



NEWSLETTER

October 2009

MISSION:

Through an energized, broad based, grassroots coalition representing all facets of the equine industry, the Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is committed to increasing the awareness and support, influencing public policy to strengthen the industry, and heightening recognition of the economic opportunities and value of the Michigan equine industry.

VISION:

A leader, partner and the voice of the Michigan equine industry.

PHILOSOPHY:

Provide leadership through commitment, empowerment and accountability. Build partnerships with respect, trust, cooperation and respond to the needs of the equine industry with information, assessment, innovation, communication and coordination of services.

VALUE:

A proud non-profit organization of advocacy through integrity, collaboration and member driven cooperative spirit.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AARON RICE

Hello to all equine enthusiast! Michigan Equine Partnership has been extremely busy putting together the results of the RFP for the International Equine Facility. A big thank you to the Equine Facility selection committee who have dedicated their time and effort into this process. We look forward to finalizing our decision and the public announcement very soon.



The key to MEP's success is unity. We need all equine enthusiast to support and be a part of the new equine facility and our legislative efforts.

Through unity MEP will continue to grow and benefit all equine interest. Please find an area to participate and become a player in the Michigan Equine Partnership.

I want to thank our legislative team, Larry Julian and Val Vail-Shirey for their legislative leadership and time spent in meeting after meeting. The results of this effort will soon be realized by all.

Please watch the MEP website and participate in the partnership.

We look forward to upcoming excitement within the industry. Please stop by and see me at the Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show, October 15 - 18, at the MSU Pavilion.

Stay tuned,

Aaron Rice

Visit us online at www.miequine.com

FOUNDING MEMBERS

- ☞ C.A.N.T.E.R.
- ☞ Equine World Insurance
- ☞ International Draft Horse Association
- ☞ M.T.O.B.A.
- ☞ Campbell Farms
Jerry and Lisa Campbell
- ☞ Tom Cole
- ☞ Larry Julian
- ☞ Mast Thoroughbreds
Henry Mast
- ☞ Val Vail-Shirey
- ☞ Horsemen's Benevolence & Protective Association
- ☞ Great Lakes Downs,
Muskegon

BOARD MEMBERS

- ☞ Aaron Rice
President
- ☞ William "Dutch" Guthrie
Vice-President
- ☞ Kristina Goulet
Treasurer
- ☞ Claudia Cary
Secretary
- ☞ Susie Baumgartner
- ☞ Ernie Birchmeier
- ☞ Kim Fricke-Young
- ☞ Paula Hitzler
- ☞ Ronald Hitzler Jr.
- ☞ Patricia Hooker
- ☞ Therese Kline
- ☞ Steve Luyk
- ☞ Lisa Machala
- ☞ Suzanne Reiner
- ☞ Lori Ross
- ☞ Karen Waite
- ☞ Tom Tyler
- ☞ Dale Zahn
- ☞ Cherie Collins

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY JULIAN VAIL, LLC

Budgets. Budgets, budgets, revenue, revenue, no money, no money, higher taxes. These are the constant words heard from the Capitol these days. The budgets have not been completely finalized for 2009-2010. The state is working on a continuation budget as we write this article. The revenues for the State of Michigan continue to decline and additional budget cuts will be needed. The Legislature and the Executive Office appear to be working hard on compromise and settling the budget for next fiscal year. We have been extremely busy attempting to keep funding for racing, county fairs and exhibitions and for Department of Agriculture in the budget without major cuts. In the MDA budget which has passed both houses and is waiting for Governor's signature, the fair premiums line item was increased from \$147,000. to \$200,000. There is also line item funding for county fair racing, buildings and track improvements of \$129,000, which is a decrease from last year funding levels. We appreciate all members who have taken the time to contact their legislators and the Governor regarding the budget and the importance of equine to the economics of this State. Julian Vail, LLC has a commitment from Chair Cushingberry, House Appropriations that he will be introducing a supplemental that will include boilerplate language that will direct the MDA Director to immediately direct the Racing Commissioner to implement instant racing at the states horse racing tracks. This bill will be heard in committee in the very near future and will allow horse racing to fund itself and stand on its own feet according to the Governor's wishes.

Michigan Equine Partnership was represented by Julian Vail, LLC in a meeting with Lt. Governor Cherry on the restructuring and streamlining of State Government and possible consolidation of MDA into DEQ/DNR. These proposals are being considered by Governor Granholm and Lt. Governor Cherry. The meeting was attended by many of the commodity groups and a tremendous amount of information was exchanged. After many letters, emails and phone calls from membership and the entire agriculture interest, this idea appears to have been shelved for the time being. We are hopeful that MDA will remain an independent department for many years to come.

Larry Julian has attended several meetings of the Animal Initiative Legislation representing the Michigan Equine Industry. Larry is a key member of the Commodity Producers Committee which drafted the now introduced, passed and waiting for the Governor signature, legislation HB 5127. This legislation will establish an animal care advisory council and ensures definitive animal care standards in Michigan State Law. The bills presently do not include equine livestock as there is no national standard to apply at this time. There are provisions in the bill to include other species as standards for proper care as they are established across the state and country.

Continued on next page

Michigan livestock farmers care about the land, animals and communities we live in. We want consumers to feel confident enjoying meat, milk and eggs from contemporary Michigan farms raised by farmers with traditional Michigan values. With that in mind, Michigan farmers are supporting oversight of animal care with 3rd party verification to assure all Michigan families that the Michigan food they enjoy has been grown and raised with science-based animal care standards. The legislative package specifically does the following:

- Clarifies the Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Commission as the sole authority regulating livestock health and welfare.
- Codifies into statute scientific-based animal care standards, providing a requirement for farms to comply by 2020.
- Provides opportunity for revisions to the animal care standards or additional livestock specie standards through an Animal Care Advisory Council that will provide recommendations to the Department and Agriculture Commission for inclusion in rules.
- Utilizes a third-party audit system that would require little infrastructure or cost to the state for managing the program.
- Provides for science-based specie specific input into animal care requirements through the Animal Care Advisory Council and subcommittees appointed thereby.

Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey, President Aaron Rice and Board Member Karen Waite participated in a meeting with Agriculture commodities and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in regards to a new committee on Agriculture. The meeting was well attended and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce is committed to establishing the Agriculture Committee with appointments to the committee to be made in the near future. This is an extremely encouraging outcome of a long sought meeting to give a voice to Michigan Agriculture.

Legislation drafted and pending further action includes:

Equine Check off with the revenue coming from manufactured feed and wormers for equine sold in Michigan. This bill will be introduced by Representative Espinosa in the House of Representatives.

Equine Liability amendment which has been introduced by Senator Michelle McManus in the Senate and is SB 738 and is waiting for committee hearing.

Bridle Tagging for trail riding commission introduced by Senator Vanwoerkom, SB 496 and is waiting for committee hearing.

Testimony has been given at the Appropriations Committee Meetings in regard to the Horse Racing industry and the inability of the industry to raise revenues to be self supporting as the Governor has requested. Julian Vail, LLC will continue to promote revenue ideas to the committees so that Horse Racing, the jobs and the economic benefit it provides remain viable in Michigan.

Michigan Equine Partnership has been meeting with DNR representatives in regard to establishing a trail riding network in Michigan along with campgrounds. Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey represents the equine industry and provides input to the Deputy Director for consideration.



MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP REVIEWS PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK LOCATION

MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP SELECTS INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK LOCATION

LANSING – The Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) Board of Directors selected a site in northern Jackson County to build the Michigan International Equine Facility. Jackson Enterprise Group coordinated a proposal on behalf of many interested parties in Jackson County and MEP has selected this proposal and location to build this dynamic facility.

The International Horse Park concept has been a two-year project in planning and selection of the best site for this state of the art equine center. Letters of intent were due by February 1, 2009 and final proposals were due June 1, 2009. The committee conducted individual meetings with each group to hear their plan for partnership and a physical visit to the proposed property.

Scott Fleming, President and CEO of the Enterprise Group of Jackson says, “This will have a tremendous economic impact on the county and its ability to draw tourism to the Mid-Michigan area. We are delighted to work with Michigan Equine Partnership to accomplish this goal”.

Michigan Equine Partnership received three proposals of partnership for the International Equine Facility. Albion Economic Development Corporation, Springport Township Equine Partnership and the Enterprise Group of Jackson submitted proposals for the location of the Michigan International Equine Facility. The Michigan Equine Partnership, Equine Facility Committee, reviewed the written proposals, completed site visits and provided recommendation to the entire Board of Directors.

MEP President, Aaron Rice says, “We worked hard to make the best decision. We thank all of the groups for their proposals and look forward to making the project become a reality. These folks have put their heart and soul into this project and we appreciate their effort and intensity.” “We are enthusiastic to partner with Jackson County in this endeavor to create thousands of jobs and be an economic driver for the equine industry and for the State of Michigan.”

The Michigan Equine Partnership in partnership with the Jackson Economic Development Group will begin work immediately in planning this development.

All interested parties should contact Michigan Equine Partnership at 235 N. Pine St., Lansing, Michigan 48933. The Michigan Equine Partnership (MEP) is a Michigan non-profit (c 6) organization. For more information call Executive Director Val Vail-Shirey @ 517.372.1500 or e-mail val@julianvail.com

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MICHIGAN EQUINE PARTNERSHIP

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

A SUCCESS!

The MEP Annual Meeting was a great success again this year. Held at the Radisson in Downtown Lansing on April 21, 2009 and sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, the meeting was informative and exciting. Paula Hitzler provided an overview of the Economic Impact of the Michigan Equine Park. Tiffany Rogers, Michigan FFA President gave a presentation on Equine Slaughter, The Pros & Cons. The "stick horse" racing event was called by Brett Boyd. The Live Auction, that rounded out the evening brought in \$1220. Thank you to all who attended and participated. It was a great evening.



MEP Board Members:
Dutch Guthrie, Kristina Goulet &
Claudia Cary-Davidson



Val Vail-Shirey and
Aaron Rice



Paula Hitzler
presenting the Economic
Impact Program



Roní Weaver



MEP members



Tiffany Rogers &
Ron Hitzler



Karen Waite chats with
Gary Whilmore



Larry thinks he's going
to win???



EQUINE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



October 15-18, 2009

Michigan Great Lakes International Draft Horse Show
MSU Pavilion, East Lansing MGLI.org

November 7-8, 2009

Winter Jumping Series Schooling Show
Location: Albion College Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center, Albion, MI

December 5-6, 2009

Winter Jumping Series Schooling Show
Location: Albion College Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center, Albion, MI

FREE WEBCASTS

October 13, 2009

Optimizing Hay & Feeding Storage
Register on-line @ http://myhorseuniversity.com/resources/webcasts/hay_oct_09

October 21, 2009
1:00 p.m.

Applications for Equine Genetics
Register on-line @ <http://noncredit.msu.edu/offeringDetail.action?sectionId=306>

October 21, 2009
7:00 p.m.

On the Trail Ride: Best Practices
Register on-line @ <http://myhorsesuniversity.com/trail>

MEP CLASSIFIEDS COMING SOON

		Member Pricing	Non-member Pricing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Premium Ad Includes up to 5 full-color photos and are displayed above Basic Ads.	-3 Months- \$19.95	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic Ad Includes 1 full-color photo and are displayed above Text Ads.	-3 Months- \$9.95	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Text Ad Includes text-only for 3 months.	-3 Months- FREE	

Please contact the MEP office at Julian Vail, LLC for more information or an application.

P: 517-372-150 F: 517-372-1501 Email: val@miequine.com



*Does your organization have events you would like posted in our publications and web site?
Please submit the event, date, times, and contact information to val@miequine.com*



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