

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
HORSE RACING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Constitution Hall
Coleman Young Conference Room
525 W Allegan St
Lansing, MI 48933**

and

**Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams
Dial: 1-248-509-0316, Conference ID 705 871 699#**

**MEETING MINUTES
August 18, 2022**

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Brian Nielsen, Chair, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Thomas Barrett, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Michael Carlo, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Sylvia Renteria, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

PRESENT REMOTELY:

William Frank, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Nielsen called the meeting of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Horse Racing Advisory Commission (MDARD HRAC) to order at 2:08 p.m. on August 18, 2022. Roll call was taken by each member introducing themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR AUGUST 18, 2022. SECONDED BY MR. CARLO. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 26, 2022 MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. BARRETT. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is November 10, 2022, to be held at Constitution Hall, 525 W Allegan St, Lansing, MI at 2:00 p.m. Remote technology via Microsoft Teams will also be offered.

BUDGET UPDATE

Ms. Renteria shared the Governor signed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget on July 20 that includes \$125,000 for the HRAC. Ms. Renteria will request authorization for the FY

2022 \$125,000 and the FY 2021 \$190,000 to be rolled forward into FY 2023, so any unspent monies are available. Also, House Bill 5783 moved forward, but did not include reversing the one-time deposit of \$3.2 million into the Agriculture Equine Industry Development fund.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Renteria reminded members of their prior meeting vote to allocate \$5,000 towards travel reimbursement for HRAC members relative to HRAC business. Ms. Renteria introduced Brandon Colby, Lead Buyer, from MDARD to review the travel expense voucher and the process for submitting reimbursement requests.

GAMING AND HORSE OWNERSHIP SEMINAR

Members discussed ideas for the New Horse Owners Seminar. The event will be held on September 17 at Northville Downs and include dinner, speakers, horse trainers, and possibly a walk-through experience of the track. Discussion included how to target desired audience, marketing platforms, promotional materials, dinner details, and how to pay for the event. Members decided a third party would be ideal to handle the logistics. Ms. Renteria and Mr. Colby explained how a grant could be issued to a third party coordinator through MDARD, using the \$25,000 budgeted for HRAC seminars. Mr. Colby discussed details that should be included when submitting a grant proposal to MDARD.

Mr. Nielsen suggested Denise and Kyle Fullhart to coordinate the event, given their experience in the horse industry and coordination of similar events. With member approval, Mr. Nielsen sent an email to the Fullharts during the meeting. The Fullharts responded during the meeting and agreed to coordinate the event.

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATING THE FY 2022 BUDGETED \$25,000 FOR THE SEPTEMBER 17 NEW HORSE OWNERS SEMINAR AT NORTHVILLE DOWNS. SECONDED BY MR. BARRETT. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION ITEMS:

- *Mr. Nielsen will coordinate a meeting with Mr. Barrett, Mr. Carlo, and the Fullharts to discuss details for the event.*
- *Mr. Nielsen will draft a grant proposal to request funds for the New Horse Owner Seminar, including funding for the Fullharts to coordinate.*

PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

Ms. Crystal Terrell submitted a request to the HRAC for reimbursement to the Michigan Harness Horsemen Association (MHHA) for marketing and promotion costs for the Michigan summer colt stakes season in the amount of \$10,500. The marketing and promotion includes video replay of stakes races at Northville Downs.

Mr. Carlo advised he will need to review Northville Downs contract language regarding broadcasting rights for wagering and non-wagering events before he can decide to approve the funding.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE A GRANT TO REIMBURSE THE MHHA FOR \$10,500 FROM THE FY 2022 BUDGET. MR. CARLO SECONDED PENDING REVIEW OF NORTHVILLE DOWNS CONTRACT LANGUAGE. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment on non-agenda items was requested.

OTHER

Use of Agriculture Equine Industry Development (AEID) Funds – Members continued the discussion of the interpretation of how AEID funds can be used. Current interpretation does not allow the funds to be used for purse money if any out of state horse is running in the race, thus reducing the number of horses in a race which results in more smaller races, less competitive racing, and less wagering income to the tracks. It was suggested that interpretation could be that out of state horses can participate in the races, but only Michigan bred/owned horses are eligible to receive AEID funds. The funds could be awarded to Michigan owners as a bonus in addition to the purse monies.

- *Mr. Barrett, Mr. Carlo, and Mr. Frank agreed to review the Rules and MCL 431.320, develop an interpretation document, and send to Ms. Renteria. The interpretation document should include current interpretation, suggested interpretation, and impact.*
- *Ms. Renteria will send interpretation document to MDARD legal counsel and request review and opinion of the Rules and MCL 431.320.*

ADJOURN

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. BARRETT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 P.M.