

MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD

Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

Monday, January 26, 2026

Members Present:

Sharon Molster

Gail Rezendes-Dell

Frank Ferguson

Beth Smith

Gretchen Carr

Amy Moore

Robin White

Debbie Easter

David Lands

Charles Green

Barbara Riggs

VDACS Staff:

Michael Scott Banks

Melissa Ball

Jennifer Reichert

Emily Day

Members Absent:

Oliver Brown

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chair S Molster
- II. Opening Remarks
 - a. S Molster introduced Charles Green as the new VDACS Commissioner and VHIB member.
- III. Review Meeting Minutes and Vote to Approve (11/17/25 minutes were unavailable at this time)
 - a. Minutes from 9/22/25
 - i. Updated to include Gail Rendez-Dell as present for the meeting. A. Moore made a motion to approve. D. Easter seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
 - b. Minutes from 10/14/25
 - i. No changes were made. D. Easter made a motion to approve. A. Moore seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
 - c. Minutes from 10/27/25
 - i. No changes were made. D. Easter made a motion to approve. B. Smith seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
 - d. Minutes from 12/17/25
 - i. No changes were made. F. Ferguson made a motion to approve. B. Smith seconded. Vote passed unanimously.
- IV. Economic Impact Study
 - a. E. Day provided an update, summarizing the four phases of the study. An update was given on the Memorandum of Understanding that was being drafted by VDACS staff to issue to George Mason University regarding the study.
- V. Website
 - a. E. Day provided updates on the VHIB website progress. Directory and event listings have all been published. Social media is still in progress. Meeting minutes are currently up to date on the website.

- b. Grants page exists on the website but is not public facing currently. Working with TylerTech to get it ready.

VI. Strategic Plan

- a. F. Ferguson provided an update on the Strategic Plan. It was determined that the plan's updates could be discussed during the board's monthly meetings to make it easier for members' schedules. These discussions would begin at the March meeting and last approximately five to six months. First discussion would be to refine the language of the board's mission statement. Will involve setting objectives and later an action plan that involves creating a calendar, budget, and roles & responsibilities for each member.
- b. Two hours would be needed to be allotted during the meetings, and these would need to be in person.

VII. VHIB alternative funding vehicles

- a. Of the eight alternative funding proposals reviewed, the following six were voted to continue pursuing.
 - i. Feed Assistance Pilot Program for Equines Seized by or Surrendered to Law Enforcement in VA
 - ii. Racing for Success! Creating tailored fitness and recovery programs for horses, owners and trainers.
 - iii. Marketing Fund to attract new Championship shows
 - iv. Brandy Station Battlefield Water Well at St. James Ridge
 - v. Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan for advanced lameness diagnostic imaging in race and sport horses
 - vi. Fauquier Horse Park public bridle trail and arena improvement

VIII. Grants and Budget Update

- a. J. Reichert provided updates on the upcoming grant proposals to be reviewed at the February board meeting. 73 proposals were invited, totaling \$1.2 million if all are funded in-full.
- b. A breakdown of pre-proposal types most and least likely to be invited was also shown. Most likely from the 250 eligible pre-proposals included Youth

Organizations, Shows, and Trails. Least likely included Colleges, Therapeutic, and Business proposals.

- c. The board's current balance available for strategic initiatives is \$3,738,592.42

IX. Future Meeting dates

- a. April 20th, 2026
- b. May 18th, 2026
- c. June 29th, 2026

X. Public Comments

- a. The floor was opened for public comment. There were none.

XI. Adjournment

- a. F. Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. Riggs seconded. The vote passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.