

**PENNSYLVANIA HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

August 1, 2015

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission was held at The Meadows, in Washington PA, Saturday, August 1, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. In attendance representing the Commission were Jonathan Newman, Chairman, and George Crawford, Executive Secretary and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Fred Strathmeyer, Deputy Secretary

Chairman Newman called the meeting to order.

Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel, noted that no executive session took place.

George Crawford, Executive Secretary, noted that the meeting has been advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Chairman Newman noted that Commissioner Wenger provided notice that he was in process of resigning his position and thanked him for his many years of service and great knowledge to the racing industry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from May 20, 2015. A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer and Chairman Newman, and was unanimously approved.

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from June 19, 2015. A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer and Chairman Newman, and was unanimously approved.

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from July 20, 2015. A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer and Chairman Newman, and was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

(Statistical Reports – Prior month and Year-to-Date)

The Meadows Racing

Kevin Decker, Director of Racing Operations, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Belmont Day was very successful for The Meadows on card and live racing. Kim and the MSOA did a great job with that day and all the Friday night festivities that we have had. Chairman Newman and Mr. Decker talked about The

Meadows and their request for a reduction of race days for October 2015 which was tabled until the September commission meeting.

Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, introduced Richard Gillock to the commission. Next year there may be longer breaks in racing to help with the overall purse money. The MOSA will continue to work with Mr. Decker and The Meadows on the Friday Night Family nights which have been very successful so far. Mr. Sullivan has made a good effort this year to help promote the horses this year. There is great conversation and working together over the reduction of race days between The Meadows and the MSOA.

Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack

Barry Brown, Director of Racing Operations, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Mr. Brown noted that Belmont Day had a lower turn out this year also it will have to be looked at to see if it will be good to race on that day in the future. When racing on Derby Day everyone is out and it is a great time to display your product, for the Preakness and Belmont Days not so much. On Derby Day this year there was a lot of great activity on the patio. On the day of the Maxie Lee, Jerry Taylor and Betsy Ross stakes races the on track handle was phenomenal.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Dale Rapson, Director of Racing, was not present and no oral report was given.

Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association

Sam Beegle, President, noted that the 50th Anniversary was coming up on August 22nd at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. There will be a lot of great events going on for the whole week prior to Saturday night. Mr. Beegle noted some of the great things happening that week are the Budweiser horses will be there for 2 days, two other days the prices of the hotdogs, soda and popcorn will be rolled back. There will also be a Legends race and some mo-town bands playing. Pete Rose will be signing autographs. Post time will be 5:30 on August 22nd.

Research

Dr. Robinson, Acting Director of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab and of the University of Pennsylvania, submitted the following report: The laboratory continues to develop new screening methods for various classes of new drugs.

Quality Assurance Officer

Deb 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 Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (a). 1; the Standardbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of September 2015 at The Meadows, Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (a). 2; the Thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of September 2015 at Parx Racing, Penn National, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b). 1; the Standardbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of July 2015 at The Meadows, Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b). 2; the Thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of July 2015 at Parx Racing, Penn National, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b). 3; the Standardbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of August 2015 at The Meadows, Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b). 4 the Thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of August 2015 at Parx Racing, Penn National, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b) 5; the request from Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs to make the following post time changes. Saturday, June 6th with early post time at 3:30 p.m., Sunday, July 5th with early post time of 5:30 p.m., Friday, August 21st with early post time of 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 22nd with post time of 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b) 6; the request from WTA/MLR to export The Meadows races for wagering purposes to Jamie's Cigar Bar and Restaurant in Clifton, NJ.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b) 7 the request from The Meadows of the Super High-Five Wager Rules.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b) 8 the request from The Meadows in cooperation with the MSOA to not conduct live racing from Monday, October 12th through Thursday, October 29th. This was tabled until the September 3rd Commission Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Newman awarded the 2016 PA Classics races to Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

Chairman Newman commented he will be addressing the ongoing issues with Endeka at the September 3rd commission meeting.

Chairman Newman announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2015, at Harrah's Philadelphia.

- Executive Session 10:00 A.M
- Regular Session 11:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Newman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
/S/ George Crawford
Executive Secretary of Harness Racing