

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

May 27, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Tuesday, May 27, 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; Jonathan Newman, 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.

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 April 15, 2014, 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 months and year to date statistics. Work on the first two of six barns is scheduled to be finished in about three weeks. The third party Lasix is still being finalized; the software is done, just making sure everything works. It should be up and running by the end of June.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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

Penn National Race Course

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The Penn Mile, Mountainview Handicap, Pennsylvania Governors Cup and the Penn Oaks will be run this Saturday, May 31st.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals; approximately 621 horses on property right now and reallocating stalls to other people when they are not being filled. The inside pieces of the rail have been completed and just waiting for the covers to come which should be in about 2-3 weeks.

Ms. Howells reported that they are waiting for the drawings to be confirmed about a shelter for the outriders. Stewards are happy with their room with the new TVs installed and more furniture. All the other projects that need to be finished should be finished within the next month.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, noted that the third party administration of Lasix at Presque Isle Downs started May 25th and is going very well. The use of electrolytes is a big issue in Horse Racing and we urge the commission to set up a meeting to discuss the use of electrolytes.

Tim Shay, President of the PA HBPA, stated that they are very happy that the tracks are doing their jobs in making sure the tracks are safe and stalls are being reallocated if they are not being used. With the rise in sales there is hope that the smaller field sizes will correct themselves. Mr. Shay would like to know if there have been any changes in regard to the claiming rule, and if so, what has been done. Acting Executive Secretary informed the commissioners and Mr. Shay that there was language drawn up for them to look over that would cover these issues.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Jeb Hannum, Executive Secretary for the PHBA, noted the annual breeders meeting was held last week and wanted to thank Commissioner Sweeney for attending. The new officers were elected for the 2014-2015 term: Brian Sanfratello—President, Richard Abbott—Vice President, Dale Sholling—Secretary, and David Charlton—Treasurer. Three new Board members were added: Hank Northhaft, Elizabeth Barr and Greg Newell.

Friday, May 30th will be the PHBA Awards banquet at Penn National.

RESEARCH

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

Cobalt-containing substances: Several vitamin mixtures and supplements contain cobalt and are being studied. Cobalt stabilizes erythropoietin, which has the potential to result in an increase in red blood cell production. Pilot studies indicated that an increase in the plasma and

urine concentration of cobalt was evident after the administration of some of these products. The administration of these products has been completed, and analysis of plasma and urine samples is ongoing by the Toxicology Laboratory at New Bolton Center, and by our laboratory. These studies are expected to enable the establishment of a reasonable threshold for the regulation of cobalt.

Dr. Guan is continuing to make progress on developing a method to screen for peptide-based drugs. 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.

Several questions have been received concerning the interaction between methocarbamol and phenylbutazone. Phenylbutazone is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and methocarbamol is a skeletal muscle relaxant. They are commonly co-administered. A manuscript is being prepared describing the effect of phenylbutazone on the clearance of methocarbamol. 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 listserv established for the Penn Vet Equine Pharmacology Laboratory. It has also been shared with the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Scientific Advisory Committee, and an addendum to the list of therapeutic medications will likely be added to alert users of this information that there is a documented interaction.

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.

Results for the first Aqueous Blood Gas Proficiency Test of the year were graded Acceptable by the College of American Pathologists, CAP. The CAP is a certified provider of proficiency samples. This set contained five samples which were tested for several blood gas analyses including TCO₂. This proficiency set was tested by the Blood Gas Testing Program at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center. The Research Barn Manager, Hilary Goff, conducted training for PA Harness Racing Commission blood gas technicians this month.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and 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 June 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 June 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); Penn National request to send its simulcast signal of live races to Favorites at Gloucester Twp. off track betting facility located in Clementon, NJ.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Presque Isle Downs, Inc., request to offer match play coupons through the MGT Kiosk system.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); Presque Isle Downs, Inc. to offer a mystery voucher program, Friday and Saturday, July 11th and 12th between 10:00 a.m. and 8 p.m. with tickets ranging from \$2.00 to \$10,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (4); Presque Isle Downs, Inc. request to add the following sites during their 2014 race meet: Horse Races Now, in North Dakota, Hinsdale Harness, LLC, Hinsdale, N.H., Sanford OTB, Sanford, M.E. and HitTheBoard, Inc., Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (5); Appointment of the members to the PA Breeding Fund Advisory committee from the period of June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. They are two members of the PA Horse Breeders Association—Brian Sanfratello and Richard Abbott; One member from the licensed corporations—Sal Sinatra-Parx; One member representing horsemen's organizations—Tim Shay-HBPA; and One member from the commission—Alan Novak.

ADJUDICATION

The adjudication of J. Michael Rogers ruling no. 13389PN is amended.

¹Concerning Item 5.a. (2); "Consideration for approval of the Harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of June 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 June 17, 2014, at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in the Allam House

Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in the Alumni Hall

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary