

**FINAL MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD**  
Blue Ridge Café, Ruckersville, VA  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Horse Industry Board Meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville, VA by Chairman David Lands.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Lands, Chairman  
Nancy Troutman  
Mike Stoher,  
Cathette Plummer, designated proxy for Sue Alvis  
David Lamb  
Alison Umberger  
Bridgett McIntosh

**GUESTS / STAFF**

Heather Wheeler, Program Manager, VDACS

**APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meetings (September 28, 2016 and December 1, 2016) were approved with proposed amendment to September 28 meeting and no amendments for December 1 meeting.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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

**Coggins – cc 625 (Figures through October 31, 2016)**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Beginning Balance 7/1/2016                             | \$268,793.44 |
| Revenues YTD   | \$28,095.17  |
| Expenditures YTD                                       | -\$19,114.77 |
| Cash Balance YTD                                       | \$277,773.84 |
| Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/16 + rev - budgeted) | \$172,588.44 |

**Feed Tonnage – cc 626 (Figures through October 31, 2016)**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Beginning Balance 7/1/2016                            | \$232,863.49 |
| Revenues YTD  | \$100.00     |
| Expenditures YTD                                      | -\$58,289.97 |
| Cash Balance YTD                                      | \$174,673.52 |
| Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/16+ rev - budgeted) | \$56,600.06  |

**OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES**

**Economic Impact Study**

VHIB has received the final Phase I report from Jim Ellis at Weldon Cooper. VHIB is awaiting the Phase II report. Jim Ellis has indicated that the Phase II report will be delivered before the holidays.

**American Horse Council Study**

The American Horse Council (AHC) completes an equine economic impact study across the country. They are offering an opportunity for states to participate and request an independent state study. David Lands suggests that VHIB should plan to participate as often as AHC offers the study. In the original AHC proposal letter, AHC is asking for a \$25,000 commitment for the state specific study. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that VHIB would set aside a \$25,000 commitment for the American Horse Council's 2016-2017 state specific study

**Status of Virginia Racing – Debbie Easter, Virginia Thoroughbred Association**

Heather Wheeler gave the Status of Virginia Racing report in Debbie Easter's absence. The dirt moving permits for the Morven Horse Park have been approved. Morven is working on a plan to make sure they can furnish the water needs for soccer, racing and show rings. The VTA lease has not been signed yet but they are hopeful that thoroughbred turf racing will start in 2018. Shenandoah Downs has scheduled five weekends of harness racing for September and October 2017. The first off the track betting (OTB) site has been open for just over one month and it is going very well. It was estimated that it would do 5 million in handle per year, if it continues like it is going we should do 12-15 million in gross handle. The second OTB opens in Shockoe Bottom, January 9<sup>th</sup>. VTA hopes to have another OTB open in Chesapeake during the first quarter of 2017. VTA's goal is to open an additional 2 sites in 2017, probably one in Hampton, with an additional site in either Hampton or Chesapeake.

**Grant Extensions:**

There were no grants requesting extensions.

**Emergency Grant Subcommittee:**

There have been no Emergency Grant Subcommittee Approvals since the last meeting on June 16, 2016.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Virginia Bred Grants**

Lengthy discussions were held by the members on each application and annual report. Examined were the impact of each program, the number of participants, the number of horses, the conducting of the program and the promotion of the Horse Industry Board as the main supporter of the individual programs. The following equine groups and amounts were approved:

| <b>Organization</b>                                    | <b>Amount Approved</b> |
|--|------------------------|
| American Saddlebred Horse Association of Virginia      | \$2,000                |
| Commonwealth Dressage & Combined Training Association  | \$3,400                |
| Old Dominion Miniature Horse Club                      | \$2,000                |
| Virginia Appaloosa Horse Association                   | \$1,100                |
| Virginia Paint Horse Club                              | \$5,000                |
| Virginia Quarter Horse Association                     | \$6,000                |
| Virginia Presidential Paso Fino Horse Association, Inc | \$2,500                |
| East Coast Stock Association                           | \$1,000                |
| Virginia Pony Breeders Association                     | \$5,300                |
| Virginia Horse Show Association                        | \$5,000                |

**Virginia Thoroughbred Association – Wager ‘N Win Grant Final Report**

The Board reviewed the final report from the Virginia Thoroughbred Association’s Wager ‘N Win to Help Virginia Racing grant.

**Marketing VHIB**

Heather Wheeler updated the Board on the Facebook activity of the Virginia Horse Industry Board. Currently she is trying to post two to three times a week. Facebook activity is up over the past 30 days. Heather Wheeler will reach out to Virginia Bred grant recipients from 2016 and request pictures and information that can be put onto Facebook and the VHIB website to market the grant programs that VHIB offers.

## **Dulles Airport Quarantine Facility / The ARK**

In October of 2016, Heather Wheeler attended a meeting regarding the establishment of a privately owned, USDA approved quarantine facility at Dulles Airport. The ARK at JFK is interested in building a facility at Dulles that would allow for the quarantine of horses and domestic animals. Currently, there are only two facilities on the East Coast where imported animals are cared for and tested during isolation (New York and Miami). Talks between the ARK, Dulles International and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority are in the preliminary stages. Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority has been exploring opportunities to develop unused airport property. Loudoun County and Fauquier County are jointly funding an economic impact and feasibility study for a quarantine center. Results of the reports are expected to be completed sometime in January. The establishment of a quarantine facility is expected to grow the equestrian industry in Virginia and would have the potential of increasing equestrian-related tourism.

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

The Office of Policy, Planning, and Research is planning the agency's periodic review of regulations for fiscal year 2017. The Governor's Executive Order 17 (2014) requires that each agency review its regulations at least once every four years. The Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program is scheduled for a periodic review in February of 2017. When the regulation undergoes the periodic review a notice will be 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. No later than 60 days after the close of the public comment period, the agency has to post the result of its review in the Virginia Register of Regulations and on the Town Hall. The result of the review will be (i) repeal the regulation, (ii) amend the regulation, or (iii) retain the regulation as-is. The Board discussed the Virginia Horse Breeder Incentive Program and there was not an inclination to amend the regulation at this point. The Board will revisit the regulation during the February review period.

## **Virginia Horse Festival**

The Board received a proposal from the Virginia Horse Festival requesting a \$5,000 sponsorship for the Festival being held March 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. The sponsorship is at the same level of funding as requested last year. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that VHIB would support the Virginia Horse Festival with a \$5,000 sponsorship.

## **Horse World Expo**

VHIB is registered as a sponsor and to attend the Horse World Expo in Timonium, Maryland January 20-22, 2017 and in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania March 2-5, 2017. The Board discussed the purchase of a tablecloth with the VHIB logo for use at the Expo and at other events VHIB attends.

*Approved 4/24/2017*

**Other**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board will be held on April 18, 2016 at the Blue Ridge Café in Ruckersville, VA.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

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