

## **Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

May 26, 2015

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, May 26, 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.

Mr. Augusto 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 Sweeny, seconded by Commissioner Ellis, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015, 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 month and year to date statistics. The next two barns are ready to be torn down and new ones started.

#### **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. The Penn Mile is coming up this week which is very exciting, and they look forward to the festivities on that day.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, was not present but filed a report with the commission. Highlights from the report are all stalls have been allotted and the horses began arriving on the property on April 17<sup>th</sup>. 250 horses arrived compared to this time last year—through the end of April 2014 there were only 209 horses. Additional equipment was purchased to help with the preparation of the track.

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

Mr. Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, noted Presque Isle opened and went very well, track maintenance is happening and will be done in stages. Looking forward to the Penn Mile at Penn National this coming Saturday; should be a great race.

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director, stated a few statistics from the Mid Atlantic 2YO in training sale and the numbers were very impressive, the sale as a whole topped \$1M and the top sold PA horse went for \$310,000, which was a great sign for horse racing in Pennsylvania. The annual meeting was held the week previous and some of the highlights were that 545 restricted races were run in PA in 2014, also 54 PA Bred Stakes winners and eight graded stakes winners.

### **RESEARCH**

Dr. Mary Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, presented: Dr. Robinson attended the Association of Racing Commissioners International/Association of Racing Chemists joint conference (April 20 – 24<sup>th</sup>) and provided input as a member of the Laboratory Directors panel and as a member of the newly formed ARCI Scientific Advisory Group, which met for the first time on April 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss cobalt. A summary report on cobalt was prepared and presented to the Drug Testing Standards and Practices Committee by Dr. Robinson. The ARCI board approved the following recommendations for regulating cobalt in the horse: 1) Horses with plasma concentrations between 25 ppb and 50 ppb should be placed on the vet's list until concentrations fall below 25 ppb. 2) Trainers/Owners with horses found to have plasma concentrations greater than 50 ppb should be issued an ARCI Class B penalty.

Dr. Robinson also attended the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics Biennial conference (May 17 – 20<sup>th</sup>) and presented a poster entitled "Co-administration of phenylbutazone with methocarbamol decreases methocarbamol clearance." Phenylbutazone is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory and methocarbamol is a muscle relaxant commonly used in combination with phenylbutazone. This study determined that when used in combination, the elimination of methocarbamol by the horse is slowed down, which requires veterinarians to advise clients to use a longer withdrawal time prior to entering into competition.

A manuscript by co-first authors Dr. Robinson and Dr. de Laat and colleagues was recently accepted by the Veterinary Journal, entitled "AICAR administration affects glucose metabolism by upregulating the novel glucose transporter, GLUT8, in equine skeletal muscle." This was a collaborative research project with Dr. Veronique LaCombe's laboratory at the University of Oklahoma.

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, two manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and two manuscripts have been accepted in 2015.

### **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.

### **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 June 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)<sup>1</sup>; approval of the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of June 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); Penn National respectfully requests approval to send its simulcast signal of live races to Century Downs Racetrack and Casino in Calgary, Alberta.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and passed to ratification of item 5.b. (2); Penn National requests a special post time of 6:45 p.m. for Saturday, May 16, 2015, Preakness Day.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and passed to ratify item 5.b. (3); Presque Isle Downs request to install a Tote Machine in the restaurant LBV for use on Kentucky Derby Day. There will be a private party for approx. 35 patrons and the machine will be teller manned and there will be security and surveillance.

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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 June 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. (4); Presque Isle Downs respectfully requests approval for the following Official for the 2015 race meet, horse identifier Stacey McGirr.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and passed to approve item 5.b. (5); Stock Transfer for Parx Racing.

### **ADJUDICATIONS**

A motion was made by Chairman Novak, seconded by Commission Ellis and unanimously passed “**AND NOW**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015, upon consideration of the testimony and exhibits of record, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the Appeal of Romar, LLC is **DENIED**. Ruling No. 14177PP issued by the Board of Stewards which disqualified the horse “Wardelle” as a result of being ineligible to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> Race on September 23, 2014 at PARX Racing/Philadelphia Park is hereby **AFFIRMED**.”

A motion was made by Chairman Novak, seconded by Commission Ellis and unanimously passed “**AND NOW**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015, the Notice of Ejection or Denial of Admission dated March 14, 2015 directed to Appellant Juan C. Vazquez notifying him that he is ejected from or denied the privileges of admission to any part of the grounds, facilities, enclosures and/or any properties under the management of Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association, Inc. and/or Penn National Turf Club Inc. (Penn National) is **REVERSED**.”

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Patrick Reilley spoke to the commission about Ferrier services.

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held June 09, 2015, at Penn National, in Grantville, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M.

Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary