

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ILLINOIS THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS FUND
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
March 27, 2018**

Board Members Present:

Raymond Poe
John Haran
Dan Arrigo
David McCaffrey
Jim Miller
Tony Petrillo
Eddie Essenpreis
Hugh Scates

Others Present:

Chris Polzin
(Voting for Tony Petrillo at this meeting)

Staff Present:

Luke Sailer
Kelly Beck

Representing:

Chairman, Director of Department of Agriculture
Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Fdn.
Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders & Owners Fdn.
Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Assoc.
Licensees Conducting Thoroughbred Racing Mtgs.
Licensees Conducting Thoroughbred Racing Mtgs.
Illinois Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Assoc.
Illinois Racing Board

Representing:

Licensees Conducting Thoroughbred Racing Mtgs.

Representing:

State Fair Manager
Executive, County Fairs and Horse Racing

Raymond Poe, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Luke Sailer welcomed all members. Kelly Beck took the roll call. Luke explained that this meeting was called together to discuss several Board members concerns about appropriation levels. Luke asked for the Board to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2018 meeting. Jim Miller made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Eddie Essenpreis. Motion carried. Luke stated that Rhonda Jachino had retired from the Department at the end of February and that she will be greatly missed. The Department hopes to fill this position as soon as possible.

Luke moved the meeting on to discussing the allocation of funds handout. Luke proposed that all funds for IL owners' awards be held until after racing ends June 30, 2018 so that funding is distributed fairly and equally. Jim Miller gave an overview of how open races were filling the first few days of Hawthorne's Spring meet and the number of restricted races. Luke stated that supplements were currently being paid out at \$7,500 and \$10,000 at all three tracks. Jim asked about the funding level change for Fairmount's supplements stating that during past meetings, the Board had voted and recommended that Fairmount be limited to \$100,000. Luke stated this is one of the appropriation concerns to be discussed. Kelly explained that one of the items researched by the Department, where Fairmount is concerned, is that the owners' awards estimated dollars were probably going to be lower than estimated as horsemen would earn more by racing in restricted races rather than open races. Luke stated there are no June county fair races this year so that \$25,000 can be redistributed. Tony Petrillo raised his concerns regarding the amount of funding that Hawthorne would receive for their supplements and owners' awards and how it might affect the tracks running through June. David McCaffrey agreed with Tony stating that owners' awards from the beginning were recommended at the 100% level. The Board members voiced their thoughts and concerns regarding this situation. Whether funding amounts could be changed at Hawthorne with condition books printed was discussed. Chris Polzin suggested

lowering the supplements at Hawthorne at this meeting. Jim made an argument to leave funding levels at their current levels.

Kelly suggested the Board vote on one section at a time. Kelly stated that the stake schedules have all been published and with no further funding changes expected Kelly requested a motion from the Board to approve the schedule as it is currently calculated. The Board recommended that the stakes schedule remain the same. Luke requested an all-in favor. All approved.

Dave McCaffrey asked Jim Miller for an update on the numbers of horses entered believing this could add to this continued discussion. Jim gave a brief explanation of the number of horses and how he believes the meet will play out.

Chris Polzin made a motion to reduce supplements to \$4,000 and \$6,500 from \$7,500 and \$10,000. A discussion was held on this reduction and the number of races run. Luke amended the motion to \$5,000 and \$7,500. Chris approved. The amended motion was seconded by Dave McCaffrey. Jim Miller asked for a Roll Call vote on the supplements change to \$5,000 and \$7,500. Luke asked each member to vote. Jim Miller, John Haran and Dan Arrigo voted "No". Chris Polzin, David McCaffrey, Eddie Essenpreis, Hugh Scates and Director Poe voted "Yes". The "Yes" votes won. Per approval of all Board members this change will take effect on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Hawthorne.

Dave McCaffrey voiced his concerns about overspending and reducing owners' awards percentages. Kelly stated that she would be closely monitoring the spending levels and adjustments would be made as necessary. Luke verified that Board members want to continue reimbursing owners' awards at the 100% level and that if funding is available we will be going back to \$7,500 and \$10,000.

Jim Miller asked for a discussion about Fairmount getting \$180,000 instead of \$100,000. Kelly explained the Department's thoughts regarding increasing Fairmount's supplement funding. The Department believes that due to these supplements being added to the restricted races horsemen would be entering their horses in restricted races instead of open races so the estimated payout for owners' awards would be reduced. Eddie Essenpreis was asked if he agreed with the Department. He stated yes and gave a brief synopsis. Discussions were held on how all these discussed changes would affect the bottom line and whether the supplement changes at Hawthorne were even necessary. The Board agreed to make no further changes to the budget except for the reduction of the supplements at Hawthorne and to address this again at the end of April.

Moving to old business, Kelly requested a clarification from the Board on restricted stake races. She explained that past stake races have always been listed as Added rather than Guaranteed. Hawthorne's fall stakes were raced as Guaranteed and are listed as Guaranteed for their spring races. The Department requested that these be changed to Added. Jim Miller stated he would have the racing secretary contact us regarding this. She also requested that the tracks submit a request for stakes money.

No new business.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Arrigo, seconded by Chris Polzin. Motion carried.