

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

September 22, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at New Bolton Center, in Kennett Square, 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.

Chairman Novak stated that there was no executive session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeny, seconded by Commissioner Ellis, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015, commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS (STATISTICAL REPORTS)

Chairman Novak requested the statistical highlights for the past month.

Parx Racing

Sam Elliott, Director of Racing, reported the previous month and year to date statistics. Two more barns are being finished up and while the Pope is in town the Pennsylvania State Police will have 27 horses stabled at Parx. Pennsylvania Derby day was great it was the second highest handle day in the history of Parx.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, noted that Parx is in the middle of the fall festival right now and so far handle is up and going very well. There needs to be more advertising but on a whole the festival is a great idea for Parx and racing. TVG is in the works for possible Saturday and Sunday along with Monday and Tuesday which is a huge help for handle. There are many PA Bred restricted races coming up and over all this festival is to show how nice Parx is and not the bad place people think it is.

Penn National Race Course

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. October 23rd is Pink Out day at Penn National, everything will be pink. The Casino and the track will be all decked out in Pink and there will be many fundraising

opportunities. The races for the night all the horses will have pink saddle towels and the feature race will have all the jockeys will be wearing pink.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. There are three days of racing added at the end of the meet to make up for the deer cancellations. The Masters and Mile Stakes races were on Labor Day weekend and will probably not do that again because handle was not very good.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

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

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Geoff Brutscher, Assistant Executive Director, noted that the breeders fund was up over 2014 totals and other statistics from the current and previous year.

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, and highlights from the past few months are presented.

Dr. Robinson 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 accepted in May 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. This study advances our understanding of glucose transport in the horse and demonstrates horses use a similar, but different transporter than humans.

Dr. Robinson recently submitted the manuscript “Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP) did not increase oxygen dissociation from equine or mouse hemoglobin in fresh whole blood” for publication in the 2014 Proceedings for the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians at which this study was presented in September 2014. ITPP was reported to

enhance performance in mice when administered in very large doses, and is currently in Phase I clinical trials in humans. The product being used for the clinical trials is not available commercially and could not be obtained for research purposes. The ITPP used for this study, and for all studies performed by drug testing laboratories for the purposes of method development and investigation of ITPP, was synthesized by Frontier Biopharm in KY. The results of the present study demonstrate that this product did not increase the dissociation of oxygen from equine or mouse hemoglobin. In other words, although the product from Frontier Biopharm contains ITPP, it is not bioequivalent. The reason for this is not known. It is not uncommon for two products containing the same active ingredient to not have the same effect due to differences in the other components of the formulation, and this is why pharmaceutical companies that sell generic formulations must demonstrate to the Food and Drug Administration that their product is bioequivalent to the original product before obtaining approval to sell the generic product. In addition, it is also important to note that altering the ability of hemoglobin to bind oxygen is not expected to enhance performance in the race horse due to physiological differences between horses and mice, and due to the different type of exercise being performed by race horses (sprint running versus endurance running).

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, three 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.

In April the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation Review Board reaffirmed the laboratory's accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 until May 2016.

The Blood Gas Testing Program at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center has successfully analyzed four aqueous blood chemistry and oximetry proficiency sets since March. All four sets were provided by the College of American Pathologists, CAP.

A proficiency set made and distributed by LGC Standards in the United Kingdom for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, was tested by the lab in August. LGC Standards is a division of the LGC Group, which is the UK's designated National Measurement Institute for chemical and bioanalytical measurements. The proficiency set contained 10 samples which were confirmed for the drugs detected. A report on the results is expected from LGC Standards in the next few weeks.

Satisfactory proficiency testing results are required to maintain laboratory accreditation by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA. Copies of all proficiency test results are provided to A2LA within 30 days of receipt.

Equipment calibrations have been completed for thermometers, timers, new analytical balances, waterbaths and temperature monitoring probes.

Twenty- two refrigerators and freezers have been installed and verified as fit for intended use. These new units greatly enhance safety and the storage capacity at the laboratory; there are three flammable material refrigerators for reference standards and calibrator storage. Six liquid chromatography mass spectrometers have been delivered to the lab. Installation has been completed for some of the instruments and verification and on-site training is ongoing.

A review of controlled documents is currently underway. All document changes will be recorded and the revisions will be circulated to the laboratory staff for training and acknowledgement of the updates.

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 October 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 October 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); approval of Presque Isle Downs and Casino respectfully requests approval for Cory Hayes to fill the position as third Placing Judge for the remainder of the 2015 meet. Tammy Graham will resume her position as Mutuel Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held October 19, 2015, at Parx Racing in Bensalem, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. Glass Conference Room
Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in the Cotillion Room

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary