

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

June 9, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at Penn National, in Grantville, 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.

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 May 26, 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 bars are demolished and the crowd on Belmont day was good. Mr. Wilson stated that they are looking into getting American Pharoah to come to Parx to run in one of his last races.

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 noted that on Penn Mile day the starting gate crew decided to strike, but many people stepped up and helped out where they needed to be. All of the stakes races on that day were very competitive right down to the wire. The camel and ostrich races went off very well at Penn National drawing in a large crowd with great enthusiasm, this will be done yearly.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, was not present but filed a report with the commission. All the stalls have been allotted and as of May 31st the stalls are 90% occupied. In 2015 there were 620 horses on site at the end of May compared to May 2014 with 589, a 5% increase with a later start period from this time last year which is great. Also additional equipment has been purchased to help with the track and the TVs are on track to being installed in the barn area.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Mr. Shea, President of the PA HBPA, noted that the working relationship with Ms. Howells and Presque Isle is great as the HBPA and PID are constantly working on improving the track up at Presque Isle.

It is also a pleasure to work with Mr. Johnston here at Penn National and he notes that the track is in great shape. Mr. Johnston and the HBPA have partnered on a few promotions and they have worked out very well. Trying to work with the tracks and make a great experience when you do come and spend some time.

Mr. Shea noted that they are working with the horsemen on getting some shavings in the back to help cut down on the dust.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director, stated that they had their banquet here at Penn National on Penn Mile day; the evening went very well with a lot of people in attendance. The 2014 Champions were honored during the banquet; there were 54 stakes winners and 8 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 – 24th) 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 21st 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 – 20th) 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 Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Ellis 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)¹; 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); to have a Mystery Voucher promotion on July 10-11 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. with 98,000 tickets valued from \$5.00 to \$10,000 sent via direct mail. The customer has to come into Presque Isle Downs to redeem them

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Ellis and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Adoption of the RMTTC recommendations for Cobalt.

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

ADJUDICATIONS

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commission Sweeney and unanimously passed “**AND NOW**, this 9th day of June, 2015, the Notice of Ejection or Denial of Admission dated April 16, 2015 directed to Juan C. Vazquez, duly authorized by a Penn National Official, notifying Vazquez that he is ejected from/or denied the privileges of admission to any part of the grounds, facilities, enclosures of the Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association, Inc., and/or Penn National Turf Club, Inc., under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing commission is **AFFIRMED.**”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held July 27, 2015, at Presque Isle Downs, in Erie, PA.

Executive Session: 2:00 P.M.

Public Meeting: 3:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary