

## **THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING**

**June 29, 2016**

A meeting of The State Horse Racing Commission was held at the PA Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg, PA, Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. In attendance representing the Commission were C. Edward Rogers, Commissioner, Michele C. Ruddy, Commissioner, Russell B. Jones, Commissioner, Salvatore M. De Bunda, Commissioner, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner, Brook Duer and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Russell Redding, Chairman.

Chairman Redding called the meeting to order.

Brook Duer, Chief Counsel, noted that an executive session took place and no agency business was transacted.

Brook Duer, Chief Counsel, noted that the meeting has been advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

### **SUMMARY**

Chairman Redding opened the first State Horse Racing Commission meeting with an explanation of Act 7 and how the commission will function going forward. He thanked the industry for being involved in bringing about significant reform to the racing industry. Chairman Redding also thanked the Governor and the General Assembly for all their help on finding a resolution in the form of Act 7.

Chairmen Redding noted that the morning session was spent going over some training and orientation for the current Commissioners.

The Commissioners and legal counsel for the commission introduced themselves to the public after Chairman Redding's opening remarks.

Significant information was provided by staff and the Commission discussed various administrative matters and regulatory matters set forth before them.

Debbie Laughman, HR Director spoke about the hiring process for the Bureau Director positions.

Deputy Strathmeyer went over the commission's numbers with the commissioners.

Chairmen Redding opened the floor to public comment, Mr. Hankins of the MSOA invited the commission to the Adios and Mr. Decker spoke briefly about The Adios.

Brian Langlois, DVM expressed his concerns to the commission about the state of racing.

Dale Rapson, Director of Racing at Poconos Downs responded to Mr. Langlois and spoke briefly about take out rates and the state of Casinos today.

Chairmen Redding took a moment to thank Acting Bureau Director Walt Remmert and former Executive Secretary (retired) George Crawford for all the hard work they have done for racing over the years.

The commission broke for Executive Session to discuss Endeka Entertainment, LP. When the commission returned from the executive session no action was taken. Further discussion was tabled until the July Commission meeting.

## **BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to approve item 4. (a); The Non-Disclosure Agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to table item 4. (b); Commission Code of Conduct.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and unanimously passed to approve item 4. (c); Delegation of Duties to Bureau Directors.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rogers, and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to approve item 4. (d); Meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to table item 4. (e); Proposal for expanded Commissioner orientation/education conference.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to approve item 4. (f); The recommendation for the employment process to move forward regarding the Thoroughbred Bureau Director Thomas F. Chuckas, Jr.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to postpone action on item 4. (g); Approve the Standardbred Bureau Director.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Sweeney, and unanimously passed to table item 4. (h); Ratify/adopt previously approved employee policy called the “Race Reduction-Change of Race Schedule,” (March 28, 2016) (SHRC Policy No. 2016-2).

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Ruddy, and unanimously passed to ratify item: 5. (a) (vii); Ratify the Standardbred and Thoroughbred simulcast signals for April, May and June 2016, for the following: The Meadows, Pocono Downs, Harrah’s Philadelphia, Parx Racing, Penn National, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner De Bunda and, seconded by Commissioner Rogers, and unanimously passed to approve item: 5. (a) (vii): Approve the Standardbred and Thoroughbred simulcast signals for July, 2016, for the following: The Meadows, Pocono Downs, Harrah’s Philadelphia, Parx Racing, Penn National, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and, seconded by Commissioner De Bunda, and unanimously passed to approve item 5. (b); Approve all but 3 of the items on the Consolidated Fee Schedule (SHRC Policy No. 2016-1).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on July 27, 2016, at The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture room 309, in Harrisburg, PA.

- Executive Session 10:00 A.M
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Redding adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Remmert  
Acting Bureau Director  
Bureau of Thoroughbred Horse Racing

Fred R. Strathmeyer Jr.  
Acting Bureau Director  
Bureau of Standardbred Horse Racing