

Cloverleaf Standardbred Owner's Association, Inc.

March 23, 2015 – Minutes

VFW Grasonville, MD

President: Thomas Cooke

1st VP: William Long

2nd VP: Jerry Nock

Secretary: Jackie MacLeod

Treasurer: Daniel Bittle Jr.

Executive VP: Sharon Roberts

Directors: William DeLodovico

Gary Ewing

Dan Myer

Kenneth Schlotzhauer

James Simmons

Eli Solomon

William Spicer

Gary White

Absent: Daniel Bittle

Don Milby (resigned position)

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

President Cooke distributed handouts updates:

“On March 17, 2015, the MRC voted its Approval”

“2015 HHI Conference Report”

Copies will be attached to the permanent minutes.

MRC Purse Distribution Change:

The change to the Purse Distribution in 2015 for the MSS and MRF Purses for a 3 (three) horse field will be as follows:

Old Distribution

New Distribution

60%

55%

30%

30%

10%

15%

Qualifying Times for the MSS and MRF will be the same for Ocean Downs and Rosecroft.

(They do not apply to overnight races)

<u>Old Qualifying Times</u>	<u>OD</u>	<u>Rosecroft</u>	<u>New Times</u>
2 – P	2:07	2:08	2:08
2 - T	2:09	2:10	2:10
3 – P	2:06	2:07	2:07
3 – T	2:08	2:09	2:09

Ocean Downs: 2015 Meet

Change Newsletter training date 5/14/2015 mistake

Correct Date 5-4-2015 1st training day

Mondays and Fridays are the training days in May.

Except for May 25 (no training) Memorial Day – Replaced with June 1st.

The total cost is \$8,000

Ocean Downs pays \$4,000

CSOA pays \$2,000

MSBA pays \$2,000

6-4-2015 1st Qualifying Day

6-8-2015 2nd Qualifying Day

6-11-2015 Ocean Down's Opening Night

During the Meet

Mondays Training Days (7 am – 12 Noon)

Thursdays Qualifying Day*

***Horses may be trained on Qualifying days**

MRC and Preferences:

In the MD Regulations on Standardbred racing – the only reference to the term PREFERENCE is PREFERENCE by DATE.

President Cooke suggested amending the current COMAR regulations to read “that the racetracks and the horsemen organization could agree to what the preferences should be”. This proposal, made in the fall of 2014, fell on deaf ears.

On behalf of CSOA, we agreed with the MRC that **80%** of the races programed would be Maryland Preference. President Cooke suggested that 100% was the proper number – 80% was an acceptable fallback position.

NO Preference for Trainers and Virginia Horsemen

The MRC made it very clear to CSOA that it did not support preferences for Maryland trainers and it did not support any preferences for horsemen from states other than Maryland.

Maryland Standardbred Bonus System:

Some members of the MRC would like the Maryland Standardbred industry to model their bonus system after the Maryland Thoroughbred bonus system. For now, the following criteria has been determined acceptable:

Criteria:

Maryland Owned

Maryland Sired

Maryland Bred

Rosecroft Bonus: 15%

Ocean Downs Bonus: 50% (limited to 25% of VLTs)¹

Proposed Bonus System (not formally presented to the MRC)

Maryland Owned: 25%

Maryland Sired: 15%

Maryland Bred: 10%

¹ The 25% limitation was negotiated with Ocean Downs in the current round of contract negotiations. The trade of here was getting the 50% bonus amount.

The new contract with Ocean Downs (2015-2019) provides for **80%** of races **RACED** will enjoy the Maryland preference.

The new approved language is “Maryland **Restricted** Races.” The word “Restricted” is in and “Designated” is out. With the approval of the MRC, Rosecroft is writing its races as “Maryland Preferred” races.

Ocean Downs Contract Update:

President Cooke updated the Board on the OD/CSOA Contract talks. Cooke advised MRC Chair Bruce Quade that we were at a stalemate on the contract talks with Ocean Downs and the simulcasting rights enjoyed by Ocean Downs were in jeopardy. Chairman Quade arranged for Cooke and Rickman to talk (agreement was reached in < 2 hours) and they agreed on the following:

- 50% Bonus (limited to 25% of VLTs) – including language to monitor the bonus during the meet.
- 2015-2019 contract term
- 48 days of “live racing.” Can be increased to 55.²
- No more than 4 racing days per week.³
- Training days (7 am – 12 Noon) will NOT be on qualifying days
- Annual payment to CSOA
- Payment to CSOA during the “live racing” meet
- \$100 payment for finishing out of the money
- Payment for canceled races
- On track drivers’ insurance
 - Ocean Downs will increase its liability to \$8,500 a year.
 - Owners of horses entered to race will be liable for the difference.

Update: CSOA currently has an agreement with PGRV, LLC through 2020. Both the Ocean Downs contract and the PGRV contract have **contingencies** in them.

² Requires mutual agreement.

³ Any change to the number of days requires mutual agreement.

The horsemen would like to see PGRV, LLC get their \$1.2M Legislation passed in Annapolis – then go to PGRV, LLC to see if they would agree to the same tiered bonus system that could be proposed at Ocean Downs.

Point of Clarification: Current definition of MD Bred – **“the owner of the dam at the time of conception is a Maryland resident”**.

Motion 1: A motion was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by William DeLodovico to accept the proposed Tiered MD Bonus System as follows: MD Owned 25%, Sired 15% and Bred 10%. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

MSBA: The MSBA directors in attendance endorsed the Tiered MD Bonus System as follows: MD Owned 25%, Sired 15% and Bred 10%. Nine (9) breeders voted unanimously.

Ocean Downs Training Center-

OD Training Center for the month of May 2015 – President Cooke and President of the MSBA, Dan Myer agreed that a horsemen should be a member of CSOA or the MSBA or pay \$50 per trainer.

Motion 2: A motion was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Eli Solomon that a trainer must pay \$50 to train in May unless you belong to CSOA or MSBA. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried

Legislative Update – Kelley Rogers: The Association 2% Bill is out of both houses. Different audit language will be put in conference meeting.

Still working on the \$1.2 M to both racetracks to help offset racing losses. The goal is to remove the labor union language. There is outside interference from the thoroughbreds to stop the legislation.

MSBA Update: Dan Myer stated there was NO update.

MSRF Advisory Board Committee – Dan Myer

The current 2015 MSS Race Date Schedule - Between the 2 and 3 round of Sires Stakes there are over 30 days so all horses will have to requalify. Peter Szymanski suggested a 45 day rule instead of 30 day rule. Dan Myer will come back update the CSOA Board on action taken by the MSRF.

Dan Myer the next MSRF Advisory Board meeting will be his last meeting as CSOA Representative as June his 4 year term ends. CSOA will have to appoint someone to fill the CSOA MSRF Seat.

Motion 3: A motion was made by Jackie MacLeod, seconded by Tom Cooke to have Gary White serve as CSOA representative to the MSRF Advisory Board. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried. Sharon Roberts will send a letter to the MSRF Advisory Board.

There was discussion on the "Posting "of the eligible horses in a more timely fashion. The CSOA Board directed Dan Myer to address the Posting of the eligible horses in a more timely fashion at the next MSRF Advisory Board Meeting.

2014 - MD Race Fund Purses:	\$480,000
2014 - MSS Purses:	\$560,000
2014 Total:	\$1,040,000

Motion 4: A motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Kenny Schlotzhauer to **freeze** the MD Race Fund Money at last year (2014) level of **\$480,000** and to put the overage in MSS. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Easter Monday.

Approval of the February 18, 2015 Annual CSOA Meeting Minutes:

Motion 5: A motion was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by Jerry Nock to approve the February 18, 2015 CSOA. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Committee List: A copy of the CSOA 2015 Committee List was distributed to the Board and a copy will be attached to the permanent minutes.

Election of Officers:

A motion (**Motion 6**) was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by William DeLodovico to nominate Thomas Cooke for President.

A motion (**Motion 7**) was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Eli Solomon to close the nomination.

A motion (**Motion 8**) was made by Jackie MacLeod, seconded by Eli Solomon to nominate William Long as 1st Vice President.

A motion (**Motion 9**) was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by Jackie MacLeod to close the nomination.

A motion (**Motion 10**) was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Eli Solomon to nominate Jerry Nock as 2nd Vice President.

A motion (**Motion 11**) was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by William DeLodovico to close the nomination.

A motion (**Motion 12**) was made by Dan Myer, seconded by William DeLodovico to nominate Jackie MacLeod as Secretary.

A motion (**Motion 13**) was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Dan Myer to close the nomination.

A motion (**Motion 14**) was made by Eli Solomon, seconded by Jackie MacLeod to nominate Daniel Bittle as Treasurer.

A motion (**Motion 15**) was made by Jackie MacLeod, seconded by Eli Solomon to close the nomination.

With no other nominations the results of the election are as follows:

President:	Thomas Cooke
1st VP:	William Long
2nd VP:	Jerry Nock
Secretary:	Jackie MacLeod
Treasurer:	Daniel Bittle

New Business:

Gary White stated that mounds dirt on RCR race track needs to be removed. Sharon Roberts will talk with Dan Herbst about removing the dirt.

Motion 16:

A motion was made by William DeLodovico, seconded by Tom Cooke explore options and support to have training before the spring meet 1 day a week at RCR. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Motion 17: A motion was made by Dan Myer, seconded by Kenny Schlotzhauer to explore racing in January and February of 2016. The vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

President Cooke reported that the 2014 MD Horse forum Report lacks sufficient mentioning of the Maryland Standardbreds industry.

Motion 18: A motion was made by Dan Myer, seconded by Gary White to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sharon L. Roberts, Executive VP

Reviewed: 16 April 2015 TBC