

## Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

July 24, 2014

### Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2014 at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA, at 11:30 A.M.

In attendance representing the Commission were Alan Novak, Chairman; Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner; and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary.

Chairman Alan Novak called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Chairman Novak 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 Sweeney, seconded by Chairman Novak, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2014, commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Chairman Novak, and unanimously passed, to approve the special meeting minutes of the July 21, 2014, meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS (STATISTICAL REPORTS)

Chairman Novak requested the statistical highlights for the past month.

#### Parx Racing

Sal Sinatra, Director of Racing, reported the previous months and year to date statistics. Barn construction still continues at Parx. Mr. Sinatra stated that the tentative date to start the 3<sup>rd</sup> party Lasix is August 4<sup>th</sup>; there is a chance that California Chrome may come to the PA Derby.

#### 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 spoke about the reconstruction of barn 3 in the stable area and that there will be a new dormitory constructed in the stable area. Also the turf has been improved

over the past few months with the hope that it helps with drainage and having the race season open earlier and stay open later. Mr. Johnston noted that an agreement was reached with the Lancaster OTB and will be open until July 2015.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. Maintenance of the track rail is still proceeding forward along with the shelter for the outriders which are about 80% complete. The first three barns electrical updates are done and the last two should be done by the end of the month.

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

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, voiced concern about various media outlets that do not show that Pennsylvania passed the uniform medication act when it has. Mr. Mostoller noted at Presque Isle the stall and purse situation has been worked out. The PA HBPA would like to thank Penn National for the opportunities of working 50-50 with them to improve the groom's quarters.

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, President, for the PHBA, was not present and no oral report was given.

### **RESEARCH**

Dr. Mary Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, gave the following report:

Research has been delayed this month due to staffing and equipment problems. Two chemists have moved on and some of the research chemists are working on forensic testing until new replacements are in place and trained appropriately. In addition, the numerous storms and power outages at the laboratory have disrupted the instrument workflows and multiple service engineers are working daily to keep the instruments operational. Thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges.

Several research projects are ongoing and progress in a select few is briefly outlined below.

Questions regarding the interaction between phenylbutazone and methocarbamol are continuing, and the manuscript describing this interaction is in preparation. Briefly, phenylbutazone is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and methocarbamol is a skeletal muscle relaxant. They are commonly co-administered. Clearance of methocarbamol is decreased by phenylbutazone, and thus a longer withdrawal time is needed following the co-administration of these drugs. This information has been shared with the horseman's groups, and with veterinarians that subscribe to the list serve established for the Penn Vet Equine Pharmacology Laboratory. It has also been shared with the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Scientific Advisory Committee.

A manuscript by my collaborators at the University of Oklahoma describing the changes in glucose metabolism by muscle tissue due to AICAR administration is near completion, and the analytical method that we developed to measure AICAR in equine plasma will also soon be submitted. There are currently 10 manuscripts being prepared, 1 manuscript is being reviewed, and 5 manuscripts have been accepted for publication and are at various stages of the publication process.

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER**

Deborah Tsang, Quality Assurance Officer, reported that all internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month were correctly identified.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.a.(1); approval of the thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of "August 2014 at Penn National, Parx Racing, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and passed to approve item 5.a.(2)<sup>1</sup>; approval of the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of August 2014, at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (1); approval of Presque Isle Downs, Inc., request to add the Rex Hotel in Welland, Ontario to the list of sites approved to wager on live races during the 2014 race meet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); approval of Presque Isle Downs, Inc., request to conduct a fundraising event for the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund on Sunday, July 27, 2014.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); approval of Presque Isle Downs, Inc., request to add Codere Brick & Mortar sites in Mexico to the lists of sites through Global Wagering Services previously under the Monarch agreement on live races during the 2014 race meet.

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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 August 2014, 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 August 28, 2014, at Presque Isle Downs and Casino in Erie, PA.

Executive Session: 2:30 P.M. in the Conference room  
Public Meeting: 3:30 P.M. in the Training Center room

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary