A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Monday, January 12, 2015 at PA Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, PA, at 11:30 A.M.

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

Chairman 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. No other agency business was transacted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Chairman Novak, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 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 stated that Parx is still in dispute with Monarch signal with the hope that it is fixed soon. The last two of the six barns have been finished and are occupied; the next group will be starting in March.

Mr. Wilson introduced Mr. Samuel Elliot, the new Director of Racing at Parx.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, was not present and no oral report was given.

Penn National Race Course

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. Mr. Johnston also stated that Penn National is feeling the loss of the Monarch
signal while the dispute goes on. The dormitory is almost finished; it had to be pushed back some more due to weather and contractor issues.

**Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack**

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals.

**PA Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association**

Tim Shea, Executive Director and Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, both spoke. Mr. Shea noted that track safety is always a great concern and how great Penn National has been keeping their track up to par. Still working on the claiming rule to make sure it is all done when presented.

Mr. Mostoller stated that a week has gone by with the 8 race cards a day instead of 9 and there has been good handle and good participation in the races. The loss of the other race cards is felt but being worked through.

**Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director for the PHBA, noted the totals for 2014 of the slot revenue to the Breeding fund, what the Stakes schedule will be for 2015 and the year-end summary.

**RESEARCH**

Dr. Mary Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, presented:

There are multiple research projects in progress in the laboratory. Highlights from 2014 are below.

There were 6 manuscripts accepted for publication in 2014.


There are currently 16 manuscripts in preparation and four manuscripts at various stages of the review process.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.a.(1); approval of the thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of February 2015 at Penn National, Parx Racing, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and passed to approve item 5.a.(2)\(^1\); approval of the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of February 2015, at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, and Harrah’s Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Commission Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and passed to approve item 5.b. (1); to ratify the Presque Isle Downs January Simulcast calendar. Monticello added the dates of 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29.

**ADJUDICATION**

“AND NOW, this 12 day of January, 2015, upon consideration of the testimony and Exhibits of record, together with the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby ORDERED that the Decision of the Board of Stewards to disqualify the horse “Sportacular” from the 1st race on August 12, 2014, at Philadelphia PARX and place “Sportacular” from first place to fourth place is AFFIRMED.”

\(^1\)Concerning Item 5.a. (2); “Consideration for approval of the Harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of February 2015, 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 February 19, 2015, at The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in room 301
Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in room 309

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary