

**Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

October 16, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at Parx Racing in Bensalem, 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; Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary.

Chairman 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 September 11, 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. Owners Appreciation Day, Derby Day, Cotillion, PA Day, Hall of Fame Day and Smarty Jones Day at the races all went very well this year. There was a 90 minute Comcast television special with the PHHA which was a lot of fun and went over very well.

**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, noted that the entire month of racing in September was a great success. Derby day was great and many people enjoyed watching the festivities here at the track or on TV. Mr. Ballezzi brought up the issue of purses being held up and there was some discussion on it. Mr. Ballezzi also thanked Walt and the commission for helping to resolve the situation.

**Penn National Race Course**

Eric Johnston, Director of Racing, reported on the previous months and year to date statistic totals. The contracts of both the York and Reading OTB locations are being worked on

for extension into 2016. The dormitory is well underway in construction and things are progressing nicely. It should be completed around Christmas.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. The backside is closed and all horses are off the property, now doing winter maintenance to be ready for the 2015 racing year.

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

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

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director for the PHBA, was welcomed by the commission as the new Executive Secretary for the Breeders Association. Mr. Sanfratello noted that there will be about 500 restricted races run in Pennsylvania this year with about 30 million dollars paid out in restricted races, owner's bonuses and rewards. Three more stakes races were added to the card and on October 11<sup>th</sup> the Plum Pretty race run at Parx was won by Bound. The Blue Mountain will be run at Penn National on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **RESEARCH**

Dr. Mary Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and of the University of Pennsylvania, was not present and no report was given.

Dr. Guan and I attended the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians in Mauritius from September 20<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Guan presented two talks:

1. Strategy for and approaches to detection and identification of peptide- and protein-based drugs in equine plasma and urine (September 25<sup>th</sup>)
2. LC-MS identification of etanercept (Enbrel®) in equine plasma (September 25<sup>th</sup>)

I presented 4 talks:

1. R & D on 'omics technologies -- USA (September 23<sup>rd</sup>)
2. Cobalt-containing supplements and sweet feed increase equine plasma and/or urine cobalt concentrations (September 25<sup>th</sup>)
3. Co-administration of phenylbutazone with methocarbamol decreases methocarbamol clearance (September 25<sup>th</sup>)
4. Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP) did not alter oxygen dissociation from mouse or equine hemoglobin in fresh whole blood (September 26<sup>th</sup>)

There are currently 14 manuscripts being prepared, three manuscripts are being reviewed, and five manuscripts have been accepted for publication and are at various stages of the publication process since the beginning of this year (January 2014).

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER**

Deborah Tsang, Quality Assurance Officer, reported all internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month have been 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 November 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 November 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); Presque Isle Downs approval to conduct a Mystery Voucher program on Friday and Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Mutual tickets valued from \$5.00 to \$10,000 will be sent to qualified players via direct mail.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Presque Isle Downs approval to offer the Belmont/Santa Cross Country Double. Host fee is Santa Anita, even code-say, take out rate 20%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); Presque Isle Downs request approval to mail \$5.00 match play to 9,000 pari-mutual players to be wagered on the Breeders Cup races on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, November 1 on races at Santa Anita.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (4); Penn National request approval to once again host the "World Series of Handicapping" contest on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The contest will run from 2:00-7:00 pm.

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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 November 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**

Brad Cummings, President and CEO of Equilottery gave a presentation to the commissioners.

Chairman Novak announced the next commission meeting will be held November 13, 2014, at Penn National, Grantville, PA.

Executive Session: 10:00 A.M. in Directors Suite

Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in Horatius Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary