

**PENNSYLVANIA HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

December 17, 2015

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission was held at PA Department of Agriculture, in room 202 Harrisburg, PA, Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 11:00 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 an executive session took place by phone yesterday where personnel issues were discussed no agency business was transacted.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from October 21, 2015. A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer and Chairman Newman, and was unanimously approved.

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from November 19, 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. The Meadows and the horsemen came to an agreement of 186 race days for 2016.

Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, noted that the MSOA and the Meadows have worked out a new agreement and partnership on stall rent, capital improvements, PR and other things for the 2016 year. The elections went well and all positions remained the same.

Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack

Barry Brown, Director of Racing Operations, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Live racing will begin on April of 2016 and there will be racing on all Triple Crown days. Regarding the backside improvements Mr. Brown has been meeting with three potential consultants and project managers and the original surveyor. Details will be discussed with the PHHA after the first of the year and then follow up with the commission.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Dale Rapson, Director of Racing, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Live racing will start up again in March with a 134 day racing season. Marketing for the New Year has started already and look forward to all the great ideas and promotions.

Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association

Ron Battoni, Executive Director, noted that the cobalt equipment has been purchased. Mr. Battoni thanked everyone that he worked with over his career as Executive Director, there was a lot accomplished and to be proud about. The Mohegan Sun contract was extended by the Board of Directors for an additional year which is great news.

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.

A manuscript entitled "Pharmacokinetics of capsaicinoids following oral, gastric, and topical administration to the horse" is near completion. Capsaicinoids are the primary ingredients in red peppers, and are prohibited in post-race blood and urine samples. Horses are usually exposed to capsaicinoids when red pepper is placed on bandages or the stall to deter chewing. It is also available in topical preparations which can block the horse's sensation of pain, and is the primary reason their use is prohibited prior to competition. An analytical method is in place to test for capsaicinoids in horses as part of PETRL's drug testing program. This study was to determine how long it takes a horse to eliminate these compounds once they are exposed. Oral exposure resulted in the highest plasma concentrations for a short period of time - capsaicinoids could only be detected for 4 hours in most horses, and for 6 hours in two horses. Topical exposure resulted in lower plasma concentrations; however capsaicinoids could be detected for up to 48 hours. These data suggest the current analytical methods are appropriate, and provide veterinarians with a way to estimate the withdrawal time needed for their clients when a horse has been exposed to these products.

The cobalt population data have been shared by the RMTTC for CA, IN, and KY, with the approval of the respective racing commissions. I will be the primary author

responsible for writing the manuscript to summarize all of the population data collected by these jurisdictions, and for the 500 horses racing in PA, before and after regulations were put in place. I want to thank the other jurisdictions for sharing these data, and Dr. Dionne Benson for facilitating this information sharing.

Studies of multiple cobalt-containing feeds and supplements are completed, including 10% sweet feed from a local mill, Red Cell, injectable vitamin B12, and Vita15 (single dose and multiple dosing studies completed). A repeated dosing study for the product Iron Power is in progress and all samples will be collected by January 15th. The analysis is expected to be completed by the end of February. These data will be summarized and manuscripts will be prepared to describe the pharmacokinetics following oral and injectable exposure.

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, two manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and three manuscripts have been accepted in 2015.

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.

The Blood Gas Testing Program at the PA Racing Commissions' Research Barn at New Bolton Center has successfully analyzed their 6th proficiency set of the year. All proficiency sets for blood gas testing were correctly analyzed this year with no outlying results.

A second Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, RMTCEQAP, proficiency set has arrived from LGC Standards in the United Kingdom. The samples are currently being analyzed. The successful evaluation of 20 samples a year is a requirement for RMTCEQAP Laboratory Accreditation.

The review of the Quality Assurance Manual and all standard operating procedures is almost complete. I have begun preparing for the required Quality Assurance System document submission to the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA. This document submission is the first of many steps to prepare for the upcoming onsite audit by A2LA which will occur this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (a). 1; the Standardbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of January 2016 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 8. (a). 2; the Thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of January 2016 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 8. (b). 1; the Standardbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of December 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 8. (b). 2; the Thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of December 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 8. (b). 3; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following simulcast in for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 4; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following simulcast out for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 5; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following take-out rates for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 6; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following wagering format for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 7; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following Officials for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 8; Washington Trotting Association, Inc. / Mountain Laurel Racing request to allow the following 186 Live Race days for the 2016 year as submitted and filed with the commission office

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 9; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 Officers and Key Track Personnel as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 10; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 simulcast in as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 11; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 simulcast out as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 12; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 Live Race days for 134 days as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 13; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 Live Racing for 150 days as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 14; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs 2016 take-out rates as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 15; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 Racing Officials and Track Contacts as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 16; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 Racing Officials and Track Contacts as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 17; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 wagering format as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 18; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 take-out rates as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 19; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 simulcast in as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 20; Harrah's Philadelphia 2016 simulcast out as submitted and filed with the commission office.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 8. (b). 21; Please see attached Final Order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Newman announced the next meeting will be held on January 21, 2016, at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

- 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