

## **Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission**

September 11, 2014

### **Minutes**

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

In attendance representing the Commission were Alan Novak, Chairman; 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, and by phone Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner.

Commissioner Sweeney called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Commissioner Sweeney 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 August 28, 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. Once the Derby is concluded the next two barns will be knocked down. Owners Day was in August this year which was a successful day. Smarty Jones day was also a success this year with four big races. PA Day went well, and this coming Saturday is Hall of Fame Day at Parx.

The PA Derby and Cotillion races are fast approaching with the best of the three year olds around. California Chrome, Bayern, the first two finishers from the West Virginia Derby, Candy Boy, and Tapiture along with the second place winner of the Smarty Jones is confirmed. The Derby race to watch will be the 3YO filly Championship; Untapable is confirmed along with Sweet Reason, Stopchargingmaria and Joint Return.

### **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. The permits have arrived and work will be starting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for the dormitory. The second phase of the turf work has begun, and it is hoped racing will run through October 11<sup>th</sup> this year, which will be one of the longest seasons ever at Penn National.

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

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs, reported on the previous month and year to date statistical totals. TVG was on site this past week for the Mile and Masters Stakes. The Mile Stakes was won by Decisive Moment and the Masters Stake was won by Living the Life.

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

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, noted that Owners Appreciation Day turned out well at Penn National. Mr. Mostoller thanks Walt Remmert for setting up a meeting at Penn National to help improve the overall racing experience at Penn National and racing as a whole.

### **Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association**

Brian Sanfratello, President, for the PHBA, noted there are four candidates left remaining for the Executive Director position to be interviewed on September 18<sup>th</sup>. PA Day at the Races went very well with \$634,000 given away in purses.

### **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.

Thank you for your patience as we worked through these equipment and staffing challenges in July and August. I am happy to introduce two new members of our team: Dr. Bing Xia and Dr. Robert Stiles. Dr. Xia started at the beginning of August and is going to assist with overseeing all operations at PETRL, including both research and forensic analyses. Dr. Stiles started at the beginning of September and will be overseeing and assisting with all forensic analyses and reporting. Both bring extensive experience in chemistry, lab management, and quality assurance and we are very pleased to have recruited them to PETRL.

Dr. Guan and I will be attending the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians, to be held in Mauritius. Dr. Guan will be presenting his work on peptide drug detection and I will be presenting our work on extracorporeal shockwave therapy, methocarbamol, cobalt, and ITPP. We will be leaving September 18<sup>th</sup> and returning September 28<sup>th</sup>.

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 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. Samples for the fourth blood gas proficiency test of the year were analyzed at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center. The results were graded Acceptable by the College of American Pathologists, CAP.

An on-site laboratory audit for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, RMTC, was conducted in August by an independent, international laboratory assessor from Sweden. The assessment was very thorough and all sample handling and testing procedures were observed. Annual reports, instrument logs, calibration and training records were reviewed. The assessment went very well and we are waiting to hear on the lab's accreditation status from the RMTC Board.

### **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 October 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 October 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); Revised request from Penn National for the September 2014 calendar adding the tracks, Meadowlands (T) starting 09/18, Colonial Downs (H) starting 09/17, and Stockton starting 09/19.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Chairman Novak and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (2); Parx Racing request to change the first post time on Saturday, September 20, 2014 for the Pennsylvania Derby to 11:25 A.M. and also to cancel racing the following day Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

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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 October 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 October 16, 2014, at Parx Racing, Bensalem, PA.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in Glass Conference Room  
Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in Conference Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Novak adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walt Remmert  
Acting Executive Secretary