

Cloverleaf Standardbred Owner's Association, Inc.

April 27, 2015 – Minutes

VFW Grasonville, Maryland

Present:	President:	Thomas Cooke	
	1 st VP:	William Long	
	2 nd VP:	Jerry Nock	
	Treasurer:	Daniel Bittle	
	Executive VP:	Sharon Roberts	
	Executive Assistant;	Georgina Maybee	
Directors:	Gary Ewing	Dan Myer	Kenneth Schlotzhauer
	James Simmons	Eli Solomon	William Spicer
	Gary White		
Absent:	William DeLodovico	Jackie MacLeod	

President Thomas Cooke called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion 1: A Motion was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by William Long to accept the March 23, 2015 minutes. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

2015 Legislation –“HB 180” passed provide for \$1.2M reimbursement to the racetracks in operating **“losses”** instead of operating assistance. This bill does not help RCR, PGRV, LLC is a publicly traded company and the investors would not appreciate losses. The RCR balance sheet shows an overall profit even though the “live racing” side shows a loss.

“SB 929 & HB 1176” – CSOA’s SB 929 and companion Bill HB 1176 passed – This bill follows the thoroughbred language that allows up to 2% of all open purses to be used by the horsemen’s group that represents the majority of Standardbred horsemen in the state. The money cannot be used for Lobbying and Legal Fees.

Reimbursement goes through DLLR before being paid. There must be a Certified Audit.

Briefing Book - President Thomas Cooke prepared and distributed "CSOA Board Meeting April 27, 2015 Briefing Book" (55 pages) to the Board. A copy will be attached to the permanent minutes.

Contract Contingencies: Paper 9 – President Cooke reviewed the two contracts CSOA has with the two racetracks "Prince Georges Racing Ventures, LLC and Ocean Downs".

MRC Agenda – Maryland Standardbred Breeders Task Force Conference – Certainty with the two racetracks. We have contract with two different and separate contract contingencies.

Uniform Medication Update: 7 or 8 positive tests for Cobalt in the harness industry no such issues in the thoroughbred (according to Mike Hopkins, MRC). Several scores were excessively high over 1,000.

New drug GABA – was under review by the RMTC.

Currently RCR horses are being tested for both Cobalt and GABA.

Tom Cooke's Paper 5 – In racehorses, cobalt is typically administered a day or two before racing.

One article notes that "however, in a small subset of horses, specifically among Standardbreds, seem to have impressive racing performance pursuant to cobalt administration two days pre-race." Why, Standardbreds? One study suggested that in Standardbreds, cobalt acts as a calcium channel blocker. Standardbreds are unique among racing breeds in that they are susceptible to muscle cramping or "tying-up" during a race. As a result, Standardbred trainers may, in an effort to properly treat and maintain a horse's physical conditioning, employ any number of commercially available products such as:

Red Cell

VIT B12

Vitamin Supplements

Sweet Feed

VITA 15

Dr. Mary Robinson, University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, advised the HHI Conference participants that New Bolton is currently undertaking an extensive Cobalt study involving Standardbreds.

Regarding the use of the popular product VITA 15, Dr. Robinson encouraged the participants to follow the recommended usage of no more than 2 X a week.

Dr. Robinson noted it takes a significant amount of time for Cobalt to be eliminated from the horse's system.

RMTC's Recommendation: The RMTC has made a recommendation that the threshold of Cobalt be permissible up to 25. This threshold has not been adopted by the Maryland Racing Commission. However taking into consideration of the welfare of the horse, if a horse has been tested and reported in excess of 25 the horse should be placed on the Judges' List and not allowed to participate until the trainer can demonstrate that the horse's cobalt level is below 25.

On April 23, the RMTC voted on the recommendation as follows: "There would be a warning to the trainer and a horse would be placed on the vet's list until it tests for less than 25 parts per billion."

The committee also voted to set a finding of 300 or more parts per billion of cobalt in plasma as the trigger for penalties more in line with those for blood-doping: a 10 year ban from racing. RCI officials, however, acknowledged the lack of definitive information whether high levels of cobalt have a blood-doping qualities or can impact performance, so they said the figure of 300 could be adjusted based on research developments.

On GABA – there was disagreement the RMTC took **No** action. Page 10 & 11

OD – Update: There has been no answer on the ABC System versus Condition races at Ocean Downs for the upcoming summer meet. The Meadowlands introduced the ABC System on December 28, 2012 and discontinued it on January 24, 2015. Freehold Raceway stopped using the ABC System also.

President Cooke indicated that Board member Jackie MacLeod provided him with some guidelines to go by on "How to the initially classify the Horse." The guidelines came from an expert in Canada.

ABC Survey: Page 21 is a copy of the ABC Survey – Sent the survey to Mr. Fasy. He said the bettors made more money using the ABC System. Tom Cooke asked, “What did it do to the handle?” The answer was “The handle was status quo.”

Claiming Rules: Testing of Claimed Horses:

The 1st & 2nd place horses are tested based on race results or subject to testing IF a “special” is called for by the judges.

Horses that get claimed do not get tested unless they finish 1st or 2nd.

Claiming and Drug Testing of a Claimed Horse: The USTA Rules Section 11.03(d) (11) has language to provide for testing of a claimed horse to be tested for “infectious anemia.” The USTA Rule Section 11.10 Post Race Urinalysis Test - Where a horse is claimed and within 30 days thereafter it is determined by forensic analysis that the claimed horse has tested positive for a prohibited substance in the race prior to the race from which it was claimed the successful claimant shall also have the right to have the claim voided.

Page 28: Unlike the thoroughbred horse the Standardbred horse is likely to be back racing in 7 – 14 days.

CSOA’s Recommendation is that All claimed horses be subject to drug testing at the option of the claimant and that the claimant have the right to void a claim within 48 hours of receiving notice of a positive test.

MSS Race Dates - Page 31: – There are over 30 days between the last MSS race at Ocean Downs and the MSS races at RCR. Suggestions are:

Make it 45 days instead of 30 days or do they want to ask PN to have prep races?

The MRF Advisory Board Representative will take the request to the MRF Board Meeting.

New Language: Page 33: We are working with the MRC on understanding the acceptable lingo on “Preferences, Preferred, Priority, Designated and Restricted Races.”

Rosecroft Raceway Update: We are continually looking for buyers for RCR as a “Plan B.” This is simply sound business practice by CSOA. This is not be interpreted that Rosecroft is for sale.

Monarch Dispute: The Mid Atlantic Simulcasting Consortium threw out RCR in a last resort to settle the simulcasting dispute. Rosecroft gets to simulcast “Nationally Prominence” races through the Crossbreed Simulcasting Agreement that is currently going to arbitration.

PGRV, LLC was told to settle the dispute. There were outside interests from Annapolis and from the thoroughbreds squeezing PGRV, LLC (Rosecroft/PN) to settle.

Fact: There are more MD Preferred Races on Saturday than Tuesday.

Brian Callahan noted that he has too many horses that fit the same class and as a result is having difficulty in getting the horses raced week after week.

MRC Meeting - MD COMAR Regulations – amend the regulation - Were told to use “Restricted Races”.

Definitions – MD Owned, Sired and MD Bred.
definitions again.

We may have to look at the

RCR MD Foaled is about 4% of horses raced (Gina Maybee).

MRF Advisory Board Meeting: – Purses for the MSS and the MRF will be the same as last year. The 4 & 5 Year Old Stake Purses got cut to \$25,000 (was \$30,000 per race).

The Advisory Board was asked to separate the fillies and colts in the 4 & 5 year old races. The request was **denied**. The boys and girls will race against each other in what is likely a non-betting race.

Breathalyzer Testing of Drivers: Page 47

RCR – ALL DRIVERS ARE TESTED when the Investigator is working.

OD – there is no procedure in place ... just random testing on occasion. Very few drivers tested in 2014.

Mike Hopkins, Executive Director of the MRC, **sees no problem at this time**. President Cooke takes strong exception with the position of Mike Hopkins. President Cooke suggests that at the

end of the day the race tracks will agree that there is a serious liability issue presented. Cooke will confer with the respective race tracks.

Qualifiers and Live racing – Recommendation

CSOA Recommendation is as follows:

All drivers be subject to breathalyzer testing before qualifiers as well as the programmed race card. This policy should be in effect at both Standardbred race tracks.

In addition, the judges may, at their discretion, request additional testing during the course of the live racing program.

Harrington & Dover raceways breathalyzer test everyone, even those who warms a horse up on the track gets tested.

MD Standardbred Breeders Task Force –

The Meeting Recessed at 7:20 pm

The Meeting Resumed at 7:30 pm

Claiming Races – Petition Received: President Thomas Cooke received a petition to **“Put optional claimers on the current condition races”**. See pages 54-55.

There were 28 signatures on the petition to add optional claimers on the current condition races.

Comments made at the Board meeting were as follows:

Greg Trotto – Horses are being forced to race over their heads.

Winning one or two races a meet is not enough for an owner or trainer to survive.

8 to 10 claimers had 7 horses dropped in – Race Secretary is **not** using those races.

Brain Callahan – no incentive to buy good horses. Maryland is a difficult place to earn a living in our industry.

Maybe use the bonus system this is in place at OD (50%). Lower the purses and have a larger bonus.

The purses at RCR at this time of the Spring 2015 meet - **66% MD Preferred with bonus 69%**

A question was raised regarding whether the 60-day rule would be in effect at Ocean Downs? Greg Trotto indicated that he had called Mike Hopkins to get an answer and Hopkins said that it was up to Ocean Downs. President Cooke indicated that he believed the answer was yes at both race tracks.

VLT Numbers:

Casino numbers are up with the Horseshoe Casino (Baltimore) open.

MRF Advisory Board:

Cheri Stambaugh told the Advisory Board she wants the reserve to be at \$500,000 rainy day fund. They will need the rainy day fund if the VLT Purse money becomes in jeopardy. President Cooke indicated that he attended the MSF Advisory Board and questioned the need to have such a high reserve.

MRC - Mike Hopkins – In Maryland \$8 Million in the Standardbred Purses last year and DE last year was \$20 Million in purses.

Meadowlands Trip - President Thomas Cooke raised the idea of renting a bus to take people to the Hambleton Race at the Meadowlands on the second Saturday in August. Georgina Maybee looked into renting a bus. The initiative died for lack of interest. President Cooke will raise the issue with the Maryland Standardbred Breeders.

Rosecroft Ship in Stalls: It was reported that there was not enough Sawdust in ship in stalls. Sharon Roberts will address the issue with Dan Herbst.

Adjournment:

Motion 2: A motion was made by Kenneth Schlotzhauer, seconded by Jerry Nock to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon L. Roberts

Executive VP

File: P/CBOA Board Minutes April 27, 2015