

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

June 17, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, June 17, 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; Walt Remmert, Acting Executive Secretary of Horse Racing; Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary, and by phone Jonathan Newman, Commissioner.

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 and specific legal issues were addressed. No other agency business was transacted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Newman, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014, commission 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. Mr. Wilson noted that barn construction is still going on. Belmont day was a very good day at the track; looking forward to the stakes races upcoming at the track.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, noted that the conference call concerning the electrolytes went really well and the discussion was good. The independent Lasix program will be starting up at PARX and the PTHA is very excited.

Penn National Race Course

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The Penn Mile was a huge success again this year which was a great day overall.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. Ms. Howells noted that 386 cars ran through the drive thru open on Belmont Day which was 157 more than on the Preakness Day. The Paddock is completed and has had many nice comments on it. The Stewards stand has been completed and construction for the outriders building is being held up because there still needs to be some permits from the state coming. Ms. Howells state that the upgrade of the electric in the five original barns has started up.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Tim Shay, President of the PA HBPA, noted that the HBPA is in some discussion with the Lancaster OTB to see if they can do anything with the situation. Also pleased with the track surface at Penn National and working on a racing technique to help dry it out. There was a new stake race run at Penn National last week called the New Start Stake, named about the adoption program.

As far as Presque Isle Downs is concerned the HBPA is still working with the horsemen to help figure out stall issues and there is a committee set up to help to try and get races filled.

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, stated that he was very pleased with the discussion and dialog concerning the electrolyte issue. When the TCO2 policy change happened there needs to be some more communication and Chairman Novak agreed and suggested that ways of communication be thought of to help everyone stay in the loop of what is happening.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Brian Sanfratello, for the PHBA, noted that Belmont day was a great day for Pennsylvania bred horses. Real Solution a PA Bred won a \$1M grade one stakes race. Mr. Sanfratello stated that good stakes races have also been running at Penn National.

Jeb Hannum will be leaving the PHBA because he is moving and we are searching for someone to take over.

Mr. Mostoller asked Mr. Hannum about the funds being released to pay back into the purses that have been used for the Breeders Fund.

The annual banquet went very well at Penn National and thanked the Commissioners for joining them on that evening.

RESEARCH

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

I received several questions regarding the interaction between phenylbutazone and methocarbamol this month. 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.

Dr. Guan is continuing to make progress on developing a method to screen for peptide-based drugs. He is presenting some of this work at the American Society for Mass Spectrometry conference in Baltimore, MD (June 15th – 19th). Drug companies are pursuing the development of drugs that are composed of amino acids. These types of drugs require a different approach to enable efficient screening of many samples.

Dr. Robinson recently attended the American College of Internal Medicine Forum (June 4 – 7th), and participated in the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology sessions. This conference provides continuing education and affords researchers an opportunity to discuss and collaborate on research projects. A collaboration with Dr. Veronique Lacombe at the University of Oklahoma was developed a couple years ago to allow the investigation of the effect of 5-amino 4 carboximidazole riboside (AICAR) on glucose transport in muscle tissue. Dr. Lacombe gave a presentation of this work at the conference, which showed that AICAR causes translocation of a newly discovered GLUT8 transporter from storage vesicles to the cell membrane surface. The mechanism for the effects of AICAR glucose transport appear to be species specific, and using AICAR as a tool may allow the development of a better understanding of glucose transport in horses.

There are currently ten manuscripts being prepared, one manuscript is being reviewed, and five 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.

All internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month have been correctly identified. Results for the first Blood Oximetry Proficiency Test of the year were graded Acceptable by the College of American Pathologists, CAP. This set contained five samples which were tested for Hemoglobin at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn.

I was notified last week that PETRL is now accredited to ISO/ IEC 17025:2005 for chemical testing through May 31, 2016 by virtue of the on-site reassessment of the lab and an evaluation by the Accreditation Council of the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA. The council reviewed all activity related to the assessment and recent proficiency testing results.

An assessor for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, RMTC, will visit PETRL to conduct an on-site audit in mid-August. This assessment is the next step for PETRL in the RMTC Laboratory Accreditation process.

NEW BUSINESS

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and passed to approve item 5.a.(2)¹; approval of the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of July 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 Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (1); Parx Racing respectfully requests permission to add a new simulcast location called Horse Races Now licensed in North Dakota. Also Parx Racing requests permission to start simulcast and wager on Thoroughbred Racing from Los Alamitos in CA, Hazel Park and Northville Downs in Michigan and Mahoning Valley, Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held July 24, 2014, at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in the Moelis Conference room
Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in the Woerner Amphitheater

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary