

## **Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

January 13, 2016

### **Minutes**

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, in Harrisburg 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.

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**

Samuel Elliott, Chief Operating Officer, reported the previous month and year to date statistics. The final two barns are under construction, along with the new safety rail that is being put in. Backside improvements are also happening as Parx has been closed and generally improving the backside experience at Parx is a good thing.

#### **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 8 race cards that Penn National went to have proven it has increased field size for the races.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, was not present and no report was given.

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

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

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director, noted that the 2016 PA Stallion and Boarding Farm Directory are now available and that the PHBA now have a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

### **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 multiple research projects in progress. A summary of the manuscripts accepted for publication over the past year is presented.

Manuscripts Accepted for Publication in 2015

1. Chen J-W, Uboh CE, Robinson MA, Jiang ZB, Soma LR. **Interleukin 6 distribution in Standardbred prerace horse population via a new validated enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.** Am J Vet Res, Accepted January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015
2. de Laat MA\*, Robinson MA\*, Gruntmeir KJ, Liu Y, Soma LR, Lacombe VA. **AICAR administration affects glucose metabolism by upregulating the novel glucose transporter, GLUT8, in equine skeletal muscle.** The Veterinary Journal, Accepted May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 DOI: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2015.05.018  
\*co-first authorship
3. Robinson MA, Megee S, Liu Y, Li X, Soma LR. **Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP) did not increase oxygen dissociation from equine or mouse hemoglobin in fresh whole blood.** Proceedings of the 2014 International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians. Accepted September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.
4. Guan F. **Advances in Detection of EPO** eBook chapter Accepted Dec 2015.

There are currently 15 manuscripts in preparation, one manuscript under review, and four manuscripts were 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 results for the second Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, RMTC EQAP, proficiency set have been submitted ahead of the reporting deadline to LGC Standards in the United Kingdom. The successful evaluation of 20 proficiency samples a year is a requirement for RMTC Laboratory Accreditation. The final report on PETRL's results should be available in a few weeks.

Equipment inventory updates and equipment calibrations are ongoing. The Quality Assurance System controlled document review is almost complete. All document changes are recorded and are circulated to the laboratory staff for acknowledgement. The supporting documents required for an on-site assessment this spring will be submitted to the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA this month.

The PETRL Technical Management Committee will meet this month as required by the A2LA, and the PETRL Quality Assurance Program. This committee meets in order to continually improve the effectiveness of the laboratory's technical systems. The components of the Quality Assurance System will also be reviewed to ensure the continuing suitability and relevance of the system.

## **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)<sup>1</sup>; 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 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.

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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 February 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ellis and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (1); The PA Horse Breeders Associations 2016 Operating Budget.

### **ADJUDICATIONS**

Appeal of Juan C. Vazquez from Ruling No. 15128PN

**AND NOW**, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, upon consideration of the evidentiary record, it is hereby **ORDERED** that Ruling No. 15128PN of the Board of Stewards dated June 17, 2015 is **AFFIRMED**.

Consistent with these Rulings, Juan Carlos Vazquez is fined the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) (2<sup>nd</sup> positive in five month).

Appeal of Kathryn Papp D.V.M.—Ejection From/Denial of Admission to Penn National Race Course.

**AND NOW**, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, the *Notice of Ejection or Denial of Admission* dated September 19, 2015, directed to Appellant Kathryn Papp, D.V.M., notifying her that she is ejected from or denied 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. (collectively, “Penn National”) under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission is **REVERSED**.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held February 16, 2016, at Parx Racing in Bensalem, 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