

**NATIONAL REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**August 22 - 23, 2013**

***Approved 10/4/2013***

**Present:** Beth Himes – President, Rick Clark – Vice President, Mike Deer, Terry Griffin, Jennifer Hoyt, Tom McCutcheon, Josh Visser

**Webinar:** Rosanne Sternberg

**Staff:** John Foy – Chief Financial Officer, Jessica Johnson – Director of Operations, Carol Trimmer – Sr. Director of Publications, Megan Lundquist – Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order**

Beth Himes called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

**Minutes**

Josh Visser motioned to approve the meeting minutes as amended from May 1, 2013, May 15, 2013, May 29, 2013, June 12, 2013, June 25, 2013, July 24, 2013, August 7, August 14, 2013 and E-Vote minutes from May 15, 2013, June 7, 2013, June 13, 2013, June 14, 2013, June 17, 2013, and July 3, 2013. Seconded by Jennifer Hoyt.

Amend June 12, 2013 minutes to state “Beth Himes noted that NRHA would not evaluate relocating the Tradeshow until a new facility was finalized.”

Motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report**

John Foy gave a profit and loss overview of the 2012/2013 fiscal year. These are preliminary, unaudited financials. Since the last financial report the most significant event to take place is the Derby, at this time the Derby is expected to perform close to budget, this is significant because we added 2 show days to the Derby schedule to make the event more exhibitor friendly, but the extra days add expense to the event. The Euro Futurity performed well and expect it to be in the black when the financials are audited and finalized.

Overall NRHA has done very well this year and the excess funds provide an opportunity for NRHA to address some pending matters, such as: Cost to move NRHA to a new location (OKC), retirement of the RHSF WEG deficit, replacement of company vehicle (used to transport youth officers and staff during the year), and new radiograph software for the NRHA sale. There are some concerns over sustaining the bottom line performance we have seen this past year given the economy and the recent performance of

the NRHA Sale, need to continue to be diligent in monitoring performance against budget. . The executive search fees for MJM Marketing have been split between the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 fiscal years, and the expense to buyout the last year of the Cowtown event has been accrued to the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. This is all very positive given the bottom line performance of NRHA for the 2012 -2013 fiscal year.

***Shianne Megel, Christa Morris, Hayley Lewallen, and Brett Walters joined the meeting at 10:36am.***

### **Youth Committee Update**

Brett Walters gave the Executive Committee an update over the Youth Committee's activity over the past year. Conditions to compete in the Collegiate Reining Championships at the NRHA Derby have been updated. High School Reining Championship Conditions were changed to allow stallions to be used in the IEA competition at the Derby, in order to possibly have more horses donated to the competition. The Derby youth meeting went very well and the youth is incredibly active. There were 23 entries in the art and photo contest and 20 entries in the speech contest. There is a need to move the speech contest venue next year due to growth.

Hayley Lewallen presented a proposal to run the Youth Stallion Auction through the Sire & Dam Auction. Offspring would be Sire & Dam eligible and 12% of the youth auction proceeds would be put into the Sire & Dam Program. The proposal was supported by the Youth Committee.

Rick Clark motioned to accept the Youth Committee's recommendation to allow the Youth Stallion Auction to operate under the Sire & Dam contract, conditions and program. Seconded by Jennifer Hoyt. Motion passed unanimously.

***Brett Walters left the meeting at 10:52am.***

### **Sire & Dam Program Update**

Hayley Lewallen updated the Executive Committee on the current figures for the Sire & Dam Program. For the 2013 breeding season, 188 breedings were donated and 109 of those were sold.

Hayley noted that mare owners have contacted the office and are concerned with the higher chute and shipping fees being charged for donated breedings. In several cases, chute fee and shipping fees are much more for Sire & Dam breedings than what is being advertised by the stallion owner. The Executive Committee recommended that the Sire & Dam contract specify chute fees and shipping fees must match what is advertised.

The closing time for the Sire & Dam Online Auction will be moved to 12pm (noon) on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Research is being conducted on a new auction site that would allow for enhanced advertising of the stallions enrolled in the program. Ads for the program are being regularly updated with intent to reach new markets and participants.

Megan Lundquist suggested that two option boxes be added to the contract in regards to semen being shipped or stored internationally.

Discussion regarding the nomination incentive and automatic eligibility for Sire & Dam offspring to enter the NRHA Futurity and Derby was postponed.

***Hayley Lewallen left the meeting at 11:12am.***

#### **Affiliate Committee Update**

Shianne Megel gave an update on the Affiliate Committees proceedings this year. The Committee revisited the 45-day rule and decided to maintain the rule for at least another year. The un-designation option was added into the NAAC Conditions. There has been a lot of work on affiliate team building, such as affiliates purchasing stalls together for the NRHA Futurity.

#### **Affiliate Committee Update – Executive Session**

***Shianne Megel and Christa Morris left the meeting at 11:27am.***

#### **Reiner Sheridan Printing Contract – Executive Session**

***John Foy left meeting at 11:44am.***

***Michelle Wrigley joined the meeting at 11:47am.***

#### **Event Publishing Policy**

Michelle Wrigley advised the Executive Committee of the current events policy and the solution proposed by Association Services. The Executive Committee agreed with the solution to publish the Event name, location and dates of tentative shows in the *Reiner*.

***Rosanne Sternberg left the meeting at 11:51am.***

Break for lunch at 11:53am.

Reconvene at 1:04pm. ***Michelle Wrigley, Tiffany Gonzales, and Jody Brainard joined the meeting.***

#### **Judges Committee Update**

Jody Brainard gave the Executive Committee an overview of the Judges Committee's activities. The 2-point break of gait review at the Derby had a positive response and the Judges Committee wants to expand it to all 2-point penalties (break of gait, freeze up, and jog) at the 2014 Derby and 2014 Futurity. Eventually, the Judges Committee would like to require all NRHA Owned Events to have the 2-point review. Jessica Johnson and John Foy were directed to speak with Event Management of the European Futurity and European Derby to determine the video quality, technical video specifications and draw selection.

The Executive Committee didn't want to propose a rule change, because the review would have to apply to all NRHA Events and that is not possible at some of the smaller shows.

Jody Brainard explained the intent of the Judges Monitor meetings. The Judges Committee wants to increased participation at shows, especially at the affiliate level. Additionally, guidelines for the meetings will be set by the Committee to help facilitate the meetings at all event levels.

The Judges Committee wants to have a judges list available in the Member's Only section of nrha.com, where judges can turn in a picture, brief biography, and work experience.

Additionally, the Judges Committee would like more members of the teaching panel to attend Judges Schools Internationally to meet the Judges and create better relationships worldwide.

***Rosanne Sternberg returned 1:26pm***

The Judges Committee continuously strives to improve Judges Schools. The Committee is currently working on getting more angles of video runs and getting past riders/judges to participate in the schools.

There was also discussion regarding the Judges Monitors. The Judges Committee would like to investigate the possibility of having a separate room at the hotel for the judges and monitor to review at the end of each day. Runs that have a 3-point or greater spread between judges without penalties likely to be reviewed each evening. The Committee also requires the judges to review runs from the previous day before starting a new day. Jody Brainard commented that the NRBC wants help setting up a monitoring program at their event as well.

**Judges Guide Changes**

Michelle Wrigley discussed judges guide clarifications. #1) "This does not apply for trotting from the in gate to the center of the arena." #2) Majority is ½ the distance of the arena. #3) Present the horse to whichever judge is closest to them at the end of the pattern, instead of going to the pre-check judge.

Jennifer Hoyt motioned to approve the Judges Guide clarifications as presented. Mike Deer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Futurity Judges – Executive Session**

***Michelle Wrigley and Jody Brainard left the meeting at 1:52pm.***

**Break at 1:52pm.**

**Reconvene at 2:02pm**

***Tiffany Gonzales and Fred Thomsson joined the meeting at 2:05pm.***

**Sale Committee Update**

Fred Thomsson updated the Executive Committee on the Sale Committee's plans for the 2013 NRHA Horse Sales. Fred presented the proposal for a new radiograph repository for the sale Asteris will host the repository and will provide professional software services. Additionally, Asteris will be an upgrade for the sale, more professional, less stress on NRHA staff, more accessible for customers, and more user friendly. There is a one-time software purchase of \$5000 and there is a fee of \$20 per hip submission.

Terry Griffin motioned to accept the Sale Committee's recommendation to purchase the Asteris repository, without onsite management. Seconded by Rick Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

There is still a need to research payment options for international buyers. The sale selection is to take place on September 3 and 4. The Executive Committee decided that consignors who have not paid consignment fees nor submitted original breed registration papers will be declined from the sale if papers or payment are not received by September 3. Tiffany Gonzales was instructed to call consignors to remind them about the deadline. Tiffany updated the Executive Committee on the current number of consignments sent in.

***Tiffany Gonzales, Jessica Johnson, Megan Lundquist, Fred Thomsson and Carol Trimmer left the meeting at 2:20pm.***

#### **Animal Welfare/ Medications - Executive Session**

Reconvene at 3:36pm – Rosanne left meeting.

***Rosanne Sternberg left the meeting at 3:36pm.***

***Jessica Johnson, Megan Lundquist, Karen McCuiston, Carol Trimmer and Michelle Wrigley joined the meeting at 3:36pm.***

#### **Stewards Committee Update**

Karen McCuiston provided an update on the Stewards Committee. There were two major goals accomplished this year: 1) mentor program established at the Derby where four mentees were accepted to train and develop as stewards and 2) Increase steward education, certification, and process to enhance image of stewards with membership. Currently, the Committee is working on improving steward accreditation with enhanced testing. Stewards are being sent to some of the top Regional Affiliate Finals for 2013.

***Karen McCuiston left the call at 4:00pm.***

***Jamie Boller and John Foy joined the meeting at 4:05pm***

#### **NRHA Owned Events**

**Stall Sponsorship Guidelines** – The Executive Committee decided to maintain the current guidelines for the 2013 NRHA Futurity and publish online in the Events section. Cowtown Classic was removed from the guidelines.

**NRHA Event Badge Allocations** – Staff was directed to research options of using AQHA's Printing company.

***Todd Knerr joined the meeting.***

Discussion surrounding badge sales for exhibitors occurred. The Executive Committee decided to leave the allocation of comp badge sales consistent with prior year. Additionally, the Executive Committee determined that based on financials badge sales would be eliminated for the 2014 Derby and no ticket sales would be conducted.

**2013 Futurity Schedule** – Concerns regarding patterns and scheduling were discussed. Postponed discussion.

***Todd Barden joined the meeting.***

The Executive Committee requested that the Clinton Anderson clinic begin at 8am to allow for finals horses to be prepared in Arena 6.

***Todd Barden, Jamie Boller and Todd Knerr left the meeting.***

***Break at 4:57pm.***

***Reconvene at 5:01pm.***

***Tiffany Gonzales and Marc Wagman joined the meeting.***

#### **Non Pro Committee Update**

Marc Wagman updated the Executive Committee on the Non Pro Committee meetings this year. The Non Pro Committee was directed to review and discuss Non Pro receiving money for stallion and other incentives.

***Tiffany Gonzales, Michelle Wrigley and Marc Wagman left the call at 5:20pm.***

#### **Financial Updates – con't**

##### **Cowtown Classic – Executive Session**

#### **2013-2014 Budget**

John Foy presented the Executive Committee the 2013-2014 Budget by department noting changes in the budget from the prior year.

There was discussion surrounding online renewals and rush/confirmation services.

***Tom McCutcheon left the meeting.***

Terry Griffin motioned to recommend to the Board the approval of the 2013 - 2014 budget. Mike Deer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Building Update – Executive Session**

***Tom McCutcheon joined the meeting.***

#### **Audit Update**

John Foy updated the Executive Committee on the audit. Audit started approximately 2 weeks ago and is progressing well. A finalized audit report should be ready in October.

#### **FEI Update – Executive Session**

#### **IT Update**

Jessica Johnson gave the Executive Committee an IT update. NRHA went live in July with two new programs and there were no major complications. IT is currently working on online renewals and near the end of step 1 (address changes). Online renewals are expected to be completed in mid-November. Starting in 2014, IT will begin rebuilding a new show program (to run inside NRHA), followed by online horse services. With online renewals coming online, it will be mandatory for individual birthdates to be collected. Also, Jessica proposed that NRHA find a different revenue source for rushes or confirmations.

Josh Visser motioned to recommend to the Board to add a \$5 processing fee for online memberships to NRHA Fee Schedule policy. Rick Clark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

***Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.***

#### **Friday August 23**

**Present:** Beth Himes – President, Rick Clark – Vice President, Mike Deer, Jennifer Hoyt, Terry Griffin, Tom McCutcheon, Josh Visser

#### **Webinar: Rosanne Sternberg**

**Staff:** John Foy – Chief Financial Officer, Jessica Johnson – Director of Operations, Carol Trimmer – Sr. Director of Publications, Megan Lundquist – Administrative Assistant.

#### **Call To Order**

Beth Himes called the meeting to order at 8:09am.

***Michelle Wrigley and Krissy Colbath joined the meeting.***

## **Rule Changes**

39-01-14 - The Executive Committee discussed and would like to see something more specific for all NAA and IAP Affiliates. Additionally, if this rule doesn't pass, NRHA will require all International Affiliates to provide a report to NRHA in order to receive their funding as noted in the *NRHA Handbook*.

39-02-14 – Concerns were raised regarding the Board determining the intent of the rule change and potential delays in approving rule changes.

41-01-14 – Allows for the Hearing Body to revoke a membership.

70-01-14 – Executive Committee and staff discussed how this rule change will affect historical data. There are a lot of implications with IT with this change. The Executive Committee discussed the possibility of dropping the Prime Time Open class from the Futurity and Derby for 2014.

73-02-14 – Executive Committee discussed changing the proposed change to be placed in the show conditions sections of the *Handbook* instead of having a separate category.

166-01-14 – Executive Committee discussed having set guidelines for what maneuvers would be required in adaptive reining patterns, rather than having separate patterns.

75-01-14 – Concern was raised concerning A shows in Canada being able to immediately comply with this. There was discussion around possibly having an exemption for Canada for a year or so to allow them to have time to develop their steward program.

***Krissy Colbath left the meeting.***

**Break at 9:11am.**

**Reconvene at 9:16am.**

***Todd Barden, Shane Brown, and Casey Hinton joined the meeting.***

## **Professionals Committee Update**

Shane Brown gave the Executive Committee an update on the Professionals Committee. The NRHA Professional of the Year Awards were very well received. The Committee is working on having better communication (via Facebook page, Professional's Forum). The Professionals membership fee was increased to help offset Committee expenses and allow the Committee to award different items as a promotional tool.

The Professionals Committee is looking into the possibility of making an Open membership mandatory to enter Open classes. The membership fee would include the Professionals benefits. The Committee continues to work on criteria for schooling etiquette and changing the wording in the Professional's Code of Conduct to make it more binding.

***Shane Brown and Casey Hinton left the call at 9:28am.***

More discussion around the mandatory open membership occurred. It was determined that a rule change would need to be submitted.

***Todd Barden left the meeting at 9:41am.***

***Krissy Colbath joined the meeting.***

### **Rule Changes**

86-02-14 – The Executive Committee received three exception requests this year and the complications in calculating the purse in the database were considered.

87-01-14 – Executive Committee recommended changing the times to one hour prior to first horse and 10pm the day before.

### **2014 Eligibility Policy**

Krissy Colbath explained the suggested eligibility changes for Rookie Level I & II and changing the Rookie of the Year to Rookie Level I. Concern was expressed regarding the Europe Affiliate Championships and their qualifying period. The Executive Committee recommended that they be allowed to continue with Rookie II through the remainder of their cycle.

Krissy Colbath explained the clarifications for Categories 10, 11, & 12. No other changes to the remainder of the policy were recommended.

Terry Griffin motioned to recommend to the Board the eligibility policy as presented. Seconded by Jennifer Hoyt. Motion passed unanimously.

***Krissy Colbath left the meeting at 10:31am.***

***Jamie Boller joined the meeting.***

### **Futurity Schedule – con't**

Jamie Boller presented the amended 2013 futurity schedule. In the Open Futurity the fourth section of the second go round was removed. The Clinton Anderson demonstration will begin at 8:00am in Arena 6. Discussion surrounding moving the RHSF Slide back 30 minutes (start at 6:30pm) occurred.

Tom McCutcheon motioned to recommend to the Board to approve the 2013 Futurity schedule as amended and presented. Seconded by Mike Deer. Motion passed unanimously.

### **2014 Futurity Conditions Task Force**

The Futurity payment schedule was discussed. Staff recommended changing the first payment deadline to February and allocated the December payment into the other five payments. Staff requested the

change to better accommodate the busy December schedule and move away from the Futurity and Nomination deadlines. The Task Force discussed the payment schedule change and decided to remain with six payments, the first being December 15. The Task Force recommended a change in the number of finalists for the Non Pro Futurity Levels 3, 2, & 1. The Task Force and Non Pro Committee did not recommend adding the 1 Up to the Futurity, feeling that they did not have enough information at this time to add it.

Terry Griffin motioned to recommend to the Board the 2014 Futurity Conditions as presented with the amendment to remove the Prime Time Open. Josh Visser seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Nomination Conditions Task Force**

Staff presented the Nomination Conditions Task Force recommendation to not make any changes to the Nomination Conditions.

Terry Griffin motioned to recommend to the Board the 2014 Nomination Conditions as recommended by the Task Force and presented. Seconded by Jennifer Hoyt. Motion passed unanimously.

***Jamie Boller left meeting 11:28.***

### **2014 European Derby – Executive Session**

#### **2013 Futurity Conditions**

John Foy informed the Executive Committee that the added money in the 2013 Futurity Conditions needs amended to properly reflect the nomination funds. The Board will be informed of the change in the added money.

#### **Conflict Calendar**

Meeting dates for the February Executive Committee and Board of Directors will be February 6 - 9. Discussion postponed.

#### **Non Pro Incentive**

The Executive Committee agreed that receiving incentives from Stallion owners or other types should not affect Non Pro status because it is not a violation of the Non Pro Conditions. Additionally, stallion owners have already made payments to Non Pro exhibitors and Adequan awards as an incentive at the North American Affiliate Championships.

***Break at 11:51am.***

***Reconvene at 12:11pm.***

### **Protest/Appeal/Investigations – Executive Session**

### **Loyalty Survey**

Executive Committee received the results of the Loyalty Survey.

***Todd Barden joined meeting at 12:31pm.***

### **Sponsorship Update – Executive Session**

***Tom McCutcheon and Todd Barden left the meeting.***

***Break at 12:42pm.***

***Reconvene at 1:26pm.***

***Christa Morris and Hayley Lewallen joined the meeting.***

### **Sire & Dam Program – con't**

Hayley Lewallen informed the Executive Committee of the wording in the Sire & Dam Contract, which states that nomination and/or eligibility are subject to change. Staff recommendation is to wait until the 2014 Stallion Auction (2015 breeding season) for nomination changes. Hayley and Christa expressed concern over the change being too close to this year's auction and that long-time supporters may feel strongly about taking this benefit away. Approximately 200 contracts have already been sent out for this year's auction noting that foals are eligible to enter the NRHA Futurity and Derby. Buyers also receive a copy of the contract with verbiage stating this.

Executive Committee suggested sending a letter regarding what is included in the Sire & Dam Program when a breeding is purchased.

Rick Clark motioned to require Sire & Dam Offspring to also nominate to the Nomination Program to be eligible to compete at the NRHA Futurity and Derby effective for 2014 breedings sold in 2013. Terry Griffin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

***Hayley Lewallen left the meeting at 1:48pm.***

***Michelle Wrigley and Todd Barden joined the meeting.***

### **Key Priorities**

The Executive Committee agreed with the proposed Key Priorities with the addition of including enhanced judges training in the animal welfare portion.

### **Animal Welfare/Medications Discussion – Executive Session**

***Rosanne Sternberg joined at 2:23pm.***

***Michelle Wrigley left the meeting at 2:42pm.***

*Reconvene at 2:49.*

*Prasino Group and Jim Harlan joined meeting.*

**NRHA Loyalty Survey – Executive Session**

*Prasino Group, Christa Morris, Todd Barden left the meeting at 3:25pm.*

**Executive Director Discussion – Executive Session**

*Rosanne Sternberg left the meeting at 5:06pm.*

*Meeting adjourned at 5:23pm.*