acres. Loudoun and Fauquier County believe the facility will be built in 2018/2019. The facility will be privately built and operated and right now there are three private sector developers that are interested in building the facility.

### **VHIB Showcase of Breeds – State Fair of Virginia**

VHIB will continue to support the Showcase of Breeds at the State Fair of Virginia. Due to a Secretariat descendant occupying the paddock formerly used for the Showcase of Breeds, the State Fair will need to relocate the Showcase of Breeds. VHIB has expressed an interest in remaining in the same area in order to remain visible to fair goers.

### **FOIA Request**

VDACS received a FOIA request regarding the equine feed assessment. VDACS has provided the requested records while not including information exempt from disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

### **Other**

Alison Umberger suggested that VHIB consider sponsoring an award at the 4-H State Horse Show and at the 4-H Equismartz competition. This award would include a perpetual award that would be kept at the Virginia Horse Center. Alison will discuss the possibility of an award with Celeste Crisman of Virginia Extension and prepare a proposal for the next VHIB meeting.

Nancy Paschall suggests that VHIB partner with the Virginia Horse Council for basic horse handling for first responders. There could be an opportunity to join existing fire fighter training and offer an hour or two of large animal training.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that Nancy Paschall would serve as the VHIB Chairman and Alison Umberger would serve as the Vice Chairman for the upcoming fiscal year (2017-2018).

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board will be held on June 20, 2017 in Charlottesville, VA.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

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