

## **Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

November 17, 2015

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at Penn National, in Grantville, PA, at 5:00 P.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.

Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel stated that an executive session was conducted and no agency business was transacted. Legal and personnel issues were discussed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 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 last two barns for this year will be coming down and built. On the 29<sup>th</sup> the quarantine was lifted with a big shout out to all involved. The Commission, Department of Agriculture, vets, staff and etc., everything went very well this time around.

### **Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, the way the quarantine was handled this time was excellent and the horsemen thank everyone for that. The upcoming break in the schedule will help with taking down the old rail and putting up a new safety rail along with other backside improvements.

### **Penn National Race Course**

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The closing of the Reading OTW has helped improve the York OTW numbers and have been putting some programs in place to encourage people to head to the York location. The Holiday Racing Festival is next Wednesday the day before Thanksgiving.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The last four days of racing were in October this year and all the barns are winterized for the season.

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

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, there was an agreement reached at Presque Isle Downs to help with barns and other backside improvements to the apron which include a big video screen. There were elections this year and Mr. Shea will not be returning but in his place will be Ms. Sandee Martin.

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director, noted that on January 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> there will be the Stallion auction. The 2016 budget was approved by the budget committee yesterday will be going to the board soon and voted on. The Stakes schedule is almost completed just waiting for a few dates to come in.

### **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.

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, two manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and three 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.

The Blood Gas Testing Program at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center has successfully analyzed their 5<sup>th</sup> proficiency set of the year. All proficiency sets for blood gas testing are provided by the College of American Pathologists.

A second Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, RMTCEQAP, proficiency set will arrive in December. The proficiency set is distributed by LGC Standards in the United Kingdom. LGC Standards is a division of the LGC Group, which is the UK's designated National Measurement Institute for chemical and bioanalytical measurements.

An inventory of the drug reference standards kept at the laboratory was completed in October. There are now more than 1100 traceable reference standards and metabolites in the laboratory's pharmacy. All traceable reference standards are assigned a unique ID number. Purchase information and verification of receipt for each reference material acquired by the laboratory must be kept on file to comply with the laboratory's accreditation requirements.

Pipette calibration and verification will be conducted later this month and verification of the new version of the USALIMS system is ongoing.

### **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 November 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 November 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 request to participate in the KY Derby Future Wagers as done in the past. In addition to the traditional Derby Future Wager and the KY Oaks Future wager this year they will be offering the KY Derby Sire Future Wager. This pool will be offered during pool one (November 26-29, 2015). This will allow bettors to wager on the winning sire for the next year's Kentucky Derby. There will be 23 individual sires offered with an "all others" option, which means bettors will have multiple progeny to support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Approval of the Verified Petition Seeking Waiver of 50 Pa. Code, §163.262 Relating to Rules for Claiming Races for Thoroughbred Race Horses. The Final order is attached.

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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 December 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 December 14, 2015, at New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M.

Public Meeting: 11:00 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary