

Virginia Harness Horseman Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order by president, Scott Woogen at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Those present in person were: Scott Woogen, Chief Robbins, Betsy Brown, Danny Chansky, Stacey McLenghan, Tyler Shehan, Anne McDonald, Tracy Bradshaw, Leon Harris, Billy Carter and Debbie Warnick. A quorum was declared.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting held on June 4, 2024 were reviewed and approved as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for August 2024 was reviewed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item 1. Election of Officers**

- a. President- The following directors were nominated for President- Betsy Brown and Scott Woogen. Scott Woogen was elected by a majority vote.
- b. Vice President- The following directors were nominated for Vice President- Chief Robbins and Danny Chansky. Chief Robbins was elected by a majority vote.
- c. Treasurer- Betsy Brown was nominated for Treasurer. She was elected by a unanimous vote.

**Item 2. 2025 Breeders Fund & Sired Stakes Race Dates**

Debbie presented potential dates for the 2025 Breeders Fund and Sired Stakes race dates. They are as follows:

**Breeder Fund Dates**

Three year old trot eliminations- May 24 & May 31, 2025

Three year old pace eliminations- May 25 & June 1, 2025

Three year old trot finals- June 7, 2025

Three year old pace finals- June 8, 2025

Aged trotters races- June 7, 2025

Aged pacers races- June 8, 2025

Two year old trot eliminations- Oct 11 & Oct 18, 2025

Two year old pace eliminations- Oct 12 & Oct 19, 2025

Two year old trot finals- Oct 25, 2025

Two year old pace finals- Oct 26, 2025

**Sired Stakes Dates**

Two year old trot eliminations- Sept 20, 2025

Two year old pace eliminations- Sept 21, 2025

Two year old trot finals- Sept 27, 2025

Two year old pace finals- Sept 28, 2025

These dates were reviewed and discussed. Scott Woogen moved and Tyler Shehan seconded to approve these dates pending VRC approval. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 3. Virginia owned bonus for overnight races**

It was moved by Scott Woogen and seconded by Anne McDonald that bonuses for Virginia owned horses racing in overnight races at Shenandoah Downs be required to own the horse for three months prior to the start of the race meet, or purchase the horse at public auction during the race meet, before bonus money will be paid. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4. Breeders Fund and Sired Stakes rules**

There was discussion about the payment of declaration fees for these races. Current rules require payment before the first elimination race, even if the horse is not racing in the first elimination. It was moved by Danny Chansky and seconded by Scott Woogen that this rule be changed to require payment at the time the horse is dropped in to race in an elimination race. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5. Race Meet**

- A. There was discussion about the need for pre race blood gas testing (black box testing). It was agreed that Scott and Chief will reach out to the VRC again about the need for this testing.
  
- B. There continues to be issues with the races that are written and horses that are given preference over Virginia owned horses. Scott will talk to Pete Szymanski about the concerns of the horsemen.

As there was no further business to be discussed, Scott Woogen adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Warnick  
Executive Director