

FINAL MINUTES
VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD
Department of Forestry – Charlottesville, VA
Thursday, August 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Horse Industry Board Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, August 13 2020 at 10:10a.m. at the Department of Forestry in Charlottesville, VA by Chairman, Janie Ober.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Janie Ober, Chairman
Oliver Brown, Proxy for VHSA
David Lands, Proxy for VHC
Debbie Easter
Dr. John Wise
Beth Sheely
Nancy Troutman

GUESTS / STAFF

Heather Wheeler, Program Manager, VDACS
Melissa Ball, Special Projects Manager, VDACS

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meetings (January 24, 202) were approved with an edit a line in the financial update

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Coggins – cc 625 (Figures through June 30, 2020)

Beginning Balance 7/1/2019	\$290,707.98
Revenues YTD	\$101,734.57
Expenditures YTD	-\$51,278.44
Cash Balance YTD	\$341,164.11
Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/19 + rev - budgeted)	\$329,242.55

Feed Tonnage – cc 626 (Figures through June 30, 2020)

Beginning Balance 7/1/2019	\$546,746.71
Revenues YTD	\$285,103.81
Expenditures YTD	-\$115,937.12
Cash Balance YTD	\$715,923.40
Uncommitted Balance (Cash bal 7/1/19 + rev - budgeted)	\$666,010.30

In addition to the above financial report, the Program Manager reviewed the Board's 2019-2020 administrative budget and recommended to the Board that they adopt the same budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. After discussion, the Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved adopting the same administrative budget as the 2019-2020 fiscal year with no increases or decreases.

OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES

Program Manager Update

The Program Manager reported on activities since the January meeting. The Program Manager reported that she has responded to a high volume of calls since the COVID shutdown from horse owners, equine business and facility owners since March with inquiries about the Phase 1, 2 and 3 restrictions. In response to the inquiries, early on she launched a COVID resource page on the VHIB website and worked with VDACS to add resources to the VDACS website. Inquiries coming in by phone have originate through various sources and a large number of callers have been unaware of VHIB existence before being directed to the office. This has presented a great opportunity for the Program Manager to discuss the role of VHIB and share valuable information with these callers. In the time between meetings, the code guiding the Virginia Bred program came up for public review and the Program Manager has since completed that review and the required reporting. No public comments were received and the recommendation has been to leave the code as it is. The Program Manager has been working with the website manager to build a directory on the VHIB website, the trail information has been uploaded, and she is currently working on industry contacts. In addition to these areas, the Program Manager is working with VDACS staff on the Virginia Horse Center legislation. While the Virginia Horse Center Foundation has indicated, it does not want any state involvement in its ownership; VDACS still must complete the investigation and report. The Program Manager is currently working on the reporting requirement and that report is due back to the Governor's Office in late November. The Program Manager reported to the Board that until the reporting requirement are complete and the legislation has been resolved, the Board is unable to move forward with any MOU or financial commitment to the Virginia Horse Center. However, the Board can begin discussing what a future commitment to the Virginia Horse Center would look like.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Virginia Bred Applications/2019 Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed the 2019 reports. Due to the COVID restrictions leading to the cancellation of events, several of the applicants had withdrawn their applications and the Board reviewed the remaining applications. After discussion, the Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved the applications as submitted and outlined below:

Virginia Quarter Horse Association	\$8,000.00
East Coast Stock Horse Association	\$3,000.00
Virginia Horse Show Association	\$5,000.00

Commonwealth Dressage & Combined Training Association	\$5,200.00
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Oliver Brown, the proxy for VHSA, recused himself for the vote on the VHSA application.

After approving the requests, the Board discussed reopening the Virginia Bred grant program to see if it could offer assistance to any additional associations. While, they have not previously done this, the Board recognizes the hardship that COVID has caused for the horse industry and the Board would like to provide funding to additional organizations. After discussion, the Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved opening a second Virginia Bred program cycle for thirty days to allow additional organizations to apply for funding.

VHIB 2019-2020 Grants – Extension Requests

Because of COVID shutdowns and restrictions, a number of grant recipients requested extensions to complete the work on their grants. After discussion, the Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved that they would approve all requested extensions, in addition, the program manager would contact any grant recipient that has not responded or filed a report, and give them 30 days to respond before the Board rescinds the grant funding for the 2019-2020 cycle.

Sponsorship Requests

VHSA Associate Program

The Board received a sponsorship request from the Virginia Horse Show Association (VHSA) requesting \$30,000 in sponsorship of their VHSA Associate Program. After discussion, the Board motioned, seconded and unanimously approved sponsoring the program for \$30,000 with a request to VHSA to provide a final report to VHIB including how VHIB was recognized, how the funding was utilized and how many individuals were involved. The Program Manager indicated that she would send a draft of a sponsorship report to the Board for review so that they could approve it at the next meeting for use with all future sponsorships.

Virginia Horse Center MOU

The Program Manager provided the Board copies of the MOU proposed by the Virginia Horse Center from December of 2019 along with copies of the original 2008 sponsorship agreement between VHIB and the Horse Center. The material is for reference as the Board decides how it wants to proceed with a future financial commitment with the Virginia Horse Center.

VHIB Moving Forward

The Board discussed the various ways in which they want to move forward over the next few years and how they want to support the horse industry. It is their intention to identify one to five goals to complete over the next few years that will allow them to support the industry. The VHIB Chair will work on further developing ideas in advance of a meeting in October for a larger board discussion.

Approved October 30, 2020

Public Comment

None

Next Meeting

The meetings of the board will be held September 21, 2020 and will be held virtually.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 PM.

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