

June 18, 2019

Minutes of the RMQHA Race Board of Directors Meeting, 5:00 pm, in Brighton CO

Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Matt Herrman. Directors in attendance were, Terry Vondy – President, Tanner Issacs, Jim Lynn, Mark Schultz, Victor Cervantes, Kathy Stoker-Hill, and Wendy Gaddis. Directors in attendance via conference call were Howie Chavers and Larry Terrell.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019 as published. Motion passed.

The 2019 RMQHA races were discussed. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Rocky Mountain Futurity ran 3 trials with 22 head entered and the Rocky Mountain Derby ran 5 trials with 33 head entered. Final purses were \$64,215 for the Rocky Mountain Futurity and \$71,015 for the Rocky Mountain Derby.

The following are the current number of nominations in the remaining 4 futurities and derbies and estimated purses are as follows -

Cherry Creek Futurity – 32 - \$77,120	Lucile Rowe Derby – 31 - \$47,060
Mile High Futurity – 37 - \$100,100	Mile High Derby – 31 - \$80,800

RMQHA administrative fees to date are \$57,285

The RMQHA sponsored races for older horses that have run are The American Flyer ran on June 9<sup>th</sup> with 7 entries and a purse of \$18,300; The Dolls Prodigy ran on June 15<sup>th</sup> with 6 entries and a purse of \$17,950.

Howie Chavers reported on Racing Commission meeting at which it was voted to allow the newly formed Arabian association to have their horses which were bred/foaled in Colorado be retroactively enrolled as Colorado breds and eligible for Colorado Bred awards. This will effect our Colorado Breeders awards money.

Vice President Matt Herrman presented the information from the recent CHA meeting. Current numbers at the track are 406 Thoroughbreds, 189 Quarter Horses and 19 Arabians.

The track will post soil depth charts for the track on race days as well as numbers of tests taken, horse injury outcomes on social media. Bruce is doing barn tours on Saturdays and has had good response.

The Day at the Races was held again in conjunction with the Colorado Horse Council on June 15<sup>th</sup>. There were good crowds that day for the stakes races. Carly set up the booth but had little activity.

Jim Lynn gave the AQHA convention report. He is our new AQHA director. Items he mentioned were that the future process of microchipping is moving forward. Also discussed, were the Challenge races and their status. Janet Van Bebber had written an article about the current push of forming a national governing commission to oversee the drug testing at the tracks and AQHA position on suggestions that were presented.

As per Matt Herrman's request from the previous meeting, some goals we would like to see accomplished over 1 year, 3 years and 5 years were discussed. Several 1 year goals presented were for

A) RMQHA to work with AQHA on our position of animal rights i.e. being proactive to protect Horse Racing from Animal Rights Groups. Our main concern is for the welfare of the horse with oversight by knowledgeable horsemen/women. Education is key.

B) Assist and educate members of the Hispanic community in our industry by publishing rules and programs in Spanish and advertise in Spanish publications. \* This would also include putting the Colorado Bred rules in the Spanish publications. StallionESearch has already established a site doing that.

C) Educate our members on many topics beneficial to advancing the industry such as partnerships, preparing mares for the breeding shed, etc.

A 3 year goal was discussed regarding the current conditions of racing in Colorado, which may or may not be affected by legalized online sports betting, what are our options to help Quarter Horse racing and the industry in general to thrive.

New business discussed was possibly renewing a program for interns to develop an interest in racing through equine program enrolled students at CSU, LCCC (Cheyenne), NJC(Sterling) and LCC (Lamar). Tanner is very interested in helping with an enrollment program and present education opportunities through the use of social media.

Kathy made a proposal to consider changing the structure of how our year end champions are determined. The proposal is to change it to money won as opposed to the current system of using the AQHA point system. There is some disparity that needs to be looked at. Matt proposed reviewing this in more detail as the race meet progresses and consider a change for 2020.

Terry also proposed for next year that the Day at the Races go back to a RMQHA event and promoted on the day of Colorado Bred races. More discussion will follow in the future.

Terry also brought up the need to have another Quarter Horse representative on the CHA board. Matt would like to have one of the RMQHA directors interested be nominated. Matt will get nomination information. Directors interested in serving if elected are Mark Schultz, Wendy Gaddis, and having Larry Terrell also run. RMQHA will send out info prior to ballots being distributed by CHA.

**To be fast tracked** - another idea to show our members our appreciation for their support of our races was to have a barbeque at the track. It would also serve as a good promotion for RMQHA as well. Since it is too late for the day of the CCF and LRD trials, it was proposed to have it after the MHF and MHD trials on July 26<sup>th</sup> as many of our members will be there that day. Jodie will make some phone calls to the track to see if they would allow it at the east end under the pavilion. Other members volunteered to do the grilling and just making it happen in general. It was agreed it will take "all hands on deck" to make it happen this quickly.

Hall of Fame Nominations are due August 1<sup>st</sup>. Kathy Stoker will be nominating Vaughn Cook.

RMQHA/RMPHA Golf Tournament is Monday, July 15, 2019 at Bear Dance in Larkspur.

With no additional business to discuss, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully,

Jodie Witt  
Executive Director