

MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA HORSE INDUSTRY BOARD

Virginia Thoroughbred Association - Warrenton, VA

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Members Present:

Sharon Molster

Gail Rezendes-Dell

Frank Ferguson

Beth Smith

Gretchen Carr

Amy Moore

Oliver Brown

Robin White

Virtual:

Debbie Easter

David Lands

VDACS Staff:

Michael Scott Banks

Melissa Ball

Jennifer Reichert

Emily Day

Misc: 4 members of the general public

- I. Call to Order
 - a. The meeting was called to order by Chair S Molster
- II. Opening Remarks

- a. S Molster introduced Emily Day as the new Executive Director for the VHIB and gave recognition to Jennifer Reichert for her continued contributions to the board.

III. Grant Pre-Proposals

- a. J Reichert introduced the pre-proposals sent to the Board for review. Board members had previously scored proposals or recused themselves from any conflicts of interest. Pre-proposals were ranked by average scores. The Board determined a certain threshold below which proposals were declined. The Board then reviewed the remaining pre-proposals, selecting the following 73 pre-proposals to invite to submit a full proposal.

ID	Organization Name	Project Title	Total budget requested
26-210	Equine Welfare Collaborative of Virginia	Equine Education for Animal Control Officers/Equine Veterinary Forensic Training	\$5,000.00
26-006	Bay Riders 4H Club of Gloucester	Help the Bay Riders Buy a Horse Learning Lab Kit	\$1,200.00
26-036	Central Virginia Technical Large Animal Rescue	4Hooves Training Program	\$8,000.00
26-117	Culpeper Battlefield Tours LLC	Brandy Station Battlefield Equestrian Trails	\$11,200.00
26-281	Upperville Colt & Horse Show Inc.	Celebration of Therapeutic Riding at the Upperville Colt & Horse Show, Saturday, June 6, 2026	\$15,000.00
26-172	Morven Park, Inc.	2026 Morven Park International	\$25,000.00
26-315	Virginia FFA Foundation	Virginia FFA Equine Events	\$11,000.00
26-227	Virginia Youth Animal Science - Equine Programs	Virginia 4-H Horse Program: State Level Contests, Shows, and Programs and Teams Representing Virginia Nationally	\$25,000.00
26-112	James River Horse Foundation (JRHF)	JRHF Inmate Education: Building Equine Skills and Careers	\$10,000.00
26-107	The Virginia Gold Cup Association, Inc	Come Back to the Races	\$3,000.00
26-143	Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization Inc. (OD)	AERC National Championship @ the Old Dominion: Base Camp Grant	\$5,000.00
26-119	Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine	Acupuncture vs Physical Therapy in the Treatment of Back Pain in Horses	\$5,000.00
26-305	Virginia Quarter Horse Association	Great Horses Born in Virginia	\$3,000.00

26-347	Virginia Horse Council	Research and produce new edition of the VHC's Virginia Horse Trails guide	\$14,000.00
26-231	Virginia Quarter Horse Youth Association	Develop an Educational Horse Judging and Hippology Program for VQHYA members	\$5,000.00
26-116	Upperville Colt & Horse Show, Inc.	Expanded Marketing and Advertising for 2026 Show	\$8,000.00
26-316	Virginia Region Pony Clubs	Virginia Region Pony Clubs Education Program	\$25,000.00
26-165	Loudoun County Equine Alliance, Inc.	LCEA Expo 2026	\$5,500.00
26-163	Theodora A. Randolph Field Hunter Championship, LLC	Introduction of Junior-Specific Division	\$7,500.00
26-220	Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.	Equine Assisted Therapy Instructor Training	\$3,000.00
26-104	Virginia Pony Breeders Association	New VPBA website	\$7,000.00
26-168	Loudoun Benefit Horse Show	Loudoun Benefit Horse Show Competitor Experience Improvement	\$20,000.00
26-213	Southwest Virginia Dressage Association	SWVADA Youth Membership Growth and Dressage Participation Initiative	\$5,000.00
26-298	Virginia Quarter Horse Association	VQHA Supports You	\$5,000.00
26-378	Virginia Horse Center Foundation	10th Anniversary YEDA National Championship Week	\$60,000.00
26-276	Virginia Equine Welfare Society, Inc.	Training Initiatives on The Essentials of Positive and Caring Horsemanship	\$2,830.00
26-022	Casanova-Warrenton Pony Club	Welcoming, Educating and Connecting Youth with Horses through Pony Club	\$10,000.00
26-120	The State Fair of Virginia, Inc.	The State Fair Equestrian Roundup	\$35,000.00
26-079	Suffolk Economic Development	Suffolk Salute to Veterans Stall Crawl	\$5,000.00
26-111	Eventing in Virginia	Arena/Indoor Eventing Marketing and Inventory Additions	\$5,000.00
26-202	Highland County Fair Association	Horse Show Judges Fees	\$1,000.00
26-322	Bull Run Hunt, Inc	Bull Run Hunt Youth Gymkhana	\$1,500.00
26-110	GC Equestrian LLC / Eventing in Virginia	Virginia Equestrian Commonwealth Games	\$20,000.00
26-141	Louisa FFA	Louisa FFA Awards Banquet	\$5,000.00

26-369	Virginia Forage and Grassland Council/Virginia Cooperative Extension	Pasture Perfect: Equine Grazing School for Horse Owners in Virginia	\$10,000.00
26-374	Virginia Horse Center Foundation	No Horse No Problem	\$70,000.00
26-180	Virginia Horse Center Foundation	Virginia Horse Center Foundation Official Website Refresh	\$22,000.00
26-354	Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech	Pharmacokinetics of Single and Multiple Doses of Paroxetine (Paxil) in Adult Horses	\$14,180.00
26-300	Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center	Tridimensional technologies applied to custom therapeutic farriery: the laminitis case.	\$19,135.00
26-124	Virginia Horse Shows Association, Inc.	19th Annual Amy Ylvisaker Reistrup Equitation Challenge	\$5,000.00
26-139	Healing Harvest Forest Foundation	North American Suffolk Horse Association (NASHA) annual gathering at the Virginia Horse Center October 8,9 & 10 2026	\$5,000.00
26-206	Virginia Partnership for Horses	Application Development for Adoption Tracking	\$7,500.00
26-046	Barns at Blue Mountain	Equine Assisted Youth Engagement	\$8,500.00
26-223	East Coast Horseshoeing School	Horseshoeing Stock for Draft Horses	\$3,000.00
26-236	Great Meadow Foundation	Virginia Thoroughbred ReStart Showcase: Highlighting Second-Career Opportunities for Retired Racehorses	\$25,000.00
26-295	Deep Run Hunt Horse Show Association	Awards for Deep Run A Show 2026	\$1,700.00
26-379	Sustainable Horsemanship	Sustainable Horsemanship 2026 Show Series	\$2,000.00
26-020	Horse Shows of Central Virginia	“Throw Back” Horse Show hosted by Horse Shows of Central Virginia	\$5,000.00
26-279	Upperville Colt & Horse Show Inc	Audience Measurement Initiative	\$3,823.54
26-335	Virginia Tech	On Track to Better Pastures: A Pilot Study Linking Equine Welfare and Novel Grazing Management Strategies	\$25,000.00
26-239	Virginia Quarter Horse Association	VQHA Western Dressage Pilot Program	\$3,000.00
26-217	Virginia Horse Center Foundation	Prize money for Special Event Trail and Ranch Horse classes	\$10,000.00
26-219	Virginia Horse Center Foundation	Virginia Horse Center Foundation Bio Security Enhancement	\$44,000.00

26-377	EQUI-KIDS Therapeutic Riding Program	EQUI-KIDS Therapeutic Riding Program	\$15,000.00
26-380	Forest View Farm	Virginia Working Equitation (WE) Expansion & Education Initiative	\$2,500.00
26-059	Longwood University Equestrian Club Team	The Stable Foundation: Educating Future Riders	\$3,000.00
26-123	Virginia Dressage Association	Low Cost Youth Dressage Clinics For Grassroots Riders	\$8,000.00
26-038	Roanoke Valley Horseman Association	Website	\$5,000.00
26-376	Virginia Walking/Racking Horse Owners Association	Promotion of two horse shows the VWRHOA "SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA" 5/12-16/26 and the fall "VIRGINIA CELEBRATION" 9/18-19/26 at the Olde Dominion Ag Center	\$25,000.00
26-140	Chesapeake 4H horse and pony club	VA 4H state horse show	\$5,000.00
26-278	Upperville Colt & Horse Show Inc.	Booklet with schedule and advertising	\$4,200.00
26-164	Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA)	Marketing and Promotion of the Virginia Horse Industry	\$350,000.00
26-261	Virginia Horse Council	2026 Virginia Horse Council Educational Seminar and Annual Meeting	\$6,400.00
26-314	Heartland Horse Heroes	Heartland Horse Heroes Therapeutic Riding Expansion Grant	\$25,000.00
26-304	Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center	The Geriatric Horse Initiative: Fostering Scientific Exchange for Enhanced Welfare Standards.	\$20,000.00
26-144	Old Dominion Equestrian Endurance Organization Inc. (OD)	2026 Old Dominion Young Rider Endurance Clinic	\$3,000.00
26-282	East Coast Stock Horse Association	ECSHA Stock Horse Saturdays	\$6,500.00
26-357	Louisa County Fair	Elevate and increase Louisa County Fair horse show participation	\$3,928.86
26-308	The Warrenton Pony Show	Warrenton Pony Show Junior Committee Outreach, Education and Support	\$20,000.00
26-360	High Performance Equestrian Foundation	Upgrade Twilight Jumpers to a High Performance Standard	\$20,000.00
26-178	Virginia Steeplechase Association	Identification of risk factors for injuries in horses racing over jumps	\$25,000.00

26-175	Emory & Henry University	Cultivating the Equestrian Pipeline with Youth: The Summer Camp at Emory & Henry University	\$15,000.00
26-002	Montanova Stables Foundation	Equine After School Program	\$17,000.00

IV. Budget Review

- a. Motion was made by S. Molster to move \$500,000 from the budget's Marketing line to Grants and another \$500,000 from Marketing to the New Sponsorships and Alternative Project Funding line. F Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Motion was made by R White to empower the Chair to explore any vehicle necessary through VDACS or another appropriate state agency to ensure incidental expenses can be reimbursed. A Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Economic Impact Study

- a. Updates were shared regarding the study. E Day and D Easter spoke with Terry Clower from George Mason University. Terry is currently preparing to move forward with study. Terry is working with VDACS procurement to create a Memorandum of Understanding. R White and D Easter will review the MoU before it is signed.

VI. Public Comment Period

- a. The floor was opened to the public for comment. There was one comment from Sue Fanelli regarding one of the invited pre-proposals.

VII. Motion to enter closed session

- a. S Molster made a motion to enter closed session with the following language: Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. O Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Motion to exit closed session

- a. S Molster made a motion to exit closed session using the following language: I now call for each member of this Board to certify to the best of their knowledge: (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and; (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public

body. Any member of the public body who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii), shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his judgment, has taken place. Staff is instructed to record the certification as well as any members who believe that there was a departure from the requirements in the meeting minutes. B Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Motion Addressing Emily Day's Health Insurance

- a. R White made a motion for the board to authorize S Molster to update E Day's contract to provide coverage of E Day's health insurance up to a threshold of \$1,000/month. O Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Motion to Adjourn

- a. B Smith made a motion to adjourn. A Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.