

**PENNSYLVANIA HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING**

September 3, 2015

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Harness Racing Commission was held at Harrah's Philadelphia, in Chester, PA, Thursday, September 3, 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 at which personnel matters were discussed and there were no agency transactions.

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 August 1, 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. Chairman Newman thanked Mr. Decker for a great Adios Day. The Meadows just switched to the fall schedule which there will now be Friday afternoon racing instead of Friday night. Mr. Decker noted that the Harmar OTB has been doing very well. The 2016 calendar is still being worked on in conjunction with the MSOA.

The 2YO Sire Stakes Finals will be taking place next week with everyone looking forward to the great races that are scheduled.

Meadows Standardbred Owners Association

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, noted that the family fun nights on Friday evenings went very well this year. There were many great compliments given and so once a month it will happen and the next one will be on October 10th which is the County Fair Finals night, and a small two and a half week break, to help refresh the horses and purse account.

Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack

Barry Brown, Director of Racing Operations, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. For the Labor Day holiday there will be an extra race card. The Stallions Series finals will be coming up soon which everyone is looking forward to. With the Popes impending visit to Philadelphia the race card for Sunday, September 27th would like to be moved to Monday, September 28th to avoid the hassle of the traffic and trying to get to Harrah's on time for the races.

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs

Dale Rapson, Director of Racing, reviewed the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. The 50th Anniversary went very well the Clydesdales were a huge hit everyone loved them. The original covers were on the race programs that night which was very neat. The legends race went very well and everyone enjoyed the half price drinks, hotdogs and popcorn. The fireworks always draw a big crowd which went very well this year.

The 3YO Sire Stakes Finals are coming up here at Pocono Downs and look forward to the great races and the track is running absolutely great.

Pennsylvania Harness Horsemen's Association

Sam Beegle, President, noted that the 50th Anniversary at Pocono Downs went off very well and there was good cooperation between the PHHA and Pocono Downs. It was a great week long celebration with Clydesdales, food specials and great racing. Mr. Beegle had some reflections on the Pennsylvania Classics races.

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.

Dr. Robinson attended the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics Biennial conference (May 17 – 20th) and presented a poster entitled "Co-administration of phenylbutazone with methocarbamol decreases methocarbamol clearance." Phenylbutazone is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory and methocarbamol is a muscle relaxant commonly used in combination with phenylbutazone. This study determined that when used in combination, the elimination of methocarbamol by the horse is slowed down, which requires veterinarians to advise clients to use a longer withdrawal time prior to entering into competition.

A manuscript by co-first authors Dr. Robinson and Dr. de Laat and colleagues was accepted in May by the Veterinary Journal, entitled "AICAR administration affects glucose metabolism by upregulating the novel glucose transporter, GLUT8, in equine skeletal muscle." This was a collaborative research project with Dr. Veronique LaCombe's laboratory at the University of Oklahoma. This study advances our

understanding of glucose transport in the horse and demonstrates horses use a similar, but different transporter than humans.

Dr. Robinson recently submitted the manuscript “Myo-inositol trispyrophosphate (ITPP) did not increase oxygen dissociation from equine or mouse hemoglobin in fresh whole blood” for publication in the 2014 Proceedings for the International Conference of Racing Analysts and Veterinarians at which this study was presented in September 2014. ITPP was reported to enhance performance in mice when administered in very large doses, and is currently in Phase I clinical trials in humans. The product being used for the clinical trials is not available commercially and could not be obtained for research purposes. The ITPP used for this study, and for all studies performed by drug testing laboratories for the purposes of method development and investigation of ITPP, was synthesized by Frontier Biopharm in KY. The results of the present study demonstrate that this product did not increase the dissociation of oxygen from equine or mouse hemoglobin. In other words, although the product from Frontier Biopharm contains ITPP, it is not bioequivalent. The reason for this is not known. It is not uncommon for two products containing the same active ingredient to not have the same effect due to differences in the other components of the formulation, and this is why pharmaceutical companies that sell generic formulations must demonstrate to the Food and Drug Administration that their product is bioequivalent to the original product before obtaining approval to sell the generic product. In addition, it is also important to note that altering the ability of hemoglobin to bind oxygen is not expected to enhance performance in the race horse due to physiological differences between horses and mice, and due to the different type of exercise being performed by race horses (sprint running versus endurance running).

There are currently 18 manuscripts in preparation, three manuscripts at various stages of the review process, and two 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. In April the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation Review Board reaffirmed the laboratory’s accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 until May 2016.

The Blood Gas Testing Program at the PA Racing Commission Research Barn at New Bolton Center has successfully analyzed four aqueous blood chemistry and oximetry proficiency sets since March. All four sets were provided by the College of American Pathologists, CAP.

A proficiency set made and distributed by LGC Standards in the United Kingdom for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, was tested by the lab in August. LGC Standards is a division of the LGC Group, which is the UK’s designated National Measurement Institute for chemical and bioanalytical measurements. The proficiency set contained 10 samples which were confirmed for the drugs detected. A report on the results is expected from LGC Standards in the next few weeks.

Satisfactory proficiency testing results are required to maintain laboratory accreditation by the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation, A2LA. Copies of all proficiency test results are provided to A2LA within 30 days of receipt.

Equipment calibrations have been completed for thermometers, timers, new analytical balances, water baths and temperature monitoring probes.

Twenty- two refrigerators and freezers have been installed and verified as fit for intended use. These new units greatly enhance safety and the storage capacity at the laboratory; there are three flammable material refrigerators for reference standards and calibrator storage. Six liquid chromatography mass spectrometers have been delivered to the lab. Installation has been completed for some of the instruments and verification and on-site training is ongoing.

A review of controlled documents is currently underway. All document changes will be recorded and the revisions will be circulated to the laboratory staff for training and acknowledgement of the updates.

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 October 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 October 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; Downs Racing, LP respectfully requests permission to transmit its 2015 harness racing signal to the following outlets: Game Play Network, OR; Bettor Racing, SD; and Hinesdale Harness, NH.

A motion was made by Deputy Strathmeyer, seconded by Chairman Newman, and unanimously passed to ratify 5. (b). 2; the request from The Meadows 2015 reduction of Race Days from Monday, October 12th through Thursday, October 29th, also a request to add Saturday, October 31 as a race day with a post time of 11:25 A.M. Including the three days of race cancellations from the winter the total number of race days will be reduced from 208 to 195.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Joe Thompson addressed the commission on breeder's issues.

Chairman Newman noted that at the October commission meeting Endeka will come prepared with the documents needed for their presentation.

Chairman Newman announced the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 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