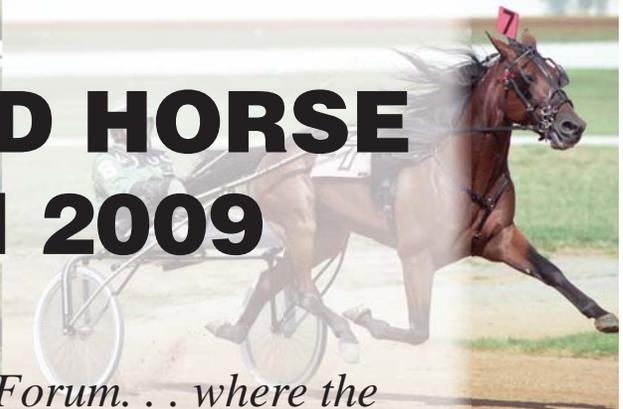




MARYLAND HORSE FORUM 2009

"The Maryland Horse Forum. . . where the horse industry charges forward into the future."

FINAL REPORT



Authored By The Maryland Horse Forum –
Strategic Planning Committee

Edited by the Maryland Horse Industry Board Members and Staff, Maryland Department of
Agriculture Staff and the Maryland Horse Forum – Strategic Planning Committee

Design courtesy of Maryland Horse Breeders Association

Photos courtesy of Ronald MacNab, Eli Solomon, Gary Knoll Photography,
Christie Steele, Charles Vanden Bossche and the Governor's Press Office.

November 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	2
Sponsors	
Horse Forum Planning Committee	
Letter from the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture	3
Letter from the President of the Maryland Horse Council	4
Letter from the Chairman of the Maryland Horse Industry Board	5
Executive Summary	6
Introduction	11
Session Reports	
Labor	12
Zoning and Land Use	14
Promoting and Marketing the Horse	16
Legal Matters, Liability and Insurance	20
Vision for the Future of Maryland Racing	22
Trails and Public Lands	25
Going Green	28
Infrastructure and Competition Venues	31
Unwanted Horses	32
Evaluations	33
List of Attendees	47

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2009 MARYLAND HORSE FORUM SPONSORS

PLATINUM

**Maryland Horse Industry Board
The Equiery**

GOLD

Maryland Horse Breeders Association / Maryland Million Ltd.

SILVER

**Farm Credit
Southern States Cooperative**

BRONZE

**Maryland Farm Bureau
Retired Racehorse Training Symposium
University of Maryland - Equine Studies Program**

MARYLAND HORSE FORUM 2009 – STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Amy Burk, PhD	Assistant Professor	Univ. of MD, Equine Studies Program
J. Robert Burk	Executive Director	MD Horse Industry Board
Tom Chuckas	President	MD Jockey Club
Michael H. Daney, JD	Partner	Godwin, Erlandson, MacLaughlin, Vernon & Daney, LLC
Richard Forfa, DVM, Dip. ABVP	Founder	Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates
Eddie Franceschi	Equine Soil Conservationist	MG. County Soil Conservation District
Terry Hasseltine	Director	MD Office of Sports Marketing
Kathleen S. Howe	President	Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Oliver Kennedy	Judge – Jumper Manager / Owner Manager Chairman	USEF “R” and FEI “I” Capital Challenge Columbia Benefit Grand Prix USHJA Zone III Jumper Committee
Crystal B. Kimball	Publisher	The Equiery
Ron MacNab	President	Trail Riders of Today
Steuart Pittman	President Operator	MD Horse Council Dodon Farm
Beverly Raymond	Stable Inspector	MD Horse Industry Board
Sharon Roberts	Exec. Vice President	Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assoc.
Jane Seigler, JD	President	Reddemeade Farm
James B. Steele	Chairman Manager	MD Horse Industry Board Shamrock Farm



**Maryland
Department of Agriculture**

Office of the Secretary

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Earl F. Hance, Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay
Internet: www.mda.state.md.us

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington
301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.
410.841.5914 Fax
800.492.5590 Toll Free

November 9, 2009

Dear Maryland Horse Enthusiast,

The Maryland horse industry makes up a large and important part of the State's agricultural industry. Governor Martin O'Malley recognizes this and has requested that the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Horse Industry Board produce a report outlining the status of the industry and recommendations for ways to ensure that the \$5.2 billion dollars in assets held by this industry are maintained as part of our future as they have been in years past. The Maryland Horse Forum, which was held on August 6, 2009, and the input from participants were the foundation for the enclosed report.



This report includes ideas presented at the Forum by all segments of the industry from recreational riders, rescue groups, racing interests and combined training competitors to veterinarians, agricultural supply businesses, land managers and others. The recommendations are focused on ways these interests have identified to truly sustain and grow this enormous industry.

On behalf of Governor O'Malley, I want to thank all the participants in the Forum for generously giving their time and expertise to this process. This report will inform policy discussions and decisions for the benefit of the equine industry and help maintain Maryland's rightful place as a world-renowned home for the horse industry as we shape a smart, green and growing future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Hance".

Earl F. Hance
Secretary



Maryland Horse Council
P.O. Box 233
Lisbon, MD 21765
www.mdhorsecouncil.org

Member Associations
Carroll County Equestrian Council; Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse Club; Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Association; Days End Farm Horse Rescue, Inc.; Elkridge Harford Hunt; Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc.; Fair Hill International; Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds; Humane Society of Carroll County; League of Maryland Horsemen; Marlborough Hounds; Maryland 4-H Foundation; Maryland Association for Wildlife Conservation; Maryland Association of Equine Practitioners; Maryland Combined Training Association; Maryland Council of Equestrian Therapies; Maryland Dressage Association; Maryland Equestrian Foundation/Rosaryville Conservancy; Maryland Farriers Association; Maryland Horse Breeders Association.; Maryland Horse Shows Assoc.; Maryland Jockey Club; Maryland Standardbred Breeders Assoc.; Maryland State Quarter Horse Association; Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Inc.; Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Association; MidAtlantic Farm Credit; New Market Middletown Valley Hounds; Pasadena Horse and Pony Club; Plantation Walking Horses of Maryland; Potomac Hunt Club; Potomac Valley Dressage Association; Trail Riders of Today; Tuckahoe Equestrian Center; Wicomico Hunt

October 29, 2009

The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) was thrilled to see so many people at the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum, and was especially pleased by Governor Martin O'Malley's comments in support of the horse industry. We all agree that horse farms are good for our waterways, critical to maintaining open space, and significant to our state's economy. Now it's time to organize ourselves so that we can preserve what we have and expand where we can.

The Horse Council has been working since the Forum on ways to address the preliminary recommendations. None of the issues were new to us, but the political and economic times today are very different than in the past. The communication technology available to us as an organization has also changed, allowing us to organize and grow in ways we never imagined even five years ago. Attached to this Horse Forum Report is a Maryland Horse Council Action Plan that came out of this process.

Our initial thought was to produce a legislative and policy agenda. Much of what we are proposing to do, however, is neither legislation nor public policy. It starts with organizing. The following are a few of the highlights.

- Creation of an MHC Business Network for farm and business members to meet quarterly for education, discussion, identification of policy issues, and networking
- A Save Our Horse Farms campaign through which our members in each county will review local zoning laws and collect case stories about their effects on horse farms and equestrian activities to be used in a report on best and worst practices
- Work with a new Horse Marketing Committee made up of marketing experts from both inside and outside of the racing industry to define goals and develop a plan to market what we do to the general public
- Conduct a survey on workers compensation insurance issues.

Much of what the industry identified in the first Maryland Horse Forum was accomplished. This time we can do even better if we stand united as a community, define our goals clearly, and participate fully in the political process in our state and in our counties. Horse people vote.

Sincerely,

Steuart Pittman
President, Maryland Horse Council
Email: dodonfarm@verizon.net

MARYLAND HORSE FORUM 2009
FINAL REPORT



Maryland
Department of Agriculture

Maryland Horse Industry Board

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Earl F. Hance, Secretary

James B. Steele, Chairman

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay
Internet: www.marylandhorseindustry.org

410.841.5861 Baltimore/Annapolis
410.841.5999 Fax
800.492.5590 Toll Free

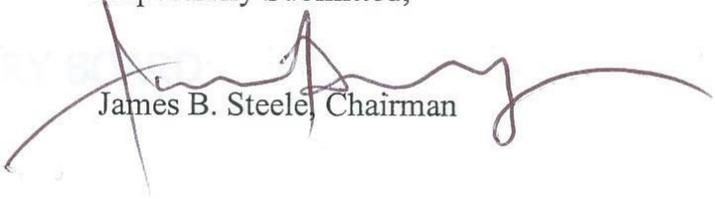
Dear Maryland Horse Enthusiast,

Thanks to the guidance of Governor Martin O'Malley to organize listening sessions for our agricultural commodity, we are being given the opportunity to unite as one voice to increase the potential of the Maryland horse industry. Not often does the opportunity arise when an industry is specifically asked "what do you want, and how can we work together to get it for you." With this in mind, the Maryland Horse Industry Board has endeavored to generate a document which outlines the issues affecting us, and our own solutions to those issues.

With over 300 representatives from every sector of the Maryland equine industry present, the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum was an event that will remain etched in my mind as a turning point for Maryland horses. The genuine excitement was palpable between all participants. The Prince George's Equestrian Center and Showplace Arena created the perfect backdrop with the recreational and sporting sectors of the industry on one side and the historic Upper Marlboro racetrack on the other. Representatives from the entire industry joined together to create this report. I challenge any other industry to show such as unified and engaged effort to work together.

The question arises "so what is the next step?" and the answer is easier than you would imagine. With this report and future forums on the status of the horse industry, we will be able to work as a unified front to solve the issues and challenges the Maryland Horse Industry faces into the future. We've had the 2009 Forum, we've identified issues facing the horse industry, and now the Maryland Horse Industry Board needs everyone's help in implementing the solutions outlined in this document. Everyone's involvement will help to embolden the government to give financial assistance and legislative help to accomplish our goals. The government is listening and the media is watching, so now it's time for horsemen everywhere to come together and work to resolve these issues.

Respectfully Submitted,


James B. Steele, Chairman



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

On August 6, 2009, over 300 leaders from the Maryland horse industry met at The Showplace Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center in Upper Marlboro, Maryland to outline the issues currently facing the industry, and to strategize how to resolve those issues. Each sector of the industry, without regard to any differences with any other sector, joined together and worked as one body to move this industry successfully into the future. The participants at this forum represented all aspects of the industry such as racing, breed organizations, trail riders, service providers, show organizers, horse owners, therapeutic programs, rescue organizations, and government officials. These members of the "horse community" represent one of Maryland's most unique, historic, and economically significant industries.

Census and economic impact data collected over the previous decade have clearly indicated that the Maryland horse industry is an integral part of the State's economy and landscape. Maryland is home to approximately 100,000 horses, and has more horses per square mile than Kentucky, Texas, Florida, and California, or any other State in the country. These horses are kept on more than 200,000 acres of open space; and when this acreage is added to the number

of acres associated with hay and grain production, there are 685,000 acres in the State that provide for the health of the horse industry. This acreage equals approximately 10 percent of Maryland's land area supporting horses. In addition, the total economic impact of the horse industry upon the State comprises \$1.6 billion annually, 28,800 jobs, tens of thousands of individuals involved directly with the industry, and millions of spectators. Maryland depends on the horse industry, and the future of the industry depends on the decisions that our leaders will be making in the coming years.

The forum was organized into nine sessions, each of which covered a specific topic related to the industry. The highlight of the afternoon was a keynote address by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, in which he stated that "Our heritage, our spirit, our economy, our land and our jobs – all of those things are strengthened and enriched by the presence of the horse through the centuries, and are no less significant today. The work done today to shape the direction of the horse industry is central to its future viability and prosperity, in turn keeping tens of thousands of jobs, enhancing the enjoyment of citizens of all ages, preserving hundreds of thousands of acres of land and contributing over a billion dollars to the State's economy." Within each

session professional meeting facilitators directed the discussion. Those in attendance discussed the issues facing the industry and worked together to form recommendations that could resolve those issues.

The following is a synopsis of the recommendations identified within each of the forum sessions:

Labor

The success of the Maryland horse industry depends largely upon the individuals that are employed within it. With that in mind, the recommendations from the session are:

- Improve industry interaction with the available domestic labor force
- Develop and increase educational training for the workforce, including vocational and high school programs, and offer horse industry specific Spanish and English classes
- Work towards making workmen's compensation insurance more affordable to small businesses
- Simplify the process of hiring foreign workers through the use of on-line resources that would allow employers to easily verify workers' employment authorizations
- Utilize State agencies and the University of Maryland to offer training on hiring foreign labor
- Better publicize State and federal information on workers' rights in horse industry related businesses

Zoning and Land Use

The equestrian community needs to ensure that the policies created by local planning and zoning authorities are compatible with the realities of horse keeping and horse businesses. The primary recommendations are:

- Members of the horse industry should align themselves with the interests of other segments of Maryland agriculture in keeping with the Maryland General Assembly's view of equine activities as agricultural in nature (Annotated Code of Maryland, Article – Agriculture, §2-702.1).
- Simplify access to information on regulatory requirements and benefit programs at both the state and local levels

- Create a single source of information about current programs and requirements. Document useful suggestions for zoning and permit requirements for use by the horse industry and local officials in crafting programs and regulations

Promoting and Marketing the Horse

Both State and private entities must improve marketing for the benefit of the entire equestrian community and for the State of Maryland as a whole. Of all of the forum sessions this one elicited the largest amount of recommendations

- The State legislature and the Governor should establish a Maryland Horse Park, and have the Maryland Department of Agriculture (**MDA**), the Maryland Horse Industry Board (**MHIB**), the Maryland Stadium Authority (**MSA**), and the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (**DBED**) work towards that end
- The State legislature and the Governor should establish a Livestock Import/Export Quarantine Center at the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (**BWI**), and have the **MDA**, the **MHIB**, the Maryland Aviation Administration (**MAA**), **BWI**, and **DBED** work towards that end
- All relevant State agencies including the Maryland Transit Authority (**MTA**), State Highway Administration (**SHA**), **MAA** and Maryland Port Authority should help to improve the marketing of Maryland as a horse state at all ports of entry and exit
- Funding for the **MHIB** should be increased through a "horse tag" similar to the "ag tag;" or through earmarking funds from the lottery or slots
- Interested stakeholders should band together to create a five-year strategic marketing plan for the horse industry in Maryland
- Racetracks should increase marketing of their facilities availability for non-racing functions, partner with non-profit causes, provide more spectator education on how become involved in racing as owners, and

SUMMARY

- increase outreach to corporations to use racing facilities during live racing times as conference facilities
- The **MDA** should continue to work with the horse industry through the **MHIB**, and the Office of International Marketing to expand marketing efforts
 - **DBED** should undergo a complete evaluation of how it serves the horse industry and adopt the successful practices in other states and countries
 - **DBED** should use the quality of life value of the horse industry to attract high profile corporations to base their headquarters in Maryland
 - The Offices of Tourism and Sports Marketing should use the handful of high profile equestrian sporting and spectator events in Maryland (such as the Fair Hill International, The Legacy Chase and Columbia Classic) as another draw for tourism
 - The Office of Tourism should promote Maryland as a destination state by helping to market stables offering guided trail rides, horses for rent and equine-oriented Bed & Breakfasts, and working with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**) to promote Maryland trails and camping with a horse
 - The University of Maryland (**UMD**) should create an Equine Research Center at BWI as a part of the Maryland-Virginia Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
 - **UMD** Extension should work with the Maryland State Department of Education to adopt, as part of its standard curriculum, the Black Stallion Literacy Program
 - All relevant State agencies should have funding dedicated to improve, redesign, and increase the quantity of the visual displays at BWI to improve the awareness that Maryland is a “horse state” for arriving travelers
 - All relevant State agencies including the **SHA** should work with the **MHIB** to create a coordinated state-level signage effort, to promote public equestrian facilities, breeding farms, equestrian parks, spectator events, and

any equine operation in a land preservation program

- Maryland County tourism offices should offer seminars to local horse businesses to help them understand what their local tourism office can do for them, and should coordinate horse farm tours, etc.

Legal Matters, Liability and Insurance

Protecting horse businesses from the threat of litigation is a key concern of the industry due to the unpredictability of horses themselves, and the unavoidable dangers of the farms or stables in which they are kept. Many equine businesses cannot afford the cost of a prolonged court case, or even the high cost of insurance for simply protecting their investments from unexpected (catastrophic) loss. Some suggestions to mitigate these issues are:

- Maintaining Maryland’s Contributory Negligence standard is of utmost importance
- Studying the costs and benefits of an Equine Limited Liability statute
- Encouraging horse businesses to implement measures to protect their operations, including the use of signs, waivers, and business documents
- Increasing the education by horse businesses to the public about horses and the inherent risks involved
- Measures should be taken by the industry to reduce insurance rates, including but not limited to formulating uniform best practice standards and adopting them

Vision for the Future of Maryland Racing

No sector of the Maryland horse industry has received more attention than the racing sector. Whilst some of that attention has been negative, the passage of slots legislation could enable the racing sector to regain its national prominence. Its future will depend greatly on the political and industry leaders who can impact its direction and the thoughtfulness, forward thinking, and spirit of cooperation they employ in directing the industry. A few of the suggestions to lead Maryland racing into the future are:

- Leaders in the racing sector need to enlist the assistance of Maryland government agencies and professional public relations firms to develop a unified, widespread and effective marketing and promotional plan for Maryland racing, which must include the Maryland Bred Program
- All members of the Maryland racing sector along with allied state government partners (i.e. DBED) need to increase efforts to establish a more positive image for Maryland racing increase its fan base and viability for the future
- Racetracks owners and operators need to reinvent racetrack facilities on many levels including changing to a one-stop entertainment destination model, upgrading quality of facilities, and using the most current technologies
- Increase efforts and funding are needed to promote and educate spectators and racing sector members about the health and welfare of the racehorse
- Given the diverse and unique challenges facing the racing sector of the Maryland horse industry, it is strongly recommended that a daylong Maryland Horse Racing Forum be initiated to more thoroughly discuss the issues and identify solutions

Trails and Public Lands

Although topics related to trails and public lands are diverse, there seemed to be a common thread from both government and members of the horse community. Each felt a need to identify the stakeholders and work constructively to improve the shared use of our trails and our access to public lands, and to do so while maintaining good stewardship of our natural resources. Some of the recommendations are:

- Trail users and government agencies should work together and listen to each others' concerns in balancing our use of natural surface trails while maintaining good stewardship
- Encourage Maryland State Parks, Forests and all relevant Maryland land conservation programs to establish a working user's Advisory Group for Maryland State Parks, Forests and Maryland greenways
- Work with the **DNR** to expand horse camping opportunities at Maryland State Parks and at existing sites at Fair Hill and Cedarville. Improve overnight camping amenities such as showers
- Work with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission to open a few horse campsites and/or to permit travelers to camp overnight while on travel through Maryland
- The **DNR** in coordination with the **MHIB** and the **DBED** should establish an online listing of public and private horse camping facilities, bed and breakfast locations that offer horse boarding, and other facilities that offer overnight boarding facilities
- The **DNR** and the counties should provide equestrian trail maps online in pdf form and downloadable GPS Exchange Files (gpx files) for upload to personal GPS units
- Construct sustainable trails and prohibit riding under wet conditions in order to reduce the problems with over-use and erosion
- Institute "Adopt-A-Trail" programs throughout the State where clubs or individuals agree to maintain a trail, park or portion of a greenway
- Federal, State, and local agencies should institute a policy of building low-cost natural surface trails alongside paved trails
- Adopt new strategies to keep horseback riders and mountain bikers off natural surface trails when they are wet including installing signs at trail heads
- All trail-using groups, whether horse-related or otherwise, should become more organized, and cooperate together to better represent their interests. This can be done by identifying and creating a list for the stakeholder groups of natural surface trails, and making this list available to the stakeholders
- Make informal alliances with other users of natural surface trails. Agree to exchange information on pending concerns and trail maintenance days. Join forces to request

easements when access to our parks is being jeopardized by new development

- Identify advocates on the local level to work with their county Parks and Zoning Boards and keep equestrians and allied groups aware of important issues

Going Green

Given that 94% of Maryland is located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the horse industry must focus its attention on implementing best management practices, and promoting itself as an important part of open space preservation that will buffer run-off into the Bay. Some of the ideas advanced are:

- The industry along with experts from **UMD** and Soil Conservation Districts should continue to work together to increase the adoption of best management practices by members of the industry
- Improve methods of communication between conservation experts and the industry to relate the newest scientific finds to those who need the information
- Survey and assess the need for composting facilities, and if feasible offer manure-composting sites around the State
- Work with vendors, such as **SWEBO**, on the leading edge of technological changes in the processing of horse manure.
- Identify funding for equine operators implementing best management practices. Create a database of available grants, educate horse farm operators on how grant programs work, and work directly with farm operators to determine which programs are economically feasible for them
- Understand that the process of “greening the horse industry” will be a long and complex process that will require a re-evaluation of current programs, with respect to their size, structure, funding and scope

Infrastructure and Competition Venues

The main focus of the session was to identify the needs of the industry for infrastructure and competition facilities. Three main issues were identified:

- Throughout the forum members of the horse industry overwhelmingly believe that the Governor should have the **MSA**, **MHIB**, and the **DBED** move forward with locating, and beginning construction of a Maryland Horse Park as outlined in the 2005 Maryland Horse Park Feasibility Study
- Industry members noted an inadequate number of facilities and inadequate support for existing public equestrian facilities such as the Prince George’s Equestrian Center
- The industry supports the creation of an import / export center at BWI airport as outlined in the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Animal Import Center Feasibility Study

Unwanted Horses

The issue of the unwanted horse is a national issue and is not a new problem. It is perhaps one of the most controversial topics currently impacting the horse industry nationwide. Some common ground on this issue was found and the following recommendations were developed to address the issue in Maryland:

Gather industry groups together, including the **MHIB’s** Equine Health Advisory Committee and the **MHC’s** Equine Health and Welfare Committee to:

- Identify solutions on the unwanted horse problem
- Offer educational opportunities aimed at reducing the number of unwanted horses
- Increase the availability of resources on the unwanted horse issue
- Promote successful horse adoption programs

INTRODUCTION

On February 5, 2009, Governor Martin O'Malley challenged all of Maryland's agricultural leaders to organize their commodities and host listening sessions to develop strategies for the future. Harnessing that recommendation, the Maryland Horse Industry Board (**MHIB**), the Maryland Horse Council (**MHC**), and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (**MDA**) began to prepare for the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum. The 2009 Maryland Horse Forum was an opportunity for the industry to join together, putting all differences aside, to work toward a common goal of growing and improving Maryland's entire horse industry. Words cannot express the palpable energy of those in attendance on August 6, 2009 at the Prince Georges Equestrian Center and Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD. On that day, members from the Maryland equine community worked together to provide real and important recommendations aimed at tackling the horse industry's biggest challenges. If followed through, those recommendations will help to solidifying the future of the Maryland horse industry.

The first Maryland Horse Forum was held on August 5, 2004. Many recommendations from that forum have come to fruition, including:

- Expansion of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to incorporate a broader array of equine activities as acceptable uses of preserved properties
- Completion of the Mid-Atlantic Animal Import Center Feasibility Study
- Completion of the Maryland Horse Park Feasibility Study
- Equine activities defined in law as agricultural activities

- Distribution of thousands of dollars for the development of facilities for youth equestrian activities by the **MHIB**, and
- Passing of slot machine legislation that dedicated as much as \$100 million annually to race purses and horse breeder incentives.

Since 2004, many things have changed, including the health of the world economy. While the industry had accomplished much over the course of the previous five years, it still faced many challenges including some of the issues identified in 2004. The following report was compiled from the recommendations of more than 300 industry leaders at the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum. Those in attendance discussed many of the issues currently facing the industry, and worked to formulate recommendations on how those issues could be resolved. The issues for discussion centered on the following areas:

- Labor
- Zoning, Land Use, and Land Preservation
- Promoting and Marketing the Horse
- Legal Matters, Liability, and Insurance
- Future of Maryland Racing
- Trails and Public Lands
- Going Green
- Infrastructure and Competition Venues
- Unwanted Horses

As you read through this report, focus on what you can do with this information to grow and improve the Maryland horse industry. This industry is part of Maryland's past, present, and as Marylanders we intend to foster its prosperity into the future for the betterment of our State.

LABOR

Introduction

The success of the Maryland horse industry depends largely upon the individuals and entities that are employed within it. Horse breeders, stable managers, training facilities, horse shows, and private farm owners hire both trained and untrained labor to help them successfully run their horse operations. As with many other agricultural industries, there is a high dependence on hiring foreign workers to fill labor demands not met by American workers.

Issues Presented:

- Hiring Foreign Labor
 - Horse business operators need more training and resources related to hiring foreign labor
 - They are unsure of the proper procedures to hire foreign labor
 - They are not sure if they are doing all they can to verify their workers are legal
- Hiring Domestic Labor
 - A desire to hire domestic labor by employers exists, but horse business operators feel domestic labor is unwilling to take low-level low-paying jobs
 - Employers are unsure of health insurance requirements under future health care reform bills
- Workmen's Compensation Insurance
 - Horse business operators feel cost of insurance is too expensive, cost prohibitive, and would like to see rates lowered
 - Employers want to improve their rights to challenge insurance claims
- Worker's Rights
 - Employers may be violating basic rights of workers because employers believe that just allowing individuals to work with horses is rewarding enough
 - Workers need to be more informed of their rights including hours and benefits
- Education and Training of Workforce
 - There is a lack of trained entry level employees in the industry
 - There is a need to train future leaders at the University level
 - There is a need to connect educational programs with farms that have needs

Recommended Solutions / Summary Recommendations:

1. Hiring Foreign Labor
 - a. Develop an online resource related to hiring foreign workers with the following attributes:
 - i. Easily accessible, all-in-one location
 - ii. Allows employers to verify worker's employment authorization
 - iii. Step by step process
 - iv. Increase cooperation between **MDA**, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (**DLLR**), and University of Maryland (**UMD**) Extension to develop resources and to offer training on hiring foreign labor
2. Hiring Domestic Labor
 - a. Develop and expand horse care and management training opportunities in vocational and high school programs along with a job placement program
 - b. Employers need to exercise patience while training untrained domestic labor
 - c. Increase use of inmate public works programs
 - d. Create a centralized intern program, similar to the Kentucky Equine Management Internship Program, thus providing interns to industry
 - e. Tap into current resources – **MDA**, **DLLR**, Maryland State Department of Education (**MDEd**), **UMD** Extension Agricultural Educators
3. Workmen's Compensation Insurance
 - a. Increase partnerships with companies offering workmen's compensation insurance to offer rate reductions by:
 - i. Using a sliding scale based on risk
 - ii. Requiring employers and employees to

- take safety courses
- iii. Pooling horse industry groups together and offer lower group rates
- 4. Worker's Rights
 - a. Publicize and distribute state and federal information on worker's rights (i.e. make posters available to horse businesses)
- 5. Education and Training of Workforce
 - a. Develop and expand vocational and high school programs, as well as internship programs (see above)
 - b. Increase offering of equine-related Spanish and English classes

ZONING AND LAND USE

Introduction:

In recent years, there has been increasing action by local jurisdictions attempting to accommodate the growing number of equestrian facilities with other types of agricultural operations (“traditional” agriculture) and with encroaching residential and commercial development. This session sought to consider how the equestrian community could ensure that the policies created by local planning and zoning authorities are compatible with the realities of horse keeping and horse businesses. Other issues on the table included land preservation programs and whether they currently are reasonably accessible to horse facility owners who might want to take advantage of them.

Most of the discussion in this session focused on the problems that facility owners are currently experiencing in their day-to-day operations and in making improvements, i.e., on navigating existing laws and regulations, rather than on broad zoning issues. Many participants expressed frustration at the complexities of processes and regulations, and at the difficulty of finding and accessing information about these processes and regulations. There were conflicting opinions expressed about whether these issues could be more efficiently and effectively addressed at the State or at the local level. Another theme emerged that, although regulations and requirements are admittedly confusing and diverse, horse farmers should be more proactive in educating themselves about the resources and support currently available to them, by educating their local officials about their needs, and finally by involving themselves in agricultural interest groups such as the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB).

Issues Presented:

- The complexity of requirements for approval of such things as the construction of barns and other facility improvements is extremely burdensome
- Nutrient management rules are too complex
- Encroaching development has exacerbated a number of problems:
 - there is no uniform “right to farm” legislation in all MD jurisdictions
 - roads are clogged by development and tourists
 - environmental regulations are too complex and onerous
 - land preservation programs are too restrictive
 - permit procedures are too complex and onerous
 - use of horses on state land faces increasing competition with hikers, bikers, etc.
- There is too much diversity in local regulations from one jurisdiction to the next
- Agricultural preservation programs are inadequately funded because of the decline in agricultural transfer tax revenue in the current economy
- Land preservation program prices do not reflect the market
- Taxation of barns and riding arenas as commercial buildings when they are located on agriculture-preserved property
- There is no easily accessible, unified, credible source of information about the rules, regulations, definitions, etc. that apply in each jurisdiction.

Recommended Solutions:

- There should be someone in each County who can walk equestrian facility owners through the system, i.e., a “process expert”
- Equestrian facility owners should insist that their local and County officials recognize them as part of agriculture, treat them as such, and afford them the same benefits and programs available to other types of agriculture
- Related to the above point: Equestrian facility owners should act like farmers, i.e., familiarize themselves with the various organizations and programs available to farmers, (e.g., their local Farm Bureau, the U.S. Farm Service Agency, their local Soil Conservation District, the Agricultural Officer of their County Office of Economic Development), and make themselves known to the various officials and members of these groups
- Equestrian facility owners should talk to state and local officials, and appointees to relevant

positions, and make sure they know about the importance of horses in the local community and economy, as well as the needs of equestrian facilities to be viable

- The State should take the initiative to educate local officials and regulators about horses and horse operations, their needs and contributions to the community, the right to farm issues, etc.
- The right to farm law should be amended to require that zoning should be coordinated at the state level
- There should be a statewide program for establishment and use of Transfer Development Rights
- Small (1 – 10 acre) horse properties should be granted agricultural usage tax status, and allowed to participate in land preservation programs
- The State should develop and maintain a resource database of equestrian facility operators including information on rules and regulations, by jurisdiction, as well as educational and assistance programs
- A statewide organization should hire a resource program specialist to assist with program and process inquiries, and a lobbyist to represent the

interest of horse people

- The **MHC** should send issue information to non-members, to facilitate grassroots lobbying on issues of importance to the equestrian community.

Summary Recommendations:

1. Following on this year's enactment of State legislation recognizing that equestrian facilities and equestrian activities are agricultural in nature, Maryland horse people should identify themselves as part of agriculture, and should align themselves with the interests of other segments of Maryland agriculture.
2. Improvements need to be made in the ways that horse people can find and use information on regulatory requirements and benefit programs at both the state and local levels.
3. A single source of information about current programs and requirements, as well as useful suggestions for zoning and permit requirements, should be developed for use by both horse people and local officials in crafting programs and regulations that make sense for horse people and horse keeping.

PROMOTING AND MARKETING THE HORSE

Introduction:

This session provided individuals in the horse industry and those with either a business or governmental interest in the industry the opportunity to voice their concerns and to make recommendations about how both state and private entities could improve marketing for the benefit of the entire equestrian community specifically and the state of Maryland as a whole.

In attendance were representatives from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (**DBED**) and its Offices of Tourism (**OT**) and Sports Marketing (**OSM**), as well as the **MDA's** Office of International Marketing and the **MHIB**, whose legislative mission it is to market and develop the horse industry. The participants were encouraged to have the immediate ear of these government agencies.

Issues Presented:

- Despite the efforts by many industry leaders, the industry remains divided by breed and sport
- There is a lack of a coordinated strategy to bring visibility to the horse industry
- There is little understanding of what marketing the horse means; some participants thought that it meant how to market an individual horse for sale and did not understand that the reference to “THE Horse” meant the concept of being involved with horses at any endeavor (as a lesson student or horse owner or spectator at an equestrian event or any other way)
- The equestrian community suffers from stereotypes
- The equestrian community suffers from irresponsible and negligent horse owners who reinforce negative stereotypes about horses
- There is very little awareness in either the public or the government about
 - the positive quality-of-life impact that horses have for society as a whole and children in particular,
 - the role the horse industry plays in maintaining open space, green space and agriculture,
 - the economic impact of the horse industry on the State's economy
- If racing were promoted in a better light, it could have a positive impact on the entire industry and not just the racing industry
- Horse owners are reluctant to open their farms to the general public (for tours or other agritourism events) because of the fear of liability lawsuits
- The equestrian community tends to be too clubby and clique-ish, and is seen as not being accommodative to newcomers
- Neither the media nor the government respects either the horse industry or agriculture
- There is no real, coordinated strategy for the Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing industry
- There lacks a coordinated branding effort of the horse industry
- The Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (**BWI**) visual displays promoting the horse industry in Maryland are/were apparently not prominent enough, as the general assumption was that there was no promotion of “the horse” at **BWI**, only “the crab”

Recommended Solutions:

- Improve or redesign (and increase the quantity of) the visual displays at **BWI** to better increase awareness of arriving travelers that Maryland is a “horse state” and not just a seafood state
- Create a coordinated state-level signage effort, similar to the coordinated effort to promote Maryland vineyards and wineries, to promote public equestrian facilities, breeding farms, equestrian parks and spectator events
- Continue the effort to establish a Maryland Horse Park
- Continue the effort to establish a livestock import/export quarantine facility at **BWI**, coupled with an equine research center
- **DBED** and the **OT** should work with the horse industry to attract more horse businesses to Maryland; such businesses include not only breeding and training facilities but major shows and competitions, product manufacturing, importation, wholesale and retail, as well as equine-related technology based businesses, such as multi-media production. A Maryland Horse Park and a livestock import/export and

equine research center would or could be the centerpieces to attract more equine related businesses

- **DBED** could use the quality of life value of the horse industry to attract high profile corporations to base their headquarters in Maryland
- The **OT** and **OSM** could use the handful of high profile equestrian sporting and spectator events in Maryland (such as the Fair Hill International, The Legacy Chase and Columbia Classic) as another draw for tourism
- The **OT** could promote Maryland as a destination state by helping to promote stables offering guided trail rides, horses for rent and equine-oriented Bed & Breakfasts, thereby increasing tourism to Maryland
- The equestrian community itself needs to develop its own long term sustainability plan by finding better ways to get children and young people involved with horses
- **UMD** Extension should work with the **MDEd** to adopt, as part of its standard curriculum, the Black Stallion Literacy Program, which was successfully tested in the Montgomery and Prince George's County school systems about ten years ago
- The State should support the establishment of more Equine Assisted Growth & Learning Association (EAGALA) model organizations in Maryland. EAGALA is a private, non-profit organization which provides education, standards, innovation, and support to professionals delivering services in equine-assisted psychotherapy and learning around the world, and strives to promote the value that horses bring to learning
- The industry should have a unified lobbying effort with the legislature
- Another equine census should be conducted
- Maryland should be branded as an innovator, perhaps using the Bowie training track as a place to test-market new products and research, such as racing surfaces and soft tissue rehabilitation
- The race tracks should market use of their facilities, when open for races, to organizations looking to have festivals or other fundraisers, providing those groups with an inexpensive location for their festivals while also providing new groups of spectators for racing, with the idea to convert some of those festival-goers into permanent race fans
- The **OSM** should develop a coordinated branding effort and marketing plan; the non-racing aspects, such as dressage, need to be included in this effort
- The industry should develop a resource list for educating children interested in horses
- A survey on what other states have done to promote and market their horse industries, should be conducted
- Research should be done to review whether or not all the currently available, favorable industry statistics are being fully utilized (e.g. if the Preakness has approximately 100,000 spectators, is this number being folded into the horse industry's general numbers for spectators?)
- The United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) should have a coordinated effort and grant program to bring international buyers to Maryland
- The racetracks should provide more seminars on how to bet, as well as how to become an owner
- The State needs to continue to develop and fund small, inexpensive and accessible event facilities
- The industry should develop a media kit and set of talking points about how the industry affects the general public
- The **MHIB** needs to increase awareness within the industry that its legislative mission is to market the horse industry
- The State should increase funding to the **MHIB** so that it could expand its marketing efforts and increase its promotional reach
- The racetracks could partner with high profile, popular causes, such as breast cancer research, to raise funds for the cause while at the same time courting new fans
- County tourism offices could do a better job of reaching out to the local horse businesses and helping the local horse businesses learn what the tourism office can do for them
- The State should develop an agriculture education program for schools; the State should do a better job of raising the awareness of the agriculture education program that it currently has for elementary schools

Summary Recommendations:

1. The Maryland Equestrian Community

- a. The **MHC** should launch a federal lobbying effort to encourage the **USDA** to establish a **USDA** Livestock Import/Export Quarantine and Equine Research Center at **BWI**, which would be convenient to the existing Riverdale, Maryland, national headquarters of the **USDA's** international Animal Plant Health Inspection Services
- b. The **MHC** should lobby state legislators to lean on the Maryland Transportation Authority (**MTA**) to improve the marketing of Maryland as a horse state at **BWI** and to implement a state road sign effort similar to the one for the wine industry
- c. The **MHC** should continue to find ways to increase the funding for the **MHIB**, investigate funding through a "horse tag" similar to the "ag tag;" investigate earmarks from lottery or slots for **MHIB** or for a Maryland Horse Park
- d. Interested stakeholders should band together to create a five year strategic marketing and vision plan for the horse industry in Maryland

2. The Race Track Owners and Racing Stakeholders

- a. Race track owners should market use of their facilities, when open for races, to organizations looking to have festivals or other fundraisers, providing those groups with an inexpensive location for their festivals while also providing new groups of spectators for racing, with the idea to convert some of those festival-goers into permanent race fans
- b. Race track owners should partner with high profile, popular causes, such as breast cancer research, to raise funds for the cause while at the same time courting new fans
- c. Race track owners and related racing organizations should provide more seminars on how to bet as well as how to become an owner, and hold these seminars during and in conjunction with the festivals
- d. Race track owners should increase outreach efforts to large corporations to host meetings

at the track, timed so that the meetings would conclude with a meal and post time (and during the meal, the track would provide knowledgeable representatives to provide track hospitality, mingle and educate attendees about how to bet, and provide passes and encouragement to come another day)

3. The Maryland Department of Agriculture

- a. The **MHIB** should continue to work with the various Maryland departments and agencies to find new and creative ways to promote the horse industry.
- b. The **MDA** and **MHIB** should continue to back efforts to create a Maryland Horse Park and Agriculture Center.
- c. The **MDA's** Office of International Marketing should work aggressively with the horse industry to bring in more potential international buyers.
- d. **MHIB** should develop a media kit and set of talking points about how the industry affects the general public.
- e. **MDA** should conduct another equine census.

4. The Maryland Department of Economic and Business Development

- a. **DBED** should survey what other recognizable "horse" states have done to promote and market their horse industries, and compare their equine industry stats with Maryland's.
- b. **DBED** and its various offices should capitalize on the Governor's enthusiasm by fully supporting and facilitating the efforts to build a Maryland Horse Park, and a "trot on/trot off" **USDA** Livestock Import/Export Facility and an Equine Research Center at **BWI**, all of which will bring more business to Maryland.
- c. **DBED** and the **OT** should work with the horse industry to attract more horse businesses to Maryland; such businesses include not only breeding and training facilities but major shows and competitions, product manufacturing, importation, wholesale and retail, as well as equine-related technology-based businesses, such as multi-media production. A Maryland

Horse Park and a livestock import/export and equine research center would or could be the centerpieces to attract more equine related businesses.

- d. **DBED** should use the quality of life value of the horse industry to attract high profile corporations to base their headquarters in Maryland.
 - e. The **OT** and **OSM** should use the handful of high profile equestrian sporting and spectator events in Maryland (such as the Fair Hill International, The Legacy Chase and Columbia Classic) as another draw for tourism.
 - f. The **OT** should promote Maryland as a destination state by helping to promote stables offering guided trail rides, horses for rent and equine-oriented Bed & Breakfasts, thereby increasing tourism to Maryland, and should also work with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (**DNR**) to promote Maryland trails and camping with a horse.
5. **The Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA)**
 - a. **MSA** should continue its efforts to build a Maryland Horse Park and a Preakness Museum (similar to the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs).
 6. **University of Maryland**
 - a. The University should capitalize on, and actively promote the Governor's enthusiasm for a "trot on/trot off" **USDA** Livestock Import/Export Facility and an accompanying Equine Research Center at **BWI** affiliated with the Maryland-Virginia Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. This facility could be a showcase for **UMD**.
 - b. **UMD** Extension should work with the **MDEd** to adopt, as part of its standard curriculum, the Black Stallion Literacy Program, which was successfully tested in the Montgomery and Prince George's County school systems about ten years ago.
7. **The Maryland Transportation Authority (MTA), Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA), State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland Port Authority (MPA), and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)**
 - a. The **MAA** and all relevant agencies should work with **BWI** to improve or redesign (and increase the quantity of) the visual displays at **BWI** to better promote the awareness of arriving travelers that Maryland is a "horse state" and not just a seafood state.
 - b. The **SHA, MDOT, MTA, MPA**, and all relevant agencies should work with the **MHIB** to promote public equestrian facilities, breeding farms, equestrian parks and spectator events – or any equine operation in a land preservation program, in a coordinated state-level signage effort, similar to the coordinated effort to promote Maryland vineyards and wineries.
 8. **Maryland Counties**
 - a. County tourism offices should offer seminars to the local horse people to help them understand what their local tourism office can do for them.
 - b. County tourism offices or economic development offices should implement and coordinate horse farm tours.

LEGAL MATTERS, LIABILITY, AND INSURANCE

Introduction:

This session provided a poignant discussion regarding the current state of Maryland law. Participants were able to voice their concerns on a number of issues and make recommendations on how Maryland law might evolve in the future to provide greater protection for Maryland's equine community.

The discussion focused primarily on the issues of liability and insurance. Participants were eager to discuss various methods for protecting themselves against the threat of litigation. Participants were equally concerned with securing affordable insurance options.

Issues Presented:

- Maryland is one of the few states which has not enacted an Equine liability law
- Maryland is one of a small minority of jurisdictions in this country to adhere to the contributory negligence standard as opposed to a comparative negligence standard
- Maryland does not recognize attractive nuisance: what special issues need to be addressed when dealing with children and horses?
- How far does Maryland workers' compensation law extend and what protections does it provide to equine workers?
- Obtaining affordable insurance is becoming increasingly difficult
- What legal protections or licensing requirements currently exist for service providers who are peripheral to the horse industry such as farriers and massage therapists?
- There is a need for standard waivers of liability forms specific to Maryland
- How can the community better utilize the MHC?
- Which method is more effective in seeking to limit liability: postings or written waivers?
- Liability when animals get free and are involved in an accident
- Ensuring that insurance companies are aware of the Maryland negligence standard
- Concerns regarding lack of sufficient protection from the use of signs and seeking state-sanctioned

signs as a means of adding additional protection

- The public requires more education on equine liability issues
- Nuisance suits need to be prevented or at least limited
- The Agricultural Resolution Board needs more promotion
- Lower insurance rates for horse farm operations is needed; some segments of industry, such as the Arab horse conference, have broader insurance coverage

Recommended Solutions:

- Maryland's common law contributory negligence standard should be preserved and efforts to adopt a comparative negligence standard should be rejected
- Lawmakers should consider enacting an Equine Liability Law, similar to those enacted in neighboring states, to provide additional protections for the horse community
- Maryland workers' compensation coverage should be expanded to ensure that equine workers who are injured while temporarily out of state, such as while attending a show, will be protected
- A state-run or privately-run self-insurance program, similar to the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund, should be developed for the horse industry as an alternative to the high cost of private insurance
- The horse community should actively seek to educate the public in order to create awareness of risks in an effort to decrease liability
- Manage litigation risk through the development and consistent use of uniform liability and release forms

Summary Recommendations:

1. The primary area of concerns for participants during the session was seeking ways to effectively limit liability and reduce the risk of litigation. A main point of discussion was the current laws in effect which would include Maryland's use of the contributory negligence standard. Contributory

negligence was extensively discussed and participants agreed that any effort to transition to a comparative negligence standard should be avoided. In addition, it was noted that Maryland is one of only a few states without an Equine Limited Liability statute. Participants also discussed the pros and cons of adopting an Equine Limited Liability statute.

2. Participants discussed measures that they could take as individuals and business owners to protect themselves. Methods discussed included the use of signs and waivers. Participants considered promoting the use of a uniform general waiver that was specific to Maryland

in order to limit liability. Participants also recognized the acute need for public education about horses and the risks involved.

3. The second main topic of discussion was the availability and affordability of insurance in Maryland. Participants were concerned about the lack of affordable choices and rates. The possibility of adopting best practice standards, which has helped to lower insurance rates, was also discussed. Participants debated the feasibility of adopting similar standards in an effort to control insurance costs.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MARYLAND RACING

Introduction:

This session provided an abundance of issues, ideas and thought-provoking topics for the future of Maryland racing. The horse racing industry needs to cultivate its roots. A perfect example of an industry that has successfully cultivated itself is NASCAR Racing. How can racing elevate itself to a similar national level of exposure and viability?

Issues presented:

- The size of the Maryland racing fan base at racetracks is dwindling due to a negative image of horse racing, poor quality of racetrack facilities, stronger and more effective marketing by competing sports (i.e. baseball, NASCAR, football), and competition with other regional and local opportunities for betting (slots, off-track betting parlors, lottery games, and virtual racing)
- Maryland racetracks need to be reinvented on many levels including customer relations, betting technology, quality of facilities, and as a one stop entertainment destination
- The Maryland Bred Program needs to be developed further including promotion of Maryland bred horses, increase in preferred races for Maryland-bred and owned horses, and an increase in Maryland-bred incentives
- The quality of horses racing in Maryland is declining due to higher purses in other states
- There exists conflicting viewpoints on whether Maryland should reduce or maintain the number of race days each year
- Time between races is too long for spectators who don't have other forms of entertainment to keep them busy in between races
- Not enough is being done to promote the upper end of racing in order to draw a higher quality of horses, which in turn will increase the betting pools
- There is a huge need for increased slots funds to tracks, but there are concerns over the control of the monies and its ultimate usage
- With the recent catastrophic injuries to horses during well televised racing events, racing is garnering a reputation as being cruel to horses
- There appears to be an imbalance towards the race track owners instead of the people within the racing industry as far as who controls the tone and potential success of Maryland racing
- There is fear that the Maryland Racing Commission (**MRC**) will have its budget reduced to a point that it will no longer be able to adequately regulate the industry
- The Maryland-bred Race Fund Advisory Committee, the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee, and their associated Maryland-bred and Sired Funds were suggested as being more relevant to be located under the jurisdiction of the **MDA**
- The **MDA** should be working to grow the Maryland Bred and Sired funds through private, State, and federal agricultural grants

Recommended Solutions:

- **Improve marketing and promotion of Maryland racing by:**
 - Hiring professional public relations firms to increase marketing and promotion of the industry
 - Asking the Maryland General Assembly to approve funds, as they did in 1999, to hire **UMD** (College of Agriculture and Natural Resources) to conduct a survey on the Economic Impact of the Maryland Racing Industry.
 - Working on ways to develop a more personal connection between fans and the people of racing (owners, trainers, and jockeys) and also the racehorses themselves. This would include increase use of social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook and increasing tours of tracks, backstretch areas, paddocks and breeding farms
 - Increasing existing efforts to hold special events at racetracks during racing to attract a broader audience. This includes combining

- racing with charity events, and having contests during races of national or state prominence
- Increasing efforts to attract younger generation
 - Being mindful of what worked and didn't work in the past so as not to reinvent the wheel
 - Conducting a survey of why fans are not coming to the racetrack
 - Having racetracks employ a Racing Fan Facilitator or Advisor (experienced in racing) to educate the new horse racing fans
 - Reducing the time between races or give the fans more to do in between races to maintain their interest while visiting the race tracks
 - Enlisting the assistance and funding of the **MSA** to build a Preakness Museum at Pimlico Racecourse similar to the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs
- **Improve the quality of Maryland horse racing by:**
 - Continuing support of the activities of the **MRC**. Do not reduce its budget, and enable the Commission to continue to conduct sample testing in the State
 - Moving the Maryland-bred Race Fund Advisory Committee, the Maryland Standardbred Race Fund Advisory Committee, and their associated Maryland-bred and Maryland-sired funding programs from the **DLLR** to the **MDA**
 - Looking into whether the distribution of purse money is equitable
 - Marketing Maryland-bred horses through cooperative efforts with sales companies, racetracks, etc., and restricted Maryland-bred races.
 - Increasing efforts to improve the quality of the Maryland racehorse bred each year rather than the quantity given the current economic climate
 - Increasing purses in order to have competitive racing with neighboring states
 - Improving the quality of racing events to draw more fans and higher quality of horses
 - Aggressively promote sponsors for races
 - Reviewing and analyzing the number of race days with each track reviewing cost issues in producing race days
 - Re-evaluating priority of Maryland Preference horses
 - Conducting a feasibility study of night racing
 - Studying the effect of off-track betting venues and simulcasting on "Live" racing
- **Improve quality of Maryland racetrack facilities by:**
 - Developing new facility models whereby the location is an entertainment center housing more than just horse racing events
 - Improving facilities so that visiting them is an "event" for spectators like visiting Oriole Park at Camden Yards
 - Enhancing betting technology with hand-held betting devices
 - Reviewing backstretch areas given that they are being phased out at many other racetracks
 - **Improve the education and promotion of the health and welfare of racehorses by:**
 - Considering diverting a portion of the slots money to funding increased education of public about horse racing, racehorse management and training, and life after racing for the horse
 - Creating a Thoroughbred Retirement Fund that provides monies for the care and support of the racehorse after racing
 - Increasing monies directed towards equine studies program at **UMD** to enhance education and research of racehorse welfare issues

Summary Recommendations:

Leaders in the racing sector need to enlist the assistance of Maryland government agencies and professional public relations firms to develop a unified, widespread and effective marketing and promotional plan for Maryland racing, which must include the Maryland Bred Program.

1. All members of the Maryland racing sector along with allied state government partners (i.e. **DBED**) need to increase efforts to establish a more positive image for Maryland racing increase its fan base and viability for the future.
2. Racetracks owners and operators need

MARYLAND RACING

- to reinvent racetrack facilities on many levels including changing to a one-stop entertainment destination model, upgrading quality of facilities, and using the last available technologies.
3. Increase efforts and funding are needed to promote and educate spectators and racing sector members about the health and welfare of the racehorse
 4. Given the diverse and unique challenges facing the racing sector of the Maryland horse industry, it is strongly recommended that a day long Maryland Horse Racing Forum be initiated to more thoroughly discuss the issues and identify solutions.

TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Introduction:

This session provided citizens the opportunity to voice their concerns and make recommendations on ways to improve access to public land and improve our trails. We were very fortunate to have in attendance Nita Settina, Superintendent of Maryland State Parks; Stacy Schaefer, Associate Director of Land Conservation, Land Acquisition and Planning Unit, and Robert Turnbull, Natural Surface Trails Manager, Montgomery County-Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MC-MNCPPC). The attendees were very appreciative to have these decision makers on hand to listen and participate.

Although the topics brought up were diverse, there seemed to be a common thread from both government and non-government participants. Each felt a need to identify the stakeholders and work constructively to improve the shared use of our trails and our access to public lands, while maintaining good stewardship of our natural resources.

Issues Presented:

- There are very few places to camp with horses in Maryland
- Maryland State forests permit trail riding only along forest roads and provide no accommodations for camping
- Although the **DNR** has a very helpful website, very little is devoted to horseback riding. Whereas campsites (for campers) can be reserved online, horse campsites cannot be similarly reserved online
- **DNR** does not provide trail maps online, but sells them instead
- **DNR** does not make the trail Global Positioning Satellite (**GPS**) data available to the public for upload to their personal **GPS** units
- What does the State of Maryland and the counties need from the recreational rider? How can we help?
- Many of our natural surface trails are being paved and made commuter trails. How can we prevent the loss of natural surface on these trails?

- The State and counties need to do a better job of organizing and recruiting volunteers
- Recreational groups that use our trails and greenways tend to be quiet, out of touch, and non-aligned. This works to their detriment.
- Horseback riders are destroying their own bridle trails by riding when trails are wet. It is putting them at odds with other users of the trails, as well as natural resources and conservation groups. The State and counties seem to be doing nothing to control this.
- Most of our bridle trails were established many years ago when there was little concept or desire to build sustainable trails. Erosion and over-use is now a problem on many of our trails.
- Horseback riders and property owners do not have a good understanding of Maryland liability laws. What is their liability if they allow riders to cross their land?
- Who should be contacted to report problems in a park?
- Montgomery County has a very good online program where volunteers report their hours. This provides some incentive to the volunteer by showing that their time is valued. It is good for the county because they can budget their volunteer workload onto projects. They also use it to obtain grants and demonstrate the efficiency of their program.

Recommended Resolutions:

- Fair Hill should increase the number of campsites and Cedarville should extend its seasonal operations through October. Parks should look into opening additional parks to permit horse camping. Even if there are no trails, it would be helpful to those traveling with horses.
- Bob Turnbull, Natural Surface Trails Manager for **MC-MNCPPC**, offered to investigate the feasibility of offering horse camping at Little Bennett Regional Park. Little Bennett is just off the I-270 corridor and would be excellent for those traveling with horses.
- The Maryland Forest Service (**MFS**) should offer

TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS

- camping facilities and develop a sustainable trail system
- The Superintendent of Parks, Nita Settina, suggested establishing a State Parks advisory group that would include trail riders. Stacy Schaefer, Associate Director of Land Conservation, Land Acquisition and Planning Unit agreed and would like to participate in such a group.
 - Horse camping should be included with family camping in the **DNR** camping reservation website
 - **DNR** or the **MHIB** needs to establish a single online location where Maryland horse-related events and resources are published. The site should include maps of horse trails in PDF format and **GPS** Exchange Format (**GPX**) files for download into personal **GPS** units. The website should also include both public and private horse camping facilities. Perhaps they can get help from the **OT**.
 - The State of Maryland and the counties need to converse with the recreational user. Inviting and listening to user concerns opens the opportunity to parlay these concerns into effective volunteer and lobbying units. Hold quarterly public meetings or advisory group meetings. Establish an “Adopt a Trail” program in the parks and forests.
 - When plans are being made to pave a trail, include a parallel natural surface trail at little or no additional cost.
 - Retired “Baby Boomers” are frequent users of our Parks, and an ideal sector to target for volunteer recruitment.
 - The **MHC** and/or the **MHIB** should develop a listing of all horse-related organizations in Maryland. The list should include a short description of the organization, locality and contact information.
 - An educational campaign and signage at the parks is needed prevent use of wet trails
 - Each park should identify and schedule the rerouting of non-sustainable trails
 - Potomac Bridle and Hiking Trails Association (**PBHTA**), through the efforts of Naomi Manders has had excellent success in obtaining grants to improve the trails around Potomac Maryland. Others would do well to learn from her.
 - Develop an actionable equestrian five-year plan. Since Governor O’Malley and the **DNR** are committed to a first-class trail system in Maryland, use their endorsements to promote and implement improvements to our trail systems.
 - Consider using Montgomery County Parks as a benchmark organization for purposes of organizing and maintaining volunteers, building sustainable trails and balancing stewardship with public access
 - Stakeholders are more numerous and varied than might be assumed. For example a single park may be used by the following groups (trail riders, hikers, mountain bikers, joggers, bird watchers, fox hunters, farmers, hunters, fishermen, sport teams, cross-country teams, and surrounding neighbors). In addition, there is a plethora of governmental groups at the county, state and federal level who have an interest in the welfare of the park. Organizations would do well to understand the varying viewpoints, negotiate and compromise where possible and make alliances before they are needed.
 - Trail riders and property owners need to be informed regarding Maryland liability laws. Resources and links should be put on the **DNR** site.
 - Promotion of trail riding and camping opportunities should be coordinated with the **OT**.
 - A sign should be posted in every park indicating the number to call to report problems or issues.
 - Montgomery County has a very good online program where volunteers report their hours. This provides some incentive to the volunteer by showing that their time is valued. It is good for the county because they can budget their volunteer workload onto projects. They also use it to obtain grants and demonstrate the efficiency of their program.
- Summary Recommendations:**
1. Balancing our use of use of natural surface trails, while maintaining good stewardship is an on-going challenge. Achieving a balance can only be accomplished by users and government agencies

- listening to each other's concerns and working together for suitable solutions.
2. Follow-up with Maryland State Parks and Maryland Land Conservation and Acquisition Department about establishing a working user's advisory group for Maryland State Parks and Maryland greenways.
 3. Work with Maryland State Parks to expand horse camping opportunities. Maryland has two public horse camping facilities.
 - a. Fair Hill – expand the number of sites with electric and picnic tables
 - b. Cedarville – extend camping through November/December
 4. Look into the possibility of opening up camping opportunities in western Maryland parks and forests. Consider offering overnight camping for those on travel, even if multi-night camping is not possible.
 5. Work with Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (**MNCPPC**) to open a few horse campsites and/or permit travelers to camp overnight while on travel through Maryland.
 6. Establish a working relationship with the **MFS** to improve access to trails in Maryland Forests. Strive to have bath and shower facilities built for camping.
 7. **DNR** or the **MHIB** should establish an online listing of public and private:
 - a. Horse camping facilities
 - b. Bed and Breakfast locations that offer horse boarding
 - c. Over-night boarding facilities
 - d. (This should be done in cooperation with the **OT**.)
 8. **DNR** and the counties should provide equestrian trail maps online in pdf form and downloadable **GPX** files for upload to personal **GPS** units.
 9. Many of the problems of over-use and erosion can be mitigated through the construction of sustainable trails and prohibiting riding under wet conditions.
 10. Parks need volunteers to maintain the trails.
- Consider “Adopt-A-Trail” programs where clubs or individuals agree to maintain a trail, park or portion of a greenway. Target organizing retired “baby boomers.” Report volunteer hours.
11. When trails are paved, build a parallel natural surface trail beside it, at little or no additional cost.
 12. A new mindset is required to keep horseback riders and mountain bikers off natural surface trails when they are wet. Where appropriate, install signs at trail heads saying trails are closed to horses and bikes during wet conditions.
 13. Horseback riders and other users of natural surface trails need to become more organized to better represent their interests. There is little communication and cooperation between these groups and often they don't know about each other.
 14. Identify stakeholder groups of natural surface trails. Make this list available to those on the list. Include:
 - a. Trail riding clubs/organizations
 - b. Trail conservation groups (Trail Riders of Today, Equestrian Partners in Conservation, **PBHTA**)
 - c. Mountain bikers (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
 - d. Fox hunters
 - e. Running clubs
 - f. Hiking clubs
 - g. School cross-country teams
 - h. Friends of groups
 15. Make informal alliances with other users of natural surface trails. Agree to inform each other of pending concerns and trail maintenance days. Join forces to request easements when access to our parks is being jeopardized by new development.
 16. Protecting and improving trails requires strong advocacy at the local level. Advocates need to be found who will work with their county Parks and Zoning Boards and keep equestrians and allied groups aware of important issues.

GOING GREEN

Introduction:

The 2009 Horse Forum agenda topic of “Going Green” was selected for the purpose of discussing and suggesting recommendations from all members of Maryland’s equine community. The primary focus of encouraging best management practices for an equine operation, turned into a call for better communication and education of the process as a whole. There needs to be a cohesiveness of involved parties and state and local governments. This can be accomplished by setting forth a renewed commitment to information sharing, targeted outreach, and total inclusion of the equine community. The **MHIB** should lead in this effort.

Issues Presented:

1. Encourage Best Management Practices (water, soil, nutrient, manure, waste, runoff, etc.) on all equine operations.
 2. Investigate if a regional composting facility backed by either a federal, state, or local government would assist the equine community.
 3. Assess whether current organic practices are compatible with modern equine husbandry practices.
 4. Identify the best methodology for promoting horses as environmentally friendly.
 - Manure management is the number one environmental concern of the equine community
 - The need to manage horse manure by using sound sciences (such as nutrient management plans) is essential
 - The development of a regional composting facility
 - If composting is selected, the equine operator needs to connect with the appropriate governmental agency
 - Reinforce that composting of equine manure requires time, infrastructure and capital
 - Who will provide the investment resources for the regional composting facility?
 - Tap into other uses for horse manure as they relate to energy production or amending of the soil
- Pasture Management is the second environmental concern of the equine community
 - Find out why there is a difference in definitions for pasture management between equine community, **UMD**, government agencies and conservation groups
 - Work more as a “community” to increase the number of pasture walks offered to equine operators
 - Promote the harvesting of grasses near the Chesapeake Bay as they will ease pasture use and hay shortages
 - Strengthen ties from the **MDA** to bring about stronger communication and promotion of available grants programs to the equine community
 - Take note that small equine operations do not qualify for the grants program
 - Hold a workshop to answer the equine community concern that “we do not always get the help needed from the **MDA**.”
 - Work towards inclusion of all members of the equine community
 - Build and create new relationships leading to better information, policy and resources
 - Provide more education to new horse owners
 - Is it practical to use “grandfathered ideas” on today’s horse operations?
 - Extend educational opportunities by assisting the **UMD** Extension personnel that will contribute to sound agricultural practices
 - Consider reviewing the requirements of the current national program for organic sustainability award
 - Focus more on the viewpoint from the Maryland equine community. Members regard themselves as good land stewards by keeping runoff from the Chesapeake Bay and protecting agricultural land.
 - Figure out why the general public has the perception that the equine community is bad for the environment

- Assess whether the perception that poor manure and pasture management practices is being applied is correct or incorrect
- Bring light to the feedback of one forum attendee who regarded the horse community and its operators as a “Shadow Industry.” Fully address the concern that there is a lack of information available regarding managing the natural resources of an equine business.

Recommended Resolutions:

- Address the environmental concern of manure management. Is this an environmental concern with long term ramifications? The need to manage horse manure by using sound sciences is essential. Options are to either remove the manure or compost it on the equine farm. Otherwise, a panel should review whether or not the creation of regional composting collection centers would best serve the entire equine community.
- The establishment of statewide composting collection centers. Total involvement of the equine community must be a priority. Possible solution to funding could be partnerships between private environmental groups (i.e. Chesapeake Bay Foundation) and local and state government agencies. This concept benefits the entire equine community as well as the whole state. The collected manure can be used for energy production. On August 20, 2009, SWEBO Bioenergy International, a Swedish clean tech company, announced the establishment of its United States headquarters in the state of Maryland. Perhaps bring them onboard to help facilitate other possible solutions. Another use for the composted manure: it could be applied as an organic soil amendment in urban or agricultural land.
- Reach out to other sectors working on the cutting edge of horse manure composting. Today’s operator is not yesterday’s farmer. Create a social media network.
- Need to research and promote best management practices that work, are practical, and cost-effective to the equine community. Then develop a cost-share program to reimburse small equine operations for the implementation of these best management practices. Use conservation planners to assist in developing conservation plans and implementing these best management practices.
- Use the Central Maryland Research Facility at Clarksville as a model to promote and implement the pasture management system being studied. Extension research should show what works and what doesn’t at the farm.
- Hire more extension personnel and conservation planners to assist with the outreach efforts
- Get information out on programs to the equine community. Develop an information package targeting new farmers and equine owners of the resources available to them through a unified equine outreach program like the Horse Outreach Workgroup.
- Use soil conservation districts as a resource to inform the equine community
- Harvest grasses from edge of the Chesapeake Bay and feed to horses
- Develop and establish an equine operator recognition program judged on good land stewardship practices. Model the program after the Soil Conservation District; Cooperator of the Year Award. A well-thought-out recognition program will promote conservation for involved groups. This will demonstrate to the general public and new equine owners how committed the equine community is regarding the protection of the environment.

Summary Recommendations:

1. What are best management practices?
 - a. Are there better communication models to help the equine community in receiving information?
 - i. Invite everyone from the community. Use the knowledge from all resources, including, but not limited to, personnel from the **UMD** and local soil conservation districts.
 - ii. Clearly define personnel parameters for optimal service to equine clients. Make adjustments accordingly.
 - iii. Find ways to let operators know about sound science as the current model needs updating.

GOING GREEN

2. Survey and assess the need for a central composting facility.
 - a. Offer potential options for manure-composting sites.
 - b. Work with new vendors on the leading edge of technological changes in the processing of horse manure.
3. Other funding for equine operators
 - a. Create a grants program database.
 - b. Inform operators that grants usually reimburse partial costs for the implementation of best management practices.
 - c. Work with the operator to see if the reimbursement process of several months to receive payment will cause any financial hardships.
4. Greening of the horse community – a combined effort.
 - a. Better communication of concerns
 - b. Better management of resources
 - c. Better marketing of information
 - d. Better uses of pasture land
 - e. More composting options
 - f. More education
 - g. More funding
 - h. More transparency
 - i. New Partnerships
 - j. Recognition programs
 - k. Total inclusion

INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMPETITION VENUES

Introduction:

This session was designed to have open discussion on the needs of competition sites (how many, placement around the state, and do horsemen still want a horse park). Also, it gave the opportunity to horsemen to weigh in on their position on having an import and export facility and any other issues or concerns regarding the regional infrastructure.

The session followed Gov. O'Malley's address in which he took questions and answers from the crowd. Five or six of those questions were about having a Maryland Horse Park, and in the exit poll survey, several people mentioned their excitement that the governor was looking into the horse park project. Eight of the forty-eight responses to question six, "Are you willing to become involved in efforts to implement any of the ideas discussed at this forum?" said yes, they would like to become involved specifically in the horse park. Finally on question 7, "what would you like to see in the final report", approximately 15% of the responses were that they want a horse park.

Issues Presented:

- 80% of the issues regarded the Maryland horse park
- They expressed disappointment that the Anne Arundel site for a horse park had not gone through
- They questioned why the site had failed
- They expressed a need to rejuvenate efforts to have a horse park in the state of Maryland
- Insufficient venues to host a greater than a one day horse show locally with facilities to overnight horses and non-locals
- Horse park with facility large enough to host other trade shows off-season / and regular horse shows, location – size – facilities at site
- Location of horse park-
 - Fair Hill – concerns regarding trail preservation, stalls traffic, pleasure horse events
 - Needs redesign from original plan
 - Need centralized location for horse park
- **DBED** should be a part of horse park development

- Problems with getting show dates (United States Equestrian Federation) in MD – due to dates/mileage issues
- One facility or several around state
- Put the Prince Georges Equestrian Center (**PGEC**) to greater use – lacks showers, camper hook ups, poorly built horse stalls – costs, covered facility under construction now
- County master plan to work with greater use of **PGEC** facility
- It was pointed out that the Horse Park Feasibility Study done in 2006 showed that a Horse Park would generate \$122 million in spending by visitors, generating tax revenues to the state and local governments of \$9.3 million. That revenue would be enough to pay off the debt service on a \$114 million facility.
- It was also mentioned that a Horse Park would become a focal point for a statewide effort to market Maryland as a destination for equine tourism
- Participants from various equestrian disciplines lamented that Maryland is losing huge amounts of economic activity when Marylanders have to travel to facilities in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and beyond to compete every weekend

Recommended Resolutions:

- Build horse park like in Kentucky – with rings, trails, etc., stalls, multidisciplinary – accessible space for camping, shows, competitions, trailers, retail events
- Working group to come together to open/greater use of **PGEC**
- Build import-export facility - near **BWI** with quarantine facilities

Summary Recommendations:

1. Overwhelmingly the industry wants a Maryland Horse Park
2. More use and greater facility development of the **PGEC**
3. They want to see an import–export center at **BWI** airport and feel it will go hand in hand if the proposed horse park hosts international events

UNWANTED HORSES

Introduction:

This session provided the horse industry members the opportunity to explore and voice concerns regarding the fate of Maryland's excess horses created by tough economic times. The industry was well-represented by horse rescues, licensed stables, and private horse owners. A portion of this group apparently did not have access to available information which resulted in recommendations that have already been addressed.

The issue of the unwanted horse is a national issue and is not a new problem. The American Horse Council (AHC) recognized this five years ago when they organized The Unwanted Horse Coalition. Their first problem was to come up with a name that described the issue. Even though it does not cover every scenario, it was the closest they could come. Jay Hickey, President of the AHC was present at the meeting and reported that The Unwanted Horse Coalition has published a report that is available online at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

Issues Presented:

- The economy has affected the entire industry but has had the biggest impact on the unwanted horse. Increase in cost of feeding and caring for horses has resulted in horse owners decreasing their herd and a decrease in adoptions from rescues. Increase in cost of euthanasia and disposal of carcasses.
- The industry needs to address the number of horses being produced. Need participation from breeders and breed groups to limit numbers and to participate in programs for retraining, and finding new careers and new homes for excess horses. Want more responsibility and accountability possibly through regulation and disciplinary action.
- There are no horse slaughter facilities in the United

- States. Horses are shipped to Canada and Mexico where we have no ability to regulate that industry. There is great concern regarding the humane aspect of both slaughter and transportation to slaughter. Need to look at European standards that food animals (including horses) are required to be drug free.
- Other states have offered euthanasia clinics. Would like to see a fund and fundraisers to find money to offer low cost euthanasia and castration – possibly through a voucher program. Want a central location for information on large animal incinerators and composting of carcasses.
- All agreed that this is a “quality of life” issue. How we define this needs further discussion.
- There seems to be some confusion of the roles of various government and private organizations. The industry needs to know where to go for information and which organization or government agency has responsibility for each issue. There is a concern that Animal Control lacks staff with knowledge of horse care.
- The group stated that one hour was not enough time to find a solution to this problem. There needed to be educational opportunities.

Recommended Resolutions / Summary Recommendations:

1. Make use of the MHIB, MHC, and UMD to offer the opportunity to:
 - a. Meet and look at solutions to the unwanted horse problem.
 - b. Offer educational opportunities.
 - c. Look at ways to make information readily available.
 - d. Promote successful adoption programs.

2009 MARYLAND HORSE FORUM EVALUATIONS

All of the attendees at the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum were invited to submit evaluations of the day's events. In total 96 unique surveys were received with 71 forms turned in at the forum and 25 additional forms submitted online. All attendees were informed that this information would be included in the 2009 Maryland Horse Forum Final Report.

1) Equine Group Represented (Attendees could indicate more than one group represented)

- a. Racing 21
- b. Breeding 20
- c. Government 18
- d. Recreational 49
- e. Rescue 7
- f. Showing 29
- g. Supporting Business 25
- h. Other 17

Other included: Heritage Organization, Education, Farmer, Legal, Interested Citizen, Small Government Education Facility, Accounting, Farming, Land Preservation, Pony Club, Publication/Media, Horse Club, Tourism, UMD, Therapeutic Riding, Equine Rehabilitation, Equine Dentistry, Horse World Expo., establishing and maintaining liability free horse trials

2) Please indicate your degree of satisfaction with the following statements:

Topics	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
I felt adequately informed of the purpose of today's event.	1	2	8	32	49	92
I felt comfortable speaking about my interests and/or those of the group I represented.	1	1	11	43	41	97
Attending the Forum increased my knowledge of issues facing the MD horse industry.	1	2	8	42	36	89
Attending the Forum increased my understanding of the views of others in the horse industry.	1	0	5	51	37	94
The recommendations we reached at the forum can be implemented.	1	2	27	38	19	87
Facilitators clearly explained the facilitation process	1	2	15	35	40	93
Facilitators helped us manage the time well	1	1	8	36	42	88
I am familiar with the sponsors of the Forum	1	3	7	36	46	93
I would recommend this process to others in similar situations	1	1	1	41	45	89
Conference facilities were excellent.	1	0	3	33	55	92

EVALUATIONS**3) The highlight of the day for me was:**

1. Park Superintendant participating
2. The various sessions – the 3 I attended were educational and gave new insights.
3. Strong personal opinions at all levels (zoning and unwanted horse sections). I believe strongly more advertising is needed for the small (recreational) horse owners to attend.
4. Interacting with other horse industry members and hearing their opinions.
5. Meeting other horse people with similar concerns.
6. Discussions and networking
7. Governor's presence and length of time he addressed questions/concerns
8. Governor taking questions
9. Recognition of the degree of passion within the horse community – great networking – attendance by the Governor
10. The governor
11. Governor's desire to review the "former" horse park feasibility study and concept
12. The governor speaking
13. Questions with the Governor
14. The governor being receptive to the needs of the horse community
15. Everything!
16. Mayor's appearance to speak and address issues of the horse industry
17. The energy and passion participants had for the horse industry
18. Unwanted horse discussion
19. Possibility of a MD Horse park and an equine liability law which is favored by everyone I know.
20. Good attendance with concerned and generally polite horse people
21. Listening to others about their individual concerns about the horse industry. It broadens my knowledge of others needs.
22. The superintendant of state parks wants a list of stakeholders who use the trails to form an advisory group to create and maintain trails. And Gov. O'Malley got a certificate for his family to take riding lessons!
23. Lunch; learning so much about the horse industry.
24. Hearing the concerns of the horse industry
25. The knowledge and research that has been done for the horse industry
26. Listening to opinions of horse people in the state, realizing there are differing opinions so we really need one unified voice/spokesperson.
27. All of the ideas from all the forums.
28. The exchange of ideas at all seminars
29. Land use/preservation/zoning
30. Wrap up of breakout sessions
31. Talking about the marketing of the horse and how we can reach non-horse people
32. Reconnecting with government agency reps and other equestrians. Sharing what works for our organization with other group representatives
33. Learning the concerns of other horse people
34. The participation of Gov. Martin O'Malley
35. Governor's speech
36. Having the governor's attention focused on the horse industry
37. Governor's sincerity
38. Unwanted horses and Gov. O'Malley
39. Governor O'Malley
40. The governor seems very interested in our industry

41. The governor
42. Q&A with the Governor
43. The governor and topics sessions
44. Being with others who spoke their minds and listened to each other. And the Governor's Q&A period.
45. When Gov. O'Malley spoke.
46. Q&A with the Governor.
47. The governor listening to us.
48. Hearing the governor appear interested in revisiting the Maryland Horse Park! Overall, an excellent venue and I'd gladly come again.
49. Governor O'Malley
50. The Governor. Hearing the solutions. They were so much better than 2004.
51. Direct feedback from the governor. Hearing others' viewpoints.
52. Governor O'Malley
53. Governor O'Malley. He spoke well and he let us know that the horse industry is important to the state. He was attentive to our questions and suggestions. He was not afraid to say "I don't know" and he was receptive to our reports.
54. The governor's speech. He showed us that the government is interested in the equine industry.
55. Hearing the governor speak and interact with us.
56. Governor
57. The governor's visit, particularly the Q&A
58. Governor's presentation
59. Quality attendees' perspectives. Governor's availability and time spent with us. Good agenda topics and moderators.
60. Gov. O'Malley being supportive, interested, open, receptive.
61. Keynote with Gov. O'Malley
62. Governor
63. Hearing issues regarding planning and zoning
64. I enjoyed it all
65. Being able to talk to the Governor about issues that will help horses.
66. Governor O'Malley's keynote address.
67. nothing particular stands out
68. The Governor of Md. attending the conference
69. Governor O'Malley paying attention to us
70. When Gov. O'Malley spoke.
71. Q&A with Governor
72. Hearing that Governor O'Malley hadn't heard about the import facility need and how easy, and profitable, it would be for the State of Maryland. Seeing the governor's interest in many issues presented to him
73. The amount of support from the horse folks regarding the desire for a horse park.
74. Having the governor available to listen to the industry as a whole. I felt that for the most part he was well informed on topics, and things he wasn't informed on, he seemed interested in learning more about.
75. Gov. O'Malley
76. O'Malley's speech
77. Having the Governor come and speak.
78. Networking with others in the industry
79. Discussions at lunch.....
80. Hearing open forum with the Governor

EVALUATIONS

81. The group....the diverse attendance of horse interested people was very constructive and useful as a communication opportunity. I actually received a letter from the Gov's office in response to a note I sent them.....that is worth the time....
82. Gov O'Malley's remarks
83. The Governor speaking, and answering questions
84. Land use and zoning working group

4) The process could have been improved by:

1. No improvement needed.
2. Depends on purpose
3. Better sound
4. Do a better job of getting more people's comments
5. Dedicating time at the end of each session to come up with action items for each of the issues/recommendations
6. Was done very well. I would have liked to attend some of the other sessions that were held at the same times.
7. More time per topic. How can discussion be continued amongst attendees post-event?
8. Limiting the number of times a particular attendee can be called upon by the facilitators; some topics (unwanted horses, vision for future of MD racing) were way to broad for an hour's time
9. Solution-focused discussion – perhaps follow-up sessions to issues that were presented
10. Having more of the horse racing industry executives hear about the recreational side of the industry, particularly when many former "racers" can be retrained for recreational usage.
11. Having facilitators that were more familiar with the issues to begin with
12. Excellent facilitators, went very well
13. MD liability law was not fairly moderated. Too much attorney involvement and obvious bias against melding the common law and an equine liability which is desired and needed.
14. Sound system terrible – all rooms and spaces
15. None
16. None
17. Moderators let people ramble on and repeat the same thing over and over; facilitator's could have been more assertive in moving on to the next topic. For example, the green and trails sessions.
18. Scripted/pre-selected questions asked to the governor (instead of 5 similar questions all on the topic of horse park)
19. More on including backyard (1-10 acre) horse owners in ag-usage tax zoning and state easement monies for ag land preservation, not just 50+ acre farms. Small backyard horse farms are the backbone of the industry.
20. All was great as organized and conducted.
21. Nothing, great event.
22. Less chatter during sessions. Government agency reps talking to each other – very distracting.
23. Better traffic on the beltway this morning!
24. More time
25. Better acoustics
26. More focus on the future
27. More visibility of our state legislators and agencies
28. Done well
29. I thought it was great
30. Making sure the issues were listed and then the recommendations.

31. Before and after/problems then solutions all at once is tough to get solutions.
32. Moderators who understand horse industry so everything didn't need to be explained.
33. An extra microphone in the audience so the participants can be heard. Could not clearly hear the questions/comments. Podium should have been on a riser.
34. Having more time to discuss issues. About 15 more minutes.
35. Ability for all questions to be addressed.
36. It was great!
37. Chairs could be set up in a semi-circle so you can see & hear the people speaking.
38. We raised the issues, now what is our next step.
39. Fewer or less lengthy, breaks.
40. Some topics were too broad for just an hour
41. Better moderators, too much time spent educating the moderators especially in the Tack Room. Start on time, finish on time.
42. Very good day!
43. Better acoustics/sound for speakers in the main arena.
44. Action plan – what will happen with the recommendations?
45. Different facilities -- too noisy
46. Having an itinerary before the event.
47. Some of the topics need bigger rooms and also more time to allow everyone to voice their concerns.
48. Some participants indicated that they wanted to attend more than one track, when those tracks were being conducted concurrently. In planning the event, we should attempt to solicit feedback from the prospective participants on the tracks they might wish to attend. In this way we could try to minimize potential conflicts in the tracks for the participants.
49. Having everyone write down their concerns or comments and then the group discussing them one at a time.
50. Not sure how you could do it but I found that people would start blaming each other for various problems, I would have liked for them to stay on topic more.
51. Submitting issues beforehand, more time spent on working toward recommendations.
52. Following all the ideas up with work groups supported by the particular interested parties.
53. Shorter breaks to utilize time better and make the day more compressed.
54. It was fine, although it really could have been a two-day forum, because we have so many issues to discuss.
55. Perhaps a little more pre-event clarity for non-professionals attending the forum. This wasn't so much about what the horse industry could do for us, but what we could do for the horse industry.
56. Bigger facilities for the groups when they broke off to different sessions.
57. The facilitators repeatedly recognized the same people(some of whom had very little to offer) and failed to give others the opportunity to speak (racing forum and unwanted horse forum)
58. Keeping repetitive speakers to a minimum
59. Can't think if anything unless we can make the govt processes work more aggressively to get the horse park decisions moving.
60. More mikes
61. Splitting the time and allow some time to come up with ideas/solutions to the problems we came up with
62. Adding a component for backyard horse operations and owners

5) Recommendations for next steps include:

1. Assign someone to follow-up in each area
2. Perhaps ½ day sessions on certain topics.

EVALUATIONS

3. More time on some issues
4. Form a strategic plan
5. Work on funding for marketing and promotion
6. Need more forums (sessions) for following up of suggestions... to make solid objectives to achieve.
7. Make a strategic plan for the horse industry and form task forces for each area to ensure each issue is properly addressed now instead of later
8. Conduct another equine census – need new numbers!
9. Annual forum
10. Breaks didn't allow participants to visit vendor booths
11. Identify ways to create solutions to issues; more resources are perhaps available in government?
12. Have another
13. Having the MHC and MHIB having greater numbers of persons to advocate the horse industry full-time with the legislature and DNR. DNR and MDE needs daily, at least weekly, in depth dialogue about equestrian needs.
14. Follow-up with recommendations and a strategic plan to address the issues.
15. We need to have a group to represent us to those who can make a difference and to tell us when and how to make our voices heard.
16. Continue this process annually with development of mission statements.
17. Moderator up on subjects
18. Full report to all
19. Communicate issues and recommendations in some format. How are recommendations going to be implemented, explored? If there are groups working those, their progress needs to be communicated.
20. Follow-up report and actions emailed to all participants.
21. Form one voice for the MD horse industry to represent us at the government level. Who would that be?
22. Do what is necessary to implement the horse park and for a point of entry for horses into BWI.
23. Continue to involve local county tourism staff
24. Follow through – keep issues in minds of legislators
25. Implementing recommendations. Educating local elected officials, local education community of importance/economic impact of agriculture in general, the equine industry in particular.
26. Choose those top items that will bring the horse industry the most “bang for the buck.” Put groups together to work on those projects.
27. 6 months report on what has been accomplished so far.
28. Concerned that there were many good ideas, but not much discussion on how or who will implement them.
29. Follow through
30. Do not let these issues fade
31. Keep all participants informed
32. Solutions program and funding
33. Continue
34. Better marketing of racing – the horse world is a way of life and is far more insular than we realize and we can sell ourselves better.
35. Contacting legislators
36. Horse council to take a “huge” role in publicizing horses, racing and becoming “lobbyist” for the industry.
37. Making report accessible to attendees. Getting recommendations to Sec. Hance and then to Governor.
38. Have problems before lunch and solutions after lunch.
39. A good report of the proceedings, asking for volunteers to lead working groups, limiting the number of issues to address to a manageable number.

40. Get the report together fast! Distribute it widely!
41. How to get legislators to implement.
42. There needs to be a task force which compiles all the info collected today, puts it into a workable project, and assigns it to a group (gov. or private) with a leader and a deadline or progression of deadlines for specific tasks.
43. Provide information; provide networking; provide education
44. Follow up via email on the implementation process for any/all of recommendations to spur continued interest.
45. Develop follow up committees
46. Specific implementation should be followed up with interest groups. Keep an inventory of issues; keep these in the public eye.
47. Give us a way to unite one voice. Let us know where we need to be and when you need our voice.
48. Reports mailed out soon and online. Public input days for strategic plan committee. RFP for consultant to do strategic plan for state-wide unification of the horse industry marketing plan.
49. Review all the information and make a presentation to the Governor on the issues. Also begin discussions with those that can help resolve the issues.
50. The implementation of many of the recommendations, just as with the last Forum, is dependent upon some source of funding. This would appear to be the biggest obstacle to implementing many of the recommendation. Although this is not really a recommendation, we should explore means of securing supporting funds to implement prioritized recommendations.
51. Unsure, there were many subjects/problems discussed and not enough answers or solutions to support them
52. Feedback on recommendations implemented
53. Hopefully ensuring us that something will be done. Have more politicians attend especially those from Anne Arundel.
54. Meaningful follow-up. Programs that could be funded, marketing strategy group that has experience tapping into equestrian vendors, i.e. Insurance, Feed, Tack (manufacturers), Show Management (Hits, etc).
55. after determining hot topics.... poll attendees on which issues should be tackled first
56. We must find support among elected officials. Very few legislators were there. We must make them realize our important our industry is. Some officials know absolutely nothing about our industry.
57. Leaders within the forum others who choose to get involved with the Steering, choose 1 or 2 points from each session, create a timeline for implementation, and begin implementation.
58. We didn't have enough time in the discussion groups.
59. Tracks email customers with entries, results and other promotions, seminars, etc. that they are sponsoring. Should have huge email list from all the little cards people fill out for all of their drawings.
60. Provide onsite online steps for solving the issues at hand
61. Do it again and focus on progress.....
62. Follow-up with DNR
63. Move beyond slots. Press state government (particularly Ag Dept. and DNR) to assist horse owners reform and adjust ag policies (including land preservation/easements) to fit the unique needs of the equestrian industry -- not just badly retrofit existing ag/land preservation programs that were created for large-acreage crop agriculture to horsemen's needs.
64. holding more forums and advertising them a little better

EVALUATIONS

6) Are you willing to become involved in efforts to implement any of the ideas that were discussed at this forum? If so, which ones?

YES	NO	MAYBE	NO ANSWER	TOTAL
52	4	7	33	96

Specific areas in which assistance is being offered:

1. Trails & Public Lands
2. Horse park venue; events; utilization by multi-sport
3. Horse park
4. Marketing efforts
5. Unwanted horses, trail partnerships
6. Right to Farm law, equine liability, and design of a horse park to accommodate big time driving events and land use/tax action.
7. Building and maintaining trails in Montgomery County and supporting the horse park
8. Marketing the horse, outreach to non-horse people and education of new and potential horse owners.
9. Trails work group, DNR
10. Horse park, competition venues.
11. Educating the general public about the industry
12. Marketing of racing & unwanted horse problem
13. Self-insurance and keeping contributory negligence laws
14. On ideas with being environmentally friendly and going “green”
15. Maryland Horse park, Representative to MD National Park; MNCPP commission in PG county; trails and greenways assistance
16. Market to non-horse people. Interact with tourism, girl scouts, boy scouts, 4H clubs, Black Beauty reading program.
17. Green ideas
18. Build a directory of horse camping facilities in our state (state, county, commercial, private). Willing to help whenever to enhance that liability issues/horse owner and business protection is implemented.
19. Composting
20. Racing terms
21. MD horse park
22. Attend any future education forums.
23. Work with county officials in my county on zoning issues. Work to help resolve the unwanted horse issue.
24. Help provide info on parks and trails that are equine friendly, and educating ALL horse owners the difference between slaughter and euthanasia.
25. Unwanted horses
26. Evaluating the root causes of misconceptions regarding horses, horse ownership, horse industry, and subsequently developing marketing/PR plans to debunk them as well as replace them with information that leads to a better Maryland for all things equine.
27. Maryland Horse Park. Marketing efforts.
28. Local involvement in Frederick County
29. Horse park, International import/export quarantine station, and trails
30. Zoning, land use and preservation issues.

31. Trails and land preservation

7) Please add additional comments that you would like addressed in the final report, or comments you were unable to make during the MD Horse Forum:

1. Need money to do everything that was talked about!
2. Thank you for coordinating this great event! I think it is important to offer something like this regularly. We are overdue for an assessment survey (feasibility study) of the equine industry.
3. I loved the forum!! Thank you very much! We all need each other in order to be successful. Question: is there a central entity that can help me get started and guide me in starting into the horse business with my teaching, training and breeding endeavors?
4. Consultation regarding self insurance options for both liability and work comp.
5. Another horse/equine survey for MD, last one in 2001; right to farm law explained – many misuses; getting involved in zoning and comp places at county level ensures there is a definition of agriculture and equine is included
6. It seems that incentives to those in horse industry need to be developed to encourage “smart” horse operations – progressive and accountable.
7. Great networking opportunity
8. Full-time equestrian land use planner at DNR and or MPO who would have full responsibility to work with county planning offices and parks & recreation staff.
9. Maryland horse park needs to be centrally located
10. Explore all options where a horse park could be located. Got the feeling Anne Arundel County was the only location on the table. Site location and selection should be open!
11. Excellent meeting – but vital follow-up needed with a host of opportunities available to promote and grow the horse industry.
12. Look for an e-mail.
13. Sound system inadequate. Portable mics should have been available particularly for the governor’s session for question.
14. Thanks to the organizers for providing open discussions. Thanks for providing a nice venue and nice lunch! Interacting with others is important.
15. The facilitators were very good in moving along the discussion and capturing what was said.
16. Better communications with nutrient management planning process, taking opportunities, etc.
17. The chairs were very uncomfortable and the PA system in the Tack Room is horrible.
18. Taxation of barns and riding arenas as commercial buildings when they are located on agriculture preserved property.
19. Signs on state roads advertising riding farms in Ag preservation like they do for vineyards.
20. The shaded evaluation form is very difficult to read – please use lighter paper and no shading next time.
21. Agencies representing the horse industry need to communicate between themselves better.
22. Immediate action on import/export! Follow up with Governor on this and horse park.
23. I think we should consider the stadium authority as a way to build a race track
24. Taxation issues (e.g. inheritance tax) which affect the horse industry and family farms.
25. Very good!
26. Thank you to hosts and sponsors.
27. Thank you! More please. Need to elect representatives of all disciplines to champion one topic to accomplish goals to fix issues.
28. I don’t think my comment got across clearly in the unwanted horse forum, but here it is: it would be nice to see a focused effort on training a new group of horse trainers in MD to train unwanted horses. More trainers to train unwanted horses should make more wanted horses. Thank you. (grants for

EVALUATIONS

- educational programs to train trainers would be great, but know that may be tough)
29. Overall, the 2009 forum was well planned and executed. The industry has come a long way since 2004; I'm excited to see these recommendations implemented.
 30. Because hunting is allowed at most public parks, it is not safe to ride a horse near those areas during hunting season. This limits winter time riding. Hunters do hunt all day long sometimes. We cannot chance the dangers of a stray bullet, let alone the spooked horse at the sound of gunfire.
 31. I hope each attendee gets a list of other attendees' email and phone numbers.
 32. There needs to be information of how to lobby and/or persuade the government to implement the laws to help the equine industry.
 33. Help me get a regional composting facility going
 34. Limit the number of times that an individual can speak at each session.
 35. Sessions should be filmed. An overall DVD should be created and sold/donated to all horse clubs, stables, breed organizations, veterinary groups, 4H clubs, pony clubs, to help increase awareness and responsibility.
 36. The follow up of issues and implementation and responsibilities seems too weak. Open end issues could be publicized (not necessarily points of view, but issues that need resolution)
 37. Could you send an email offering to create an action group to act toward Anne Arundel County Commercial? Those interested could respond – maybe a group could attend the next council meeting to create momentum (was awkward to say so when Gov. O'Malley had the podium)
 38. Our state needs a horse park
 39. Very well run event
 40. The most important suggestion today (to me) was to form a PAC to represent all horse activities in MD.
 41. Have Veterinarians get together to help train animal control on what is a problem.
 42. Solution to unwanted horse issue – Ensure that tax revenue from MD slots is dispersed back to the small time farmers or towards retraining and re-homing.
 43. Compost the animals after putting them down.
 44. Find ways to stimulate horse market – Horse sales not auctions
 45. Action: - Public service announcements like Humane Society about breeding and castration. – Education. – Carcass disposal – options.
 46. Session 2 – Topic I Legal Matters – Research liability issue in Tourism industry – ag-tourism.
 47. Free marketing for horse racing equestrian activities as a way of life – not merely a business consequently it is very insular and unapproachable: We need to self market more as far as racing is concerned. Every silent auction in MD should be given a brochure of 20 free passes to the races plus programs – this would cost very little and could be instituted immediately – plus allow people in the business to give free passes and self market ourselves.
 48. I would like to suggest that a questionnaire or survey be sent to college age and high school age children to ask them what would bring them out to the races. What do they want to see at the races? What can we do to bring this age group to the race tracks. 1) Racing must be FUN. 2) Develop email list send entries in/owners trainers & jockeys. Tag any projects that Phoebe is doing & any other news. Stop complaining about not being in the SUN of Post. They are not going to exist in the near future in the print version.
 49. The MD – legislators should repeal the 80/20 that comes out of betting – TB's get 80% and SB get only 20%, that's an uneven split.
 50. Racetrack facilities need to be more family oriented, cleaner & areas that are comfortable, clean and enjoyable for young children & families. Tracks need to publicize any “events” & “family activities” for one knows the tracks are offering anything currently. I never took my children to the MD Race Tracks and I love racing. The tracks were dirty and disgusting. Need younger fans! Thanks.
 51. Need money to do all of the things that have been suggested.

52. Public Relations – slots money for new breeders to help with enormous start up costs.
53. Slots at Arundel Mills will do nothing to increase the fan base for horse racing. Slots at Laurel will bring people to the track & hopefully get some of them interested in racing.
54. Use every horse as a “money maker” for retired horse funds! \$1 from every trainer and rider (jockey) for each horses running that day be put into a retirement fund. Basically \$2 a horse per start.
55. Some of the slots \$\$ must go to the retirement and transitioning of race horses.
56. How about a premium for OTTB’s that go into other fields after? (My daughter will be running on OTTB more at Fair Hill’s CCI ** this October – and could use some support!).
57. Two words Strategic Plan (goals – strategies!)
58. Positive Pr for racing 1) Create race day where each of the 12 horses in each race is associated with a charity in United Way Career Research a % goes to hat charity get people to show up dressed to recognize their charity and get Press to cover it & local community news. I.e. come to track get T-shirt for your charity and bet on your horses – Helps racing’s image.
59. One thing we can do is communicate with the Washington Post & Baltimore Sun that we miss the racing coverage they have deleted. They responded to my concern that there was a need to expand high school athletic coverage & the space was needed. If we care, we should communicate – we miss racing coverage they have deleted. They responded to my concern that there was a need to expand high school athletic coverage & the space was needed. If we care, we should communicate – we miss racing coverage!
60. Can we fund slots money for something like animal planet’s show “Jockeys”. We need more. Thousands of little children watch “jockey” on animal planet & love it. Great way to grab fans early.
61. Put money towards education. Educate local labor not just foreign laborers. By educating our own neighbors it will educate whole families and communities spark interest w/younger generations so it will grow. Hopefully increase PR will further spark community interest in equine events esp. racing. Please see ideas from labor issues forum.
62. As a breeder w need the purse money. Businesses are folding or moving out of states because of the lack of funds.
63. We need a Maryland Horse Park (like Lexington VA) to promote Maryland as an equine destination for big shows!
64. Vehicle tags with horses on them (similar to “ag” tags)
65. Open space, the” view”, Water recharge/aquifer impacts “Everyone”, Tours for local officials – Chamber of Commerce.
66. As far as trying to attract young folks – Laurel Racetrack – has the pony pals where kids get to go to the barn area, meet a trainer, exercise rider, they go over for a race, pony rides, face painting, etc.
67. We need “action” from a well organized group for all types & phases of the horse industry! Horse people must unite! 1) Have a more dynamic presence at the State Fair. 2) Work with state’s heritage areas on education & ag-tourism. - Maryland Heritage Area Authority – grant opportunities. 3) My organization – Four Rivers Heritage Area.
68. Spend a chunk of time with a representative group for a detailed facilitation process. Too much wants/ needs so we need more time with the facilitators.
69. My vision for combined human/horse health is much longer than my suggestion for a soft-tissue center at Bowie Race Track. A rehabilitation ranch for injured veterans coming through Bethesda combined with a horse rescue. A colic surgical center and massage school at Bowie Race Track therapeutic facility. Improved horse welfare can be a big part of innovation. I have a lot more complex ideas and would be happy to document and/or present them. Please post ideas/progress regularly online. Email distribution lists can become a bit overwhelming – maybe one initial notifying email about where to find the page which has follow up info from this forum.
70. Campaign: connecting Maryland’s horses with your world.

EVALUATIONS

71. Session 1: Marketing the Horse; Make Bowie the next MD Horse Park
72. Issue!! Liability Insurance: Pony rides are the best way to draw a crowd BUT it costs a lot because we have to hire a “pony ride” company – we cannot use our own ponies. Not a bad thing but not always available.
73. Advertising in magazines, local and international, and using the technology of the web. I am called frequently for trail rides from Mercly Free listing on websites, including tourism.
74. Still no idea why an average person should care about the horse industry. Market that it’s accessible to all income levels. Market how it directly improves quality of life.
75. Virginia produces stats of its industry which includes all genres of horse world – does Maryland produce same research? If not, it should! I am interested in those numbers to develop a single promotional brochure to educate those about horse industry in state.
76. Ideas: tourism needs to better support existing programs. Use the programs that exist. Expo is a great venue to introduce public to horses.
77. To know horses and appreciate them, the average person has to see them. To expose more people we need to take our horses off our isolated farms and ride them. We could have tours or poker runs? (Like walk-a-thons or bicycle events). Ride your horse to town day? Take your horse to the mall day. Coordinate a day to ride down the side roads and get exposure. The average person needs to see horses to know them.
78. To answer Brian’s question: Separation #1 problem. Back each other.
79. Support racing the “face” of the industry
80. Businesses can flourish with the horse industry. Feed and farm equipment sales. Restaurants, horseshoers, dentistry, tack sales, clothing sales. Jobs, jobs, jobs!
81. Marketing the Horse – Racing perception as primary horse industry – the question I am asked most when I stop for gas with my horse trailer is “Do you race?”. Education – I want to develop and expand way to engage children and their families with horse knowledge through Girl Scout programming – How can the MHC, MHIB and Equiery help me?(of course I do not have a budget for this) –
82. Maryland Horse Council is Maryland’s one voice! How many people here have been active – have a participated in the Maryland Horse Council? The Maryland Horse Council is an umbrella organization representing each club, each special interest group, and each individual. The Maryland Horse Council has a lobbyist. It would be wonderful if everyone here would learn about the MHC and participate.
83. Horse Council needs to be on Facebook! A horse center is the best way to promote and market the horse! We need to promote our presence with legislators.
84. Calvert County – I’m in the Ag Preservation program. I built a 20, 000sq.ft. riding facility on the property. They tax the building as commercial. My taxes went from <\$1, 000 to over \$4, 000/year. This is wrong!
85. It would behoove the state to discuss environmentally friendly burying of horses. Right now, counties have different legislation on it and many don’t mention burying near water sources. The state needs to set guidelines on this. (as well do composting)
86. As we pursue a state horse park please keep the non-show pleasure rider in mind to accommodate: trails, trail competitions (judged trail rides, CTR’s), carriage pleasure opportunity, camping, overnight stay for area visitors not showing.
87. I am for a horse park but not at Fair Hill. Not a good location.
88. Horse park needs to be in a metropolitan location. Not in the boondocks.
89. Horse park, yes! Central location = must. Multi-disciplined. Plenty of stalls – well built and ventilated with good footing (not hard asphalt), rings and indoors, camp ground – can be its own attraction, trails, an amazing XC course!
90. Please! Readdress the Maryland Horse Park! The Crownsville location is perfect! Hand in hand with that, an Import/Export facility at BWI would be a great addition to Maryland’s standing in the horse

- world and the world at large.
91. The last horse park plan lacked RV spaces and hookups. This must be corrected. Regional shows draw from NJ, NY, DE, PA and VA. Traffic on Fridays and Sunday evenings should be considered.
 92. Horse Park needs covered show ring, covered practice ring, 100 overnight hookups, 350 minimum stalls (300-500 stalls).
 93. Horse Park: needs to be centrally located in Maryland; needs to be near major interstates; needs to be near airport; do not have it close to Delaware as tax dollars should stay in MD, not DE or PA.
 94. Use lottery money for improvement for our park. Pay attention to the 50 mile rule of the USEF. Locate property in central Maryland on state owned land near good roads. Maybe Patapsco State Park; 2, 000 acre park from 11, 000 (not bad).
 95. Horse Park. Maryland is a great central location and needs a horse park. Fair Hill could be developed into a wonderful facility. Please consult the driving community regarding the specialized needs for a carriage pleasure show and especially for a combined driving event. I am available, knowledgeable and free!
 96. Racing – slot money? Stop Arundel Mills! Let Laurel have the slots. Before you spend slot money – get slots for better facilities.
 97. Prince George’s Equestrian Center. Can we spruce up this facility for use in the interim for more horse events until such a time that a horse park can be built?
 98. The horse park makes economic sense. It keeps the MD competitors spending money in Maryland. It brings in out of state money. A 800 acre solid site needed for economies to work.
 99. Education via Pony club and Girl Scouts and other young people’s orgs (i.e. very young, when perceptions/expectations are being formed). Re: genetics! (that bad behavior and confirmation are transmitted)
 100. The horse world is divided and each one seems to want to blame the other. Until everyone is on the same page it will be nearly impossible for the Maryland Horse Forum or anyone else to solve these issues.
 101. Very tasty lunch.....what about vehicle tags with horses on them?
 102. Again, we need more elected officials to take up the cause/advocacy of our industry.
 103. Seemed to be very little representation from the western part of the state...perhaps some better marketing to Washington County, etc as the horse industry is growing there.
 104. I don’t like the name “unwanted horses”.
 105. The best thing that can be done on the unwanted horse situation is education, education and education, particularly to all non-thoroughbred owners. All horse owners need to understand the economics and responsibilities of horse ownership. The thoroughbred industry needs to get over the fact that the newspapers no longer carry the race entries and results because the newspapers are virtually extinct. They need to figure out how to reach the general public through the internet. It should be easier and cheaper. Of course, the entries and results are currently available on the Sun’s website.
 106. Included in survey left after the forum.

EVALUATIONS

107. Until we address the needs of backyard horse owners, the industry should stop demanding their support for the traditional, large horse-industry needs. Our industry must begin to represent the needs of backyard horse owners. That will mean redefining traditional views and programs. It's worth the effort because a sincere reform will tap backyard horsemen -- by far, the largest segment and the most numerous group.
108. Thank you so much for putting this together! I was so happy how many people voiced their opinions. I only wish more horsemen would have been involved.

LIST OF ATTENDEES AND REGISTRANTS

Lucy Acton, Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine
Christina Aist, Advisory Board Member, Annapolis Rec & Parks
Nancy Ashway, Country Comfort Farm
Alison Asti, Gordon Feinblatt
Arlene Atkins, Equine Nutrition Specialist, Farmers Cooperative Assoc., Inc.
Lisa Barge, Ag Marketing & Dev Mgr, AA Economic Development Corporation
Greg Barnhill, Financial Advisor, Brown Advisory
Shanese Baylor
Deanna Beal, Potomac Valley Dressage Association
Eileen Beard, Prince George's Soil Conservation District
David Beard, Triple J
Garrett Bell, General Manager, Winbak Farm
Carol Benson, Executive Director, Four Rivers Heritage Area
Leslie Bertram, MCTA
Barbara Beverungen, Carroll County Tourism Office
Richard Bohn, Facilitator, ACRES
Teri Bond, Planning Supervisor, Prince George's County Planning Department
Chris Bowman
Tom Bowman, DVM, President, MHBA
Alen Brady, Gazette
Christine Bricker, MD Horse Council
Theresa Brophy, Director, International Marketing, Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
Monica Bulat, EPIC/DEFHR
Dr. Amy Burk, Extension Horse Specialist, University of Maryland
J. Robert Burk, Executive Director, Maryland Horse Industry Board
Cheryl Butler, Patuxent Riverside Farm
David Butts
Hannah Byron, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts
Michael Calkins, Regional Equine Specialist, MDA
Lindsay Callahan, UMD Campus Farm Manager, University of Maryland
Mary Campbell
Betty Carlson-Jameson, M-NCPPC
Victoria Carson, Flying Chesterfield Farm, Moon Rising Farm, various sport horse breeding and recreational boarding stables
Ben Chaney, Plantation Driving Club
Linda Chaney, Plantation Driving Club
Tom Chuckas, President, MD Jockey Club
Hal Clagett
Christie Clagett
Kimberly Clark, Director, Thoroughbred Placement and Rescue, Inc.
Keith Clifton, RCR
William H. Coffman, HR, Training
Daniel Colhoun, Sportsman's Hall Farm
Jake Cone, 6 Cone Farm; Colorado State
Tom Cooke, CSOA
Rocco Costa, Maryland Department of Agriculture - International
Franki Coughlin, Freestate Riding Club/Happy Critters
Jacquie Cowan, Girl Scouts of Central MD; Chesapeake Plantation Walking Horse; TROTSAR Mounted Search and Rescue
Linda Crandell, Long Run Farm Arabians
Kathleen Crandell, Dr., KC Equine Consulting
David Cross, Manager, R&D Cross
Sandra Crow, President, MAPES

ATTENDEES

Michael Daney, Godwin, Erlandson, MacLaughlin, Vernon & Daney, LLC
Steve Darcey, Prince George's Soil Conservation District
Janice Davis, MD Farm Bureau
Jean Davis-Barger, Harmony Horses
JoAnn Dawson, Fairwinds Farm & Stables~ Inc
Karin De Francis, Maryland Jockey Club
Don Dean, Owner, Donald K. Dean Equine
Ann DeMatteo, Bit of Britain
Elmer Dengler, NRCS State Grazing Specialist, USDA NRCS
Jan Denno, PVDA Board of Directors
Leslie Diamond, Maryland horse owner
Alice Dibben, Sandhill Farm
Luis Dieguez, District Manager, Charles Soil Conservation District
Shannon Dill, Co-Director / Agent, Univ. of MD Extension - Talbot County
Barbara Dobbins, 4-H Program Assistant, St. Mary's County
Pat Douglas, Director, Pheasant Hill Equine Foundation
Karol Dyson, County Extension Director, University of MD
Tim Dyson, SMTR
Cheryl (Sheri, Edelen, Manager, At Last Farm LLC
Debbie Edwards
Josh Eggink, Certified Farrier, Maryland Farrier's Association
Signy Ellerton, A Stable Place Farms
Megan Ells-Perry, Butterfly-Fields Bed and Breakfast
Karen Engel, Feed Sales Tech Rep, Southern States Coop.
Carrie Everly, VP~ Marketing, Maryland Jockey Club
Nathaniel Exum, MD State Senator - 24th District
Liz Farmer, Business Reporter, Maryland Daily Record
Regina Farr, Twin Creeks Farm
Bruno Favre, Equine Dentistry
Howie Feaga, Owner, Merry Acres Farm
Charles C. Fenwick, Jr. , Shawan Downs
Nicole Fiorellino, University of Maryland
Michael Fisher, Principal, Site Resources, Inc.
Kristin Fisher, Agricultural Program Specialist, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development
Kelley Fitzgerald, MD Horse Industry Board
JoAnn Flynn, Black Swamp Creek Land Trust
Liz Ford
Dr. Richard Forfa, Founder, Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates
Ellen Forsyth, Baywood
Eddie Franceschi, Equine Soil Conservationist, Montgomery County Soil Conservation District
Cheryle Franceschi, Producer/Grant Writer, Por Eco Productions
Max Franz, The Daily Record
Robert Frazee, CEO , MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Joe Fritsch, M.O.R.E
Traci Gamache, Owner, STG Group, LLC
Christina Gannacone, Baywood
Carolyn Garber, Secretary, Carroll County Equestrian Council
Carlos Garcia, Garcia Thoroughbreds
Joshua Garner, The Gazette
Linda Gaudet, Gaudet Racing
Ginny Gaylor, Director, STAR Equestrian Center
Judy Gilbert, Volunteer, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Trish Gilbert, Church Mouse Meadows / MD Horse Industry Board - Trails and Recreational Riding
Jon Stone Goff, President, Remuda Financial, Inc
Cricket Goodall, Executive Director, Maryland Horse Breeders Association
David Gordon, Extension Educator, University of Maryland Extension

Ronald Green, MD Agricultural Commission
Anne Hackney, Maryland Pony Breeders
Georganne Hale, Director Of Racing, Maryland Jockey Club
Buddy Hance , Secretary, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Susan Hance-Wells, Director, Southern States Coop; Colonial Farm Credit; MET
Sharon Hancock, Barn Manager, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
Lori Harrington, Treasurer, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
Susan Harrison, Exec. Director, LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.
Tom Hartsock, Porky Pines Farm
Terry Hasseltine, Director, Maryland Office of Sports Marketing
Diane Hauslein, President, Mid-Atlantic Saddlebred Association
Phoebe Hayes, Director of Horsemen's Relations, Maryland Jockey Club
Ralph Hayward
Pat Heishman
Nancy Heller, Certified Therapeutic Instructor, Potomac Horse Center
Royce Herman, Treasurer, Maryland Horse Council
Paul Herring
Jay Hickey, President, American Horse Council
Julia Hickok
Diane Hickok
Lynda Sasscer Hill, Owner, Pleasant Hills Farm
Nancy Hill, Association Manager, MD Horse Council
Felicia Hilleary, MD Standardbred Breeders Assoc.
Ken Hinton, IEEEEESA, Inc.
Guy Hohenhaus, State Veterinarian, MD Dept. of Agriculture
Hope Holland, Equine Columnist, Carroll County Times; Lee Publications; Horse Talk
Franklin Holley, Program Officer, Southern MD Resource, Conservation & Development
Henry Holloway, The Mill
Ed Hopkins, President, Plantation Driving Club
Beth Horsey, Agricultural Tributary Strategy Coordinator, MDA
Kathleen Howe, Exec. Director, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Wes Hummer, Assistant Vice President, Toll Brothers
Jennifer Hurry, Stable Manager, Verdant Pastures
Amy Iafolla, Feed Sales and Tech Rep, Southern States
Lynda Ireland, Solid Ground Farm
Michelle Jennings, The Mill
J.B. Jennings, The Mill
Mae Johnson, Facilitator, ACRES
Angie Jones, Account Executive, Horse Force Monthly
Ellen Kandell, Facilitator, ACRES
Carol Kaye-Garcia
David Kessler, Free State APHC
Harry Ketts, At Last Farm
Joanna Kille, Director of Government Relations, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Crystal Kimball, Publisher, The Equiry
Chuck Kines, Park and Trail Planner, M-NCPPC, Montgomery Parks
Kelly Kinkade, Animal Husbandry, MNCPPC
Karen Klautky, Horse owner, Horse owner
Amy Krengel, Attorney, Furey, Doolan & Abell
Carolyn Krome, Persimmon Tree Farm
Chuc Larkin, Marlboro Pony Club
Lorene Lawson, Farm Owner, Free Spirits Stables
LuAnne Levens, Associate Publisher, The EQUERY
Sara Lewis, Soil Conservation Planner Regional Equine Specialist, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Fred T. Lewis, DVM
Pam Link

ATTENDEES

Arthur Lisi, Preserve Harness racing at RCR
Nancy Lisi, Preserve Harness racing at RCR
Don Litz, MSS
Cheryl London
Janet MacNab, TROT
Ron MacNab, President, Trail Riders of Today (TROT)
Elizabeth Madlener
Brian Magness, Director of Development, UM College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Deanna Mann
Don Markus, Baltimore Sun
William Marlow, Marlow & Wyatt Attorneys
Gina Maybee, CSOA
Dale Mayer, City
Bettie McCaffrey, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Kelly McCarley, Equestrian Center Director, YMCA Camp Letts
Lydia McClain, President, Woodstock Equestrian Park Foundation
Claire McDermott, Owner, Thanksgiving Farm
Tom McDermott, Owner, Thanksgiving Farm
Steve McHenry, Executive Director, Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corp.
(MARBIDCO)
Tracy McKenna, Ad Manager, The Equiry
S. Patrick McMillan, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Ciara McMurtrie, Equine Outreach Specialist, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Wanda Melton, Owner, Reality Inn Farm
Jo Mercer, Education Coordinator, MDA-Nutrient Management Program
Ann Merryman, MPK Stables inc
Larry Miller, Farm and Equine Services
Susan Mitchell, Development Director, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Jerry Moody
Bill Moore
Lisa Moore
Pegeen Morgan, Inspector, Maryland Horse Industry Board
Lyne Morgan, Owner, The Surrey
Lee Moser, ASLA, APA, IIE, Maryland Horse Council, Trails and Greenways
Wendy Moulton, Director of Equine Operations, The Keep at Andelain Farm, Inc.
Ellen Moyer, Mayor of Annapolis ,
Beverly Nash, Facilitator, ACRES
Aviva Nebesky, Owner/Manager, Horsepen Hill Farm
Leigh Nichol, Winbak Farm
Jacqui Nigh, Director of Corporate Business Development, Maryland Jockey Club
John Nunn, CEO , Bit of Britain Saddlery
Julie Oberg, Maryland Dept of Agriculture
Erin Ochoa, Director of Programs, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Martin O'Malley, Governor, State of Maryland
Valerie Ormond
Melody Parrish, President, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue
Denise Parsons, Equestrian Promotions, Inc.
Ross Peddicord, Co-Publisher, Maryland Life Magazine
George Perry, Farrier; Natural Hoof Care Practitioner
Margaret Peterson, Marlboro Pony Club
Allyssa Peterson, Marlboro Pony Club
David Phillips, Owner, David Phillips Inc
Steuart Pittman, President, Maryland Horse Council
Mike Poe, CJF, Maryland Farrier's Association
Brian Polkinghorn, Facilitator, ACRES
Dr. Tom Porter, Animal & Avian Sciences, Univ. of Maryland

Mark Powell, MDA- Office of Marketing
Page Pratt, MSQHYA Advisor, MD State QH Association
Andrew Quinn, Law Office of Andrew A Quinn
Barbara Rater, USDA-NASS
Beverly Raymond, Stable Inspector , Maryland Horse Industry Board
William Reightler, President, W.S. Reightler Consulting and Sales Agency
Barrie Reightler, Director of publications, Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc.
Jane Rhoades, Wicomico Hunt
Wayne Richard, MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Dawn Richards
Janet Richardson-Pearson, Founder and President, Chesapeake Dressage Institute
Joanne Richart-Young, Agriculture Coordinator, Cecil County Office of Economic Development
Margaret Rizzo, Owner, Mythic Landing Events, LLC
Katherine Rizzo, Assistant Editor, The Equiery
Rebecca Roach, Owner, Moon Rising Farm
Lindsay Robbins
Sharon Roberts, Exec. Vice President, Cloverleaf Standardbred Owners Assoc.
Rick Rosenblatt, Projects Director, Maryland Correctional Enterprises
Mary Russell, Lucky Cricket Farm, LLC
Pam Saul, Farm Manager/Community Representative, Rolling Acres Farm/Senator Rona Kramer
Stacy Schaefer, Associate Director, Department of Natural Resources
Richard Sedgwick, President, R and D Cross of Upper Marlboro inc.
Jane Seigler, President, Reddemeade
Nita Settina, Superintendent, Maryland State Parks
Trina Shanahan, Chromine Stables
Bob Shirley
Daniel Shively, Territory Manager, Nutrena Feeds/Cargill
Richard Simon, The Daily Record
Eileen Simpson, MSQHA Vice President, MD State Quarter Horse Assoc.
Jennifer Small, Financial Services
Jackie Small, Office of the Governor
Charles Smith, Attorney,
Joseph Smith, Chromine Stables
Stewart Smith
Barbara Smith
Linda Smith, Winds Home Farm
Tracey Snyder, Owner/Publisher, Horse Force Monthly
Eli Solomon, MHIB - Standardbreds
Paula Sothoron
Linda Speer, Stonebrook Farm
Emily Stangroom, The Equiery
James Steele, Chairman, MD Horse Industry Board
Dr. Marla Stevens, Field Veterinarian, MDA
Sarah Suchoski, Baywood Farms
Jamie Suchoski, Baywood Farms / BEST Horse Shows
Janet Sydnor, Owner, Windy Acres Farm
Kathleen Tabor, Law Office of Kathleen JP Tabor, LLC
Wilson Taliaferro, Cooper Williams VMD
Herman Taylor, Maryland State Delegate
Judy Thacher
Robert Thomas III, Owner, All About Fence
Deana Tice, Enticement Stables
David Tobin, Equine Resources Coordinator, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Anne-Louise Toner, Al Atiq Arabians
Maria Topper, Legislative Assistant, Maryland House of Delegates (Del. Hucker)
Dorothy Troutman, General Publics Representative, Maryland Horse Industry Board

ATTENDEES

Ellie Trueman, President, Trueman Communications Group
Dr. Helen Tuel, Founder, Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center, Inc.
Bob Turnbull, MNCPPC - Montgomery County
Dave Turner, Director, Mid Atlantic Saddlebred Association
Joan Twining, Executive Director, Rose of Sharon Equestrian School, Inc./Therapeutic Riding Industry
Alison Vannoy
Valerie Vollmers, Standardbred Retirement Foundation
Katharine Voss, Chanceland Farm
Lester Vough, Forage Systems Management Consultant, Southern Maryland RC & D
Brooke Vransy, Asst. Director, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
Tina Walters, Maryland Million Ltd.
Shannon Watt, Montgomery County Department of Parks and Planning
Nancy Weiman, Marketing Manager, The Showplace Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center
Suzi Whilden, Equine Outreach, AA Soil Cons. District
Rich Whiting, VP Sales and Marketing, American Wood Fibers
Gail Whitney, 4-H Program Assistant, St. Mary's County
Carol Wicker, Fence Post Farm, Inc. / MD Horse Industry Board Member
Mary Wiegand, Maryland- National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Whitney Williams, Reality Inn Farm
Merlin Williams, Agriculture Employers and Worker Services, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
Keith Wills, Loan Officer, MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Kristen Wilson, Extension Horse Specialist, University of Maryland
Emily Wilson, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Chris Wilson, Obligation Farm
Sandra Wiseman, Marlborough Pony Club
Roger Wolf, Facilitator, ACRES
Gee Wood, Sleepy Wood Farm
Stephanie Wood, Reality Inn Farm
Theresa Woodward
Elizabeth Yewell, Equestrian Event Manager, The Showplace Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center
Ralph Young, Cecil County

MARYLAND HORSE FORUM

HOSTS

Maryland Department of Agriculture

Maryland Horse Council

Maryland Horse Industry Board

The Showplace Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center