

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

December 14, 2015

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Monday, December 14, 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. Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel by phone. 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 November 17, 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. Last two barns are preparing to be under construction and things are going well with them.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, was not present and no report was given.

Penn National Race Course

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The November Holiday Racing Festival went off without a hitch this year. Record handle happened that evening for the races outside of Penn Mile day. TVG and HRTV were both in attendance to broadcast the races, also working with the Breeders on marketing information for the New Year.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, was no present and no report was given.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director, noted that the 2016 budget has been approved by the PHBA committee and the Stakes Schedule is finished for the 2016 year. All of the stakes races were raised to \$100,000 each this year. Also the PA Bred Stallion registration paperwork has been updated for the 2016 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.

A manuscript entitled "Pharmacokinetics of capsaicinoids following oral, gastric, and topical administration to the horse" is near completion. Capsaicinoids are the primary ingredients in red peppers, and are prohibited in post-race blood and urine samples. Horses are usually exposed to capsaicinoids when red pepper is placed on bandages or the stall to deter chewing. It is also available in topical preparations which can block the horse's sensation of pain, and is the primary reason their use is prohibited prior to competition. An analytical method is in place to test for capsaicinoids in horses as part of PCTRL's drug testing program. This study was to determine how long it takes a horse to eliminate these compounds once they are exposed. Oral exposure resulted in the highest plasma concentrations for a short period of time - capsaicinoids could only be detected for 4 hours in most horses, and for 6 hours in two horses. Topical exposure resulted in lower plasma concentrations; however capsaicinoids could be detected for up to 48 hours. These data suggest the current analytical methods are appropriate, and provide veterinarians with a way to estimate the withdrawal time needed for their clients when a horse has been exposed to these products.

The cobalt population data have been shared by the RMTTC for CA, IN, and KY, with the approval of the respective racing commissions. I will be the primary author responsible for writing the manuscript to summarize all of the population data collected by these jurisdictions, and for the 500 horses racing in PA, before and after regulations were put in place. I want to thank the other jurisdictions for sharing these data, and Dr. Dionne Benson for facilitating this information sharing.

Studies of multiple cobalt-containing feeds and supplements are completed, including 10% sweet feed from a local mill, Red Cell, injectable vitamin B12, and Vita15 (single dose and multiple dosing studies completed). A repeated dosing study for the product Iron Power is in progress and all samples will be collected by January 15th. The analysis is expected to be completed by the end of February. These data will be summarized and manuscripts will be prepared to describe the pharmacokinetics following oral and injectable exposure.

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 Commissions' Research Barn at New Bolton Center has successfully analyzed their 6th proficiency set of the year. All proficiency sets for blood gas testing were correctly analyzed this year with no outlying results.

A second Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, RMTCEQAP, proficiency set has arrived from LGC Standards in the United Kingdom. The samples are currently being analyzed. The successful evaluation of 20 samples a year is a requirement for RMTCEQAP Laboratory Accreditation.

The review of the Quality Assurance Manual and all standard operating procedures is almost complete. I have begun preparing for the required Quality Assurance System document submission to the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA. This document submission is the first of many steps to prepare for the upcoming onsite audit by A2LA which will occur this spring.

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 January 2016 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

¹Concerning Item 5.a. (2); "Consideration for approval of the Harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of January 2016, 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.

the month of January 2016, 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 unanimously passed to ratify item 5.b. (1); Penn National request to have the Kentucky Derby Future Wager pool as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Penn National request for the 2016 live racing calendar with 194 race days as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); Penn National request to approve the implement of the take-out rates for the 2016 Racing Season as submitted and filed with the Commission Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (4); Penn National request to approve the implement of the Wagering Format for the 2016 Racing Season as submitted and filed with the Commission Office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (5); Penn National request to approve the Racing Officials, Operating Officials and Racing Personnel for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed for the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (6); Penn National request to approve the wagering and receive the live racing signal from the simulcast in locations as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (7); Penn Nationals request to approve to send its simulcast signal of live races for these locations in 2016 as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (8); Parx Racing request for the approval of the 2016 live racing calendar with 156 days as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (9); Parx Racing request to implement the take-out rates for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (10); Parx Racing request to implement the wagering format for the 2016 live racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (11); Parx Racing request to approve the Racing Officials, Department heads and other administratively responsible individuals for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (12); Parx Racing request for the simulcast in schedule for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (13); Parx Racing request for the simulcast out schedule for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (14); Presque Isle Downs request for the 2016 Live Racing Calendar with 100 days as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (15); Presque Isle Downs request to implement the take-out rates for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (16); Presque Isle Downs request to implement the wagering format for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (17); Presque Isle Downs request to approve the Racing Officials for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (18); Presque Isle Downs request to approve the simulcast in for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (19); Presque Isle Downs request to approve the simulcast out for the 2016 racing season as submitted and filed by the commission office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman asked that more information on the marketing and promotion be added into the reports that are given at every commission meeting.

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held January 13, 2016, at The PA Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, 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