

## **Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

April 15, 2014

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA, at 12:15 P.M.

In attendance, representing the Commission were Alan Novak, Chairman, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner; Jonathan Newman, Commissioner; and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary.

Chairman Alan Novak called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Chairman Novak stated that the Commission held an executive session in which the Commission discussed personal matters and specific legal issues were addressed. No other agency business was transacted.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Newman, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014, commission meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS (STATISTICAL REPORTS)**

Chairman Novak requested the statistical highlights for the past month.

#### **Parx Racing**

Joe Wilson, Chief Operating Officer, reported the previous months and year to date statistics. Mr. Wilson reported that the next two barns are being constructed and to report there is no quarantine.

Commissioner Sweeney asked Mr. Wilson about the administration of third party Lasix at Parx. Mr. Wilson stated that the Lasix should be starting no later than June 1, 2014.

#### **Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, was not present and no report was given on behalf of the PTHA.

### **Penn National Race Course**

Eric Johnston introduced himself to the Commissioners. Mr. Johnston is the Director of Racing for Penn National taking over for Dan Silver. He reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals.

### **Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack**

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. Horses started arriving at Presque Isle Downs Friday, April 11, 2014 and as of April 10<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Howells noted 54 horses were on site.

### **PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association**

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, noted the Memorandum of Understanding between the PAHBPA and Parx. There has been one at Penn National for years that enhances the PA Restricted Races program. He also mentioned Lasix at Presque Isle Downs is ready to go with the third party administration.

Mr. Mostoller would like to discuss improving the claiming rules with the commission.

The PA HBPA will run a sizzle piece over the local news on WGAL and WHTM starting April 21, 2014 for 10 weeks to promote Pennsylvania racing.

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Jeb Hannum, Executive Secretary for the PHBA, reported that the Stakes schedules should be finished within the next week. Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> is the annual meeting at the Kennett Square Country Club and the awards banquet is Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at Penn National.

There was discussion between the Commissioners, Mr. Hannum, Mr. Sanfratello and Mr. Mostoller about the Memorandum of Understanding which was acknowledged by the Commission. Chairman Novak commended the horsemen's groups on working together with the breeders.

### **RESEARCH**

Dr. Mary Robinson Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, gave the following report: Cobalt-containing substances: Several vitamin mixtures and supplements contain cobalt and are being studied. Cobalt stabilizes erythropoietin and this stabilization has the potential to result in an increase in red blood cell production. Pilot studies indicated that an increase in the plasma and urine concentration of cobalt was evident after the administration of some of these products. Studies are now being performed to determine if there is an effect on equine red blood cell production following the administration of these products.

Procaine penicillin: The ability to detect procaine in the horse following the administration of the usual dose of procaine penicillin has greatly increased due to increased instrument sensitivity. To estimate the length of time procaine is detectable using the newer methods, procaine penicillin was administered at the standard dose and plasma samples were collected. Sample collection is now completed.

A manuscript by Dr. Dipti Mangal entitled "Inhibitory effect of triamcinolone acetonide on synthesis of inflammatory mediators in the equine." has been accepted by the European Journal of Pharmacology.

There are currently ten manuscripts being prepared, one manuscript is being reviewed, and five manuscripts have been accepted for publication and are at various stages of the publication process.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER**

Deborah Tsang, Quality Assurance Officer, reported that all internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month were correctly identified.

Ms. Tsang was invited by John F. Wayne, the Executive Director of the Delaware Thoroughbred Racing Commission and Hugh Gallagher, the Chairman of the Racing Officials Accreditation Program, ROAP, and also of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, to speak at the ROAP continuing education meeting at Delaware Park on March 31, 2014. She spoke to about 50 Stewards, Judges and related racing officials about quality Control in Blood Gas Testing with Blood Gas Analyzers.

The onsite A2LA assessment took place at PETRL last month. The assessor was Philip Engler who holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from Northwestern University. Dr. Engler is currently a Senior Informatics Consultant with a laboratory management consulting company that assists forensic, environmental/water, public health, manufacturing and veterinary laboratories in selecting, acquiring and implementing laboratory information management systems. He has 14 years of experience in managerial / supervisory / consultant positions responsible for QA programs following ISO 17025 and ISO 9001.

His 25 years of experience supervising, managing and leading analytical groups and teams includes positions as manager of the Ohio Department of Agriculture Consumer Analytical Laboratory, and positions with several other analytical laboratories. The assessment was very thorough and Dr. Engler provided some helpful advice to further improve the quality system at PETRL. Ms. Tsang will respond in writing to his assessment report and her report will report be reviewed for approval by the A2LA accreditation council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.a.(1); approval of the thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of May 2014, at Penn National, Parx Racing, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and passed to approve item 5.a.(2)<sup>1</sup>; approval of the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of May 2014, at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to ratify item 5.b. (1); Presque Isle Downs, Inc. request to offer the Pimlico Jackpot 5 wager. This wager conducted as Pimlico Race Course is a jackpot wager that pays any carryover to a single unique winning ticket with a \$2.00 minimum per ticket.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Presque Isle Downs request to offer drive thru wagering on the Kentucky Derby, May 3, 2014, Preakness, May 17<sup>th</sup> and the Belmont Stakes, June 7, 2014.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); Presque Isle Downs request of a \$5.00 match play coupon on Kentucky Derby Day.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (4); Penn National request to offer wagering and receive live racing signal from the following locations in 2014, Assiniboia Downs, Winnipeg, Canada, UK Racing, Japan Racing and Hong Kong Racing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (5); Penn National requests approval to add the following (5) five live racing dates to the 2014 season. Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (6); Parx Racing requests to add a new simulcast location called Hinsdale Racing LLC and OTB located in New Hampshire.

### **ADJUDICATION**

The adjudication of Emmanuel Tzortzakis ruling no. 1214PP is affirmed.

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<sup>1</sup>Concerning Item 5.a. (2); "Consideration for approval of the Harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of April 2014, at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and Harrah's Philadelphia. Approval is pending submission of the fully executed simulcast agreements to the Commission Office." Chairman Alan Novak abstained from voting on this item due to a business relationship with The Meadows.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held May 27, 2014, at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in the Allam House

Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in the Allam House

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary