

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

April 14, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at Parx Racing, Bensalem, PA, at 11:30 A.M.

In attendance representing the Commission were Alan Novak, Chairman; Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner; Thomas Jay Ellis, Commissioner; Walt Remmert, Acting Executive Secretary of Horse Racing; and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Fred Strathmeyer, 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 Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015, commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS (STATISTICAL REPORTS)

Chairman Novak requested the statistical highlights for the past month.

Parx Racing

Samuel Elliot, Director of Racing, reported the previous month and year to date statistics. The dispute with Monarch is resolved and the numbers are bouncing back nicely. Mr. Elliot stated that Derby day is coming up and they are getting the preparations underway for that day.

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. There is a new three year agreement with Monarch, and the new dormitory is built and will be opening tomorrow for occupation. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in the next few weeks.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. All the stalls have been allotted, the horses will start arriving on Friday, April 17th, and Saturday will be the first day of training. The condition book is online and most of the team members have been hired for the year.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Mr. Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, was not present and no oral report was given.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Geoff Brutscher, for the PHBA, touched on the slot revenue transfer to the breeder's fund and the stats for the 2015 restricted races in Pennsylvania this year. The annual banquet will be held on May 30th at Penn National.

RESEARCH

Dr. Mary Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, presented: Cobalt: A small amount of cobalt is necessary for mammalian life, and it forms the core of vitamin B12. However, cobalt also has the potential to increase red blood cell production when administered at a high dosage, and was used for this purpose in humans before safer drugs were developed to stimulate red blood cell production (erythropoietin). Toxic effects of cobalt have been shown in humans to occur at doses that are effective at increasing red blood cell production. The administration of bulk cobalt to race horses has been reported to regulatory authorities as an attempt to increase red blood cell production, and toxic effects in horses have been demonstrated by some laboratories when very high doses were administered intravenously. An increase in equine red blood cell production has not been demonstrated by any of the studies in horses.

Cobalt-containing vitamin products are not regulated by the FDA and cobalt is also included in sweet feed by feed producers. Studies were performed to determine if these products would affect plasma and urine concentrations of cobalt. Some of these products did increase plasma and urine concentrations. Studies are nearly complete which evaluated the effect of repeated administration of one of these products, as the label instructs the consumer to do. In addition, the cobalt concentration in the PA race horse population (250 Thoroughbreds and 250 Standardbreds) was evaluated, and horses that had clearly received inappropriate amounts of cobalt were identified.

Dr. Robinson will be attending the Association of Racing Commissioners International/Association of Racing Chemists joint conference next week (April 20 – 24th) and providing input on the Laboratory Directors panel and as a member of the newly formed ARCI Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee will examine cobalt data from multiple sources, including from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, and it is hoped that a

recommendation regarding a cobalt threshold will be proposed to the Drug Testing Standards and Practices committee. It is recommended that testing for cobalt begin as soon as possible after a threshold has been finalized.

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, three manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and one manuscript was recently accepted.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

All internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month have been correctly identified. An internal blind sample was also correctly identified by the DNA section. The required internal audit has been completed by Quality Assurance Officer, Deborah Tsang and PETRL staff, and all required documents have been submitted to the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) for review.

PETRL has been granted interim Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) accreditation. RMTC accreditation requirements are more extensive than the A2LA requirements and were developed specifically for equine drug testing laboratories. To be considered for full accreditation, PETRL needs to pass one more round of proficiency sample testing (i.e. correct analysis of a set of unknown samples), which is expected to be delivered to the laboratory in mid-June of 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and passed to approve item 5.b. (1); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests the approval to close the line for Mutuel on the second floor on Saturday, May 9, 2015 instead of April 25, 2015 as previously requested; the Craps Tournament will be changed from April 25 to May 9.

¹Concerning Item 5.a. (2); "Consideration for approval of the Harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of May 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests the approval to offer drive thru wagering on the Kentucky Derby, May 2, the Preakness, May 16, and the Belmont Stakes, June 5, 2015.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to ratify item 5.b. (3); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests the approval to have a \$5.00 match play coupon which will be distributed to patrons on Kentucky Derby Day; the coupon will entitle the patron to a matching \$5.00 wager on a Presque Isle Downs live race when a \$5.00 wager is placed on Presque Isle Downs live races the opening week of our 2015 race meet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to ratify item 5.b. (4); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests approval for the following Officials for the 2015 race meet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to approve item 5.b. (5); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests approval for permission to conduct a match play promotion during the Month of April. 7,000 direct mail pieces will be sent out and patrons must wager \$5.00 at Presque Isle Downs on any race conducted at selected tracks that are imported and the wager will be matched \$5.00 on the same track.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to approve item 5.b. (6); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests approval to add Century Bets! Inc., to the list of approved sites to wager on live Races from Presque Isle Downs, Inc. when our meet beings in May. This entity is a joint venture between Rocky Mountain Turf Club and Century Casinos, Inc. and is located in Alberta Canada.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeny and passed to approve item 5.b. (7); Penn National respectfully requests a special post time of 6:50 p.m. for Saturday, May 2, 2015, Kentucky Derby Day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held May 26, 2015, at New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in Allam House
Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in Alumni Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary