

**PENNSYLVANIA HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

March 24, 2015

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission was held at New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, PA, Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. In attendance representing the Commission were Jonathan Newman, Chairman; Noah Wenger, Commissioner; and George Crawford, Executive Secretary. 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.

George Crawford, Executive Secretary, announced that the Commission conducted this morning an Executive Session in which litigation and personnel matters were discussed. No other 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 January 21, 2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger and Chairman Newman, and was unanimously approved.

Chairman Newman asked for approval of the minutes from February 19, 2015. A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger 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. Mr. Decker noted that at the end of February was the Friday night card which went very well. There was a handicapping seminar which went over very well with the patrons and a live bank roll contest which received high reviews.

Mr. Decker thanked the MSOA for all the help they gave and will be doing those again in the future.

Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, noted that the handicapping contest drew a huge crowd and it went very well. Coming up The Meadows will be bring in 12 colleges for the night racing card trying to get more young people to the track which will feature the overnight stakes finals.

Mr. Hankins expressed his appreciation to Chairman Newman and the commission for the handling of the 4 hour detention issue.

Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack

Barry Brown, Director of Racing Operations, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Harrah's Philadelphia is a member of the Mid Atlantic group which is in the boycott of Monarch and the dispute is still not fixed. Every time it is close to resolving something else comes up.

Live racing starts Friday, March 27, 2015 and look forward to opening day.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Dale Rapson, Director of Racing, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. The issue with Monarch is very serious but none of us can back down now their goal is break us and it won't happen. Mohegan Sun will not be able to recoup the money lost in signal coming in.

This year is the 50th Anniversary at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and there are many fun items being planned.

Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association

Ron Battoni, Executive Director, noted that before opening day there was six inches of snow and the track manager put Mohegan's track back into wonderful shape.

There are many activities that are being planned for the 50th Anniversary on August 22, 2015.

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. These approaches provide increased flexibility in processing track samples as multiple screening techniques are simultaneously and independently used.

Clenbuterol: Clenbuterol is a bronchodilator and expectorant that is commonly used in horses after the race. A recent study by Dr. Rose Nolen-Walston at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center has shown that clenbuterol has an anabolic effect, even at the lowest

recommended dose that is commonly used in race horses. The study showed a statistical effect following 3 days of administration at the lowest labeled dose, which increased throughout a 21 day dosing period. After the last dose was given, the effect began to be reversed, and 11 days after stopping the treatment, the effect was not statistically significant compared to the controls. Discussions are ongoing to develop an appropriate policy that would enable horses to be treated post-race for a short period of time to provide the beneficial effects of clenbuterol, but would prevent anabolic effects from persisting on race day.

Cobalt: A small amount of cobalt is necessary for mammalian life, and it forms the core of vitamin B12. However, cobalt also has the potential to increase red blood cell production when administered at a high dosage, and was used for this purpose in humans before safer drugs were developed to stimulate red blood cell production (erythropoietin). Toxic effects of cobalt have been shown in humans to occur at doses that are effective at increasing red blood cell production. The administration of bulk cobalt to race horses has been reported to regulatory authorities as an attempt to increase red blood cell production, and toxic effects in horses have been demonstrated by some laboratories when very high doses were administered intravenously. An increase in equine red blood cell production has not been demonstrated by any of the studies in horses.

Cobalt-containing vitamin products are not regulated by the FDA and cobalt is also included in sweet feed by feed producers. Studies were performed to determine if these products would affect plasma and urine concentrations of cobalt. Some of these products did increase plasma and urine concentrations. Ongoing studies are evaluating the effect of repeated administration of these products, as the label instructs the consumer to do. In addition, the cobalt concentration in the PA race horse population (250 Thoroughbreds and 250 Standardbreds) was evaluated and horses that had clearly received inappropriate amounts of cobalt were identified. Statistical analysis was performed and these data will be compared with data from other jurisdictions at the upcoming ARCI/AORC conference in April.

There are currently 16 manuscripts in preparation, three manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and one manuscript was recently accepted.

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.

All internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month have been correctly identified. The first gas proficiency set of the year has already been analyzed. Training for Harrah's Philadelphia blood gas technicians will be conducted at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center this week.

The laboratory's internal audit was conducted in December and January and all staff participated. All technical systems and records were audited for compliance to American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA, ISO/IEC 17025 criteria and in-house

quality control requirements. The findings of the internal audit were that all systems are in compliance and my final report will be submitted to A2LA and the Commission.

An updated laboratory equipment inventory was provided to the Commission last month. The analytical balances and thermometers have been calibrated. The operating temperatures of the waterbaths and dri-blocks have been verified. The temperature monitoring system for the refrigerators and freezers will be updated, verified and calibrated next month.

The new server was successfully installed earlier this month.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b). 1; the standardbred full race card for March 2015 at The Meadows, Pocono Downs and Harrah's Philadelphia.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b). 2; the thoroughbred full race card for March 2015 at Parx Racing, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b) 3; Harrah's Philadelphia request to start the 2015 live racing dates on Friday, March 27, 2015.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b) 4; Mohegan Sun at Pocono Down request for the 2015 Wagering Format.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b) 5; Washington Trotting Association / Mountain Laurel Racing request to export The Meadows races for wagering purposed to the following place for the remainder of 2015: Hinsdale Harness in New Hampshire.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wenger, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to approve 5. (b) 6; the proposed Penalties for Blood Gas positives to take effect on April 11, 2015.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The commission is looking into a two day past race period administration of Clenbuterol.

There will be a 30 day comment period on Cobalt until April 30th, beginning May 1st the commission will be issuing warnings and June 1st it will be in full effect.

Chairman Newman announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at The PA Department of Agriculture in room 301.

- 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