



MINUTES

Oregon Racing Commission January 20, 2011

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, January 20, 2011 in Room 1B of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chairman Stan Robson, Vice-Chairman Christopher Dudley, Commissioner Michael Huber, DVM, Commissioner Charles Williamson and Commissioner Kerry Johnson

Staff: Randy Evers (Executive Director) and Kelly Gabliks (Assistant Attorney General)

Call to Order

Commission Chairman Stan Robson called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

Approvals:

January 20, 2011 Meeting Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Moved by: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commissioner Dudley

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

November 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the November 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Moved by: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Huber

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

Old Business:

Sub-Committee Update Reports:

- a. Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) and Multi-jurisdictional Hubs
Commissioner Johnson stated that the sub-committee met this morning prior to the Commission meeting. They discussed the results of the ADW Forum that was held in the Portland State Office Building on January 19, 2011 between Commission Executive Director Randy Evers, ADW Manager Audrey Kauffman and stakeholders. The sub-committee reviewed the proposed rule changes and had general dialog on the issues. Commissioner Johnson thanked the stakeholders for coming and participating in the process and for bringing forward some good ideas.
- b. Best Practices
Commissioner Dudley stated that the 2010 performance evaluation document for Executive Director Evers has been signed and is now official. He instructed Commissioners to request a copy via e-mail if they so choose. Commission Chair Robson stated that there would be a short discussion at the end of the Commission meeting regarding some fine tuning of the goals, mission and best practices.
- c. Budget and Hub Funds
Commissioner Johnson stated that the sub-committee met that morning prior to the Commission meeting. The sub-committee reviewed the budget projections for the remainder of this biennium and the coming biennium. Commissioner Johnson reported that the Commission will send out the hub fund applications in the next few weeks. The committee is projecting that they will discuss allocation requests at the next sub-committee meeting in March. Tentatively, the requests will be presented for approval by the Commission in April.

Directors Evers stated that the Commission's budget is in good shape for the remainder of the 2009-2011 biennium. Director Evers reported that for the 2011-2013 biennium all agencies are waiting for the Governor to announce his budget on February 1, 2011. Once the Governor has announced his budget, Director Evers will share the Governor's recommended budget with the Commissioners.

There is anticipation that the smaller Boards and Commissions will have their budgets in front of the Ways and Means Committee early in the session. Director Evers stated that it is possible the Racing Commission will have its budget in front of the Ways and Means Sub-Committee in February. The Ways and Means Committee may hold public session to receive all testimony that will be presented. The Committee will then hold all budgets until May when the next economic forecast comes out as this is what the legislature must use to balance. Director Evers stated that it will be at this time when the ORC will be notified whether there will be additional cuts or if our budget will be approved.

d. Medication and Horse Welfare

Commissioner Huber stated that there was a sub-committee meeting scheduled for the morning of the Commission Meeting but regrettably had to be canceled due to a scheduling conflict. Commissioner Huber stated that there is no recent news to report, but there has been a revision of statistics as of Monday, January 17, 2011 regarding fatalities. Commissioner Huber reported that the average fatality rate for this year is currently at 1.79% per 1000 starters which is below the national benchmark of 2.0% per 1000 starters.

e. Executive Director's Report

Director Evers stated that he had three things to present in his report; (1) The Arizona Symposium that he attended; (2) the summer fairs meeting on January 8, 2011; and (3) the ORC's legislative concepts.

Arizona Symposium

Director Evers stated that the keynote speaker at the Symposium in December was Bob Evans, the Chief Executive Officer of Churchill Downs (who runs the Kentucky Derby). Director Evers reported that Mr. Evans gave a very interesting talk about the future of horse racing. He made it clear that one solution, from a businessman's perspective is that in order to keep racing going people have to expect some reasonable return on their investment.

Some additional highlights from Mr. Evan's presentation included:

- There are about 52 commercial race tracks operating in the United States right now. The number of tracks should be reduced to twenty in five year's time in order to keep racing successful.
- Mr. Evans stated that the number of live races in the U.S. needs to be reduced by approximately one-third to one-half. The idea is, if you take the handle and the amount of money that is generated by purses and you spread it over less races, you offer a better opportunity for breeders and owners to earn a reasonable return on their investment. (Again, this is just one business model he described.)
- Mr. Evans was adamant that race tracks must look for alternative revenues, such as, gaming. Another recommendation was new partnerships to encourage people to come out to tracks. For example: The Susan G. Komen race day to honor breast cancer survivors and Make-A-Wish Foundation to benefit children.

Director Evers stated that there was a very interesting simulcasting panel of representatives from Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Great Brittan, Singapore, South Africa and France (and, perhaps, others as well). Overall, it was a great turn out. They were there to talk about opportunities in simulcasting. In their countries, the off-track betting sites (OTB's) are open 24-hours, seven days a week. They have a tremendous number of people that want to bet on horse racing at all times. They talked about some of the windows in their broadcasting that

they can't get product for, and indicated that some of the U.S. tracks might be able to fill the demand.

Directors Evers reported that he found it interesting that while in the U.S. we sometimes look at racing as diminishing, as a worldwide sport, there are still opportunities for simulcasting.

Commissioner Huber questioned Director Evers as to any suggestions on why horse racing is still so popular in smaller countries such as Australia? Director Evers acknowledged this as a good question, but Director Evers stated that he would be speculating with any answer and the topic was not talked about at the Symposium.

Directors Evers stated that he moderated an ADW panel discussion. There were four panelists. One of the panelists is licensed in Oregon, while the other three are not. Director Evers reported that at least two of those three are interested in coming to visit Oregon and possibly becoming licensees. Director Evers stated that Hub Manager, Audrey Kauffman, and him continue to try to bring new business to Oregon.

Summer Fairs Meeting

Director Evers reported that on January 8, 2011 he attended the planning meeting for Summer County Fairs held in Salem. Director Evers stated that it was an honor to have Commissioner Dudley and Commissioner Johnson in attendance. Dick Cartney of the Oregon Horseman's Benevolence and Protective Association (OHBPA) was also in attendance. All five fairs had a representative in attendance. Some had several. Director Evers stated that there was a lot of interest in the availability of Hub funds. Safety and security issues were also addressed. There was strong support for last year's racing secretary Shorty Martin back for this summer. On a sad note, it was announced that Jackie McBee of the Josephine County fair will be leaving her position as fair manager.

Commissioner Johnson stated that all in attendance were very complimentary of the ORC's veterinary staff. They also shared many of the marketing ideas that have been working for each of them. Commissioner Johnson stated that she thought it was a very good and productive meeting.

Legislative Concepts

Directors Evers stated that both of the Commission's legislative concepts have bill numbers. They are Senate Bill numbers 148 and 149. They have not yet been assigned to a committee. However, typically the ORC bills go to general government. The general government committee has been assigned on the senate side. The Chair is Senator Chip Shields, the Vice Chair is Senator Larry George and the other members are Senators Suzanne Bonamici, Brian Boquist and Rod Monroe.

Director Evers stated that he suspects this is where the ORC bills will start. The Commission was contacted by Marjorie Taylor, Legislative Coordinator, who coordinates and she suggested that because our bills don't have fiscal impacts and because they appear to be non-controversial that they may be scheduled fairly early. Director Evers reported that he and several of the Commission staff will be going to Salem for the Commission's legislative presentations. Director Evers stated that he will be introducing Audrey Kauffman, the Stewards Mike Twiggs and Martin Hamilton to the legislative process. Nancy Artmann will assist with the budget presentation.

Summer Commission Meeting in La Grande:

Commission Chair Stan Robson stated that it would be a good idea to hold the June Commission meeting in La Grande, Oregon. Commissioner Robson stated that the Commissioners and staff would need to be there June 9 -10, 2011 and that the meeting will be held the morning of June 10, 2011.

Commissioner Williamson questioned whether the Commission would be requiring the ADW license applicants to travel to La Grande to have their applications approved.

Commission Chair Robson stated that the ADW'S would not be required to attend the June meeting for licensing approval because as the Commission will make every effort to meet on licensing approval in the month of May 2011. Commission Chair Robson stated that if there is a delay with an applicant's paperwork the Commission will work out some accommodation for that applicant if they do not care to travel.

Commissioner Williamson requested that staff check into providing a sufficient phone system for the La Grande meeting so that in the event there is a need for an ADW applicant to call in to the June 10, 2011 meeting for license approval we will be prepared. Commissioner Robson stated that the time and location of the La Grande meeting will be announced in a future meeting.

Action: Motion to approve holding the June 2011 Commission meeting in La Grande, Oregon and the date of the meeting to be changed to Friday, June 10, 2011.

Moved By: Commissioner Johnson

Seconded: Commissioner Huber

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

Portland Meadows Report:

Will Alempijevic, General Manager of Portland Meadows (PM) was present to give the PM report. Mr. Alempijevic stated that this was only his second time before the Commission since the start of this meet (with their having been a couple of meeting cancellations).

Mr. Alempijevic reported that after addressing last year's race meet PM decided that there is difficulty with their putting out a competitive product in April. As such, PM met with the Horsemen and tried to devise a schedule that is a little heavy on the number of races in the beginning of the schedule with the target to end at the end of March.

Emerald Downs is a major competitor for PM and offers two-and-a-half times the purse that PM can offer. With Emerald Downs being in such close proximity to PM It's very hard for PM to draw horses, trainers, jockeys, stable hands, and so on, to compete at PM when there is a jurisdiction so close without a grossly different caliber or quality of competition than PM but with grossly different revenues.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that the decision was made to run ten races on Mondays and Tuesdays with nine races being run on Wednesdays for a collective weekly total of 29 races. Traditionally, PM has run 27 races per week. PM stables about eight-hundred horses with the average horse running approximately every three or four weeks. With a full barn, PM believes there is the capacity to run eight horses per race, on average, and put out a competitive product that bettor's are interested in wagering on while filling 29 races. A fourth day of running, moving it toward 36 races would severely hurt PM's ability to put out a competitive product.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that PM really enjoys marketing their product. PM decided to have more compelling reasons for people to want to come to the track, like a special event each month. Mr. Alempijevic stated that just running an ad isn't necessarily a compelling reason to come to the track. In October PM had "Opening Day."

In November, PM for example, scheduled the "Jockey Challenge". Unfortunately, that was canceled by the folks coming in from California to ride in the challenge. In December, PM had "Oregon Championship Day" which was a phenomenal success. Regarding marketing, PM purchased four-hundred Trail Blazer tickets and gave them away that day, which was quite the draw.

In January, PM offered Holiday racing (MLK Day) and on Saturday January 29, 2011 PM will have the "Portland Meadows Oaks" the new signature race. In February, on "Presidents Day" PM will have "Trail Blazers Fun Day." This day of racing will include alumni Trail Blazer dancers and announcers that will be at the track. PM will host a season ticket holders' VIP event in the turf club. In March, PM will have "The Portland Mile" and the "Oregon Derby." This day of racing will be on a Wednesday, during spring break. Hopefully, that will allow more people to attend.

PM faced some weather issues that caused cancellations. This resulted in five lost race days. Mr. Alempijevic reported that PM had comments made to them by the jockeys that the racing surface was not sufficiently illuminated so PM addressed

that issue and had all the bulbs replaced around the track lighting system. The Professionals that PM hired to do that job believe that it has improved illumination on the track by thirty percent. PM had some early morning meetings with the jockeys regarding the lights, unfortunately, as compelled as they were to say that it was a safety issue, only one jockey (Joe Crispin) showed up to actually perform the test at 6:00 a.m.

Mr. Alempijevic stated that he, his operations manager Mark Folkman and Mr. Crispin all walked the track and found the upgrade to be sufficient. This upgrade allows PM to safely run races after sunset. PM may look at moving up the first post time next season so that ten races can run before sunset. This is something that PM intends to discuss with the Commission and partners in racing.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that there were comments from the horsemen's association that the track could be better. While it is great news that PM is currently below the National average for catastrophic breakdowns as reported by Commissioner Huber, PM strives to continue to improve safety. PM hired Mr. Dan Coon to come back and look at the track again in December. Mr. Coon's analysis of the track resulted in the advice to add more sand. PM has added about one thousand yards of new sand to the track with the hope that this will provide a safer track surface and continue to reduce the number of catastrophic breakdowns.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that New York City OTB's have been PM's number one simulcast partner. They closed down on December 7, 2010. On average, the New York City OTB network wagered at about \$80,000 per day on PM races. When you look at PM's average daily export sales, (currently at about \$670,000) that is a loss of about 12% to 14% of the daily handle.

This will affect purses in the future. Fortunately, PM started off this race meet with a little cushion in the purse account which allowed the loss to be absorbed for this meet. However, it will put PM in a worse position ending this meet than the previous year, thus a worse position starting any future meets.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that since the New York City OTB closure there has been ten Portland Meadows race days, which adds up to about \$800,000 of lost bets.

PM has run 37 full race days since the start of this race meet in October versus 41 days last year. PM has run 349 races this year versus 368 races last year for this same time period. PM lost four days of racing (which is over ten percent) but only lost five percent of the races. This is because the schedule was shortened by almost a month with more races run earlier in the meet.

The average runners per race are 7.98 (almost identical to last year's 7.89). The average starters per race are almost the same on Thoroughbred versus Quarter horse; with Thoroughbred being 7.98 versus Quarter horse being 8.02. PM's

average purses per day are \$46,431.00. That is a ten-percent increase from the \$42,000.00 average of last year. PM's purse schedule is identical this year to last year. The increase is because, on average, PM runs one additional race per day. PM's average purse per race is about \$4,000.00.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that PM's average wagering totals are \$24,828.00 every live race day. This is down about 1% from last year's totals of \$25,171.00. In their OTB network that total is about \$7,501.00 versus \$9,000.00 last year; is a decline of about 16.91%. The reason for this decline, in part, is that three OTB's closed. In-state wagering on PM is \$32,000.00 per day which is down a bit from last year's average, of \$34,000.00. The total handle per day is about \$704,000.00 this season versus \$713,000.00 for last season. All things considered PM is happy with these results.

From this point forward its' going to be tough to grow much more. PM has export sales in all major markets with the exception of Las Vegas and Philadelphia (which have no interest in supporting PM). It is possible that PM has plateaued. From here, they will have to try to create new customers from current markets. Mr. Alempijevic reported with the wagering in Oregon from October to the middle of January 2010-2011 versus 2009-2010 has dropped 10% going from \$5.7 million to \$5.1 million. PM's OTB network has processed \$5.1 million versus \$5.9 million in wagers last year which is a drop of 13.43%. The State has processed \$10.2 million in wagers vs. \$11.6 million last year which is an average drop of 12%.

Commissioner Williamson question Mr. Alempijevic regarding why he thought Emerald Downs has the ability to offer higher purses? Is it a higher population, weather, less other gambling available? Mr. Alempijevic stated that they could have a larger market or grants from the casinos up there. It's possible that one of the tribes up there provides them with some funding. Emerald Downs is larger than Portland Meadows; they average about \$100,000.00 per day in purses. Emerald Downs did just issue a press release that stated they will be dropping from 90 race days last year to 82 days this year.

Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Alempijevic to clarify if PM is shortening the race meet for this year. Mr. Alempijevic stated that PM is running less months. Last year, PM ran until the first Saturday in May. This year, PM will run until the end of March. PM intends to run a total of 75 race days barring any cancelations.

Commissioner Johnson questioned how many races will be run during this meet. Mr. Alempijevic stated that PM was scheduled to run 725 races. PM did not fill all ten race cards at the beginning of the meet. Now, with the cancelations, PM will start running eleven races on Mondays and Tuesdays and as long as the horse population and the participants fill the races, they will end at about 690 races.

Commissioner Johnson reported that the ORS requires 720 races and questioned Mr. Alempijevic as to whether PM has a plan to petition the Commission to run

fewer races. Mr. Alempijevic stated that he needed to talk to the horsemen more but that PM did not have a plan to petition the Commission at this time. It was their understanding that when the Commission approved PM's license application, inclusive of the horsemen's agreement, it stipulated that this could be the result of running more in the beginning. Thus the issue was already addressed and approved.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the horsemen's contract was for 725 races. Mr. Alempijevic reported that the contract is with the agreement of 725 races but without the requirement of making up any canceled races.

Director Evers stated that the question is whether according to the ORS the O HBPA and PM are required to petition the Commission if they run fewer than 720 races. AAG Kelly Gabliks stated that, according to statute ORS462.125 (1) the OHBPA is required to petition the Commission with an application if their contract allows for the possibility of running fewer than 720 races.

Commission Chair Robson asked Director Evers to follow-up with the OHBPA and PM to make sure the parties work on this to resolve the problem. Chair Robson asked that Executive Director Evers facilitate the parties bringing a request to petition the Commission at the February meeting.

Mr. Alempijevic stated that he welcomed clarity and that he will make himself and his company's resources available to participate in correcting the problem.

Action: Motion to require the OHBPA to come forward with a petition to amend their application requesting approval to run fewer than 720 races should the OHBPA choose to run fewer races.

Moved By: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commissioner Johnson

Vote: Commissioners Johnson, Huber and Chair Robson -Aye
Commissioners Dudley and Williamson - Nay

Commissioner Huber stated that he brought a group of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year veterinary students to the track on a field trip. It had been raining heavily prior to their visit and Commissioner Huber commented that he was a little worried about how the day would go in regard to safety for the horses. To his surprise, the track looked very good. He was pleased to see how well it is being maintained and how well it held up to so much rain.

The students all had a very good time and came away with a whole new appreciation and respect for the sport, the horses and participants. Commissioner Huber stated that he wanted to publically thank Mr. Alempijevic and his staff for allowing him to bring his students and for how well they were received by all.

Commissioner Johnson stated that she too had taken a large group out to the track for the Oregon Days event and complimented Mr. Alempijevic on what a successful day and wonderful job he and the staff at Portland Meadows did.

New Business:

2011 Summer Race Meet Date Requests for Approval:

Chair Robson requested that Director Evers report on the summer fair race meet applications and dates requested. Director Evers stated that there are no conflicting dates among the meets. The race dates and number of races are the same as last year.

Executive Director stated that there is an additional request to the race meet application. It now requires the applicant to detail the description of their efforts to provide safety and security for horses, humans and property during their race meet.

a. Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

Commissioner Johnson stated that the applications do not clearly address the security detail that was requested in the applications. Commissioner Robson stated that he had the same concern in that they need to be more specific, especially regarding the after hours security.

Commissioner Dudley questioned Director Evers as to whether the fairs were all properly instructed as to the new information requested.

Director Evers stated that the Fairs had all received a cover letter with the new application clearly stating what had changed in the application and the importance of providing this information in detail.

Commissioner Huber stated that he would like to see a motion requiring more specifics about “after hours” security. Commissioner Robson stated he is as concerned about “operating hours” as he is about “after hours” security due to Josephine County having had night time security but no daytime security.

Directors Evers suggested that the Chair and Commissioners send a letter to the fairs addressing their specific concerns and what the Commission would like detailed. Director Evers stated that he would be willing to draft this letter and e-mail the draft to Chair Robson for review. Then either the Chair or the Commissioners could sign it. Chair Robson stated that he felt this would be appropriate.

Action: Motion to conditionally approve the requested race days of June 10- 12, 2011 to be fully approved upon submitting an acceptable, improved plan for safety and security for the horses, humans and property.

Moved By: Commissioner Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

b. Josephine County Fair

Action: Motion to conditionally approve the requested race days of June 18, 19, 25, 26 and July 2, 3, 4, 9, and 10, 2011 to be fully approved upon submitting an acceptable, improved plan for safety and security for the horses, humans and property.

Moved By: Commissioner Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

c. Crooked River Round-Up

Action: Motion to conditionally approve the requested race days of July 13-16, 2011 to be fully approved upon submitting an acceptable, improved plan for safety and security for the horses, humans and property.

Moved By: Commissioner Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

d. Tillamook County Fair

Action: Motion to conditionally approve the requested race days of August 10-13, 2011 to be fully approved upon submitting an acceptable, improved plan for safety and security for the horses, humans and property.

Moved By: Commissioner Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

e. Harney County Fair

Action: Motion to conditionally approve the requested race days of September 9-11, 2011 to be fully approved upon submitting an acceptable, improved plan for safety and security for the horses, humans and property.

Moved By: Commissioner Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

Commissioner Huber questioned Chair Robson whether the Commission addressed the concern about the infield with Harney County. Commissioner Johnson offered that she and Commissioner Dudley attended the Summer Fairs Meeting in Salem and that it was made very clear the concerns of the Commission regarding the rodeo and dogs and that the expectation is that the issue will be corrected.

Approval of Revised Commission Meeting Dates:

Action: Motion to approve the revised Commission meeting dates.

Moved By: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Dudley

Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 nays

Information, Materials and Approvals:

None

Contested Cases:

None

Other Business As May Properly Come Before the Commission:

None

Public Comment:

Wendie Hayes-Pounds and Gay Welliver from the Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (OTOBA) were asked to speak regarding an interesting new Senate Bill, #262, that is in committee now. The reason this bill was originally proposed was to attempt to regulate and track horse traders and to have some effect on the horses that go thru their hands often to a very bad end.

In their efforts to do this, the sponsors are proposing what they are calling a “certificate of ownership.” In doing so, each horse owner would have to spend \$100.00 per horse per year for this “certificate of ownership.” In most cases (not every horse is registered so it doesn’t always have registration papers), the larger part of the horse population probably does have some kind of proof of ownership, through either a brand certificate or through their registration papers. At this time, in order to travel your horse throughout the States, you must have a health certificate and brand inspection that can be very inexpensive to obtain. Another part of this bill requires that every time the horse changes hands, even to a family member, that another \$10.00 be paid for a new certificate.

The sponsors say there would be no more need for a brand inspection with this certificate. Ms. Hayes-Pounds questions what is attempting to be regulated. She asked whether horse breeders are horse traders? Are people at the track who are trying to rehome retired race horses that need new homes and a new job horse traders? What about people who make casual sales of horses?

There is a real definitive problem with people who run upstanding operations that take in rescue horses in crisis, or foster horses in transition, to their new loving homes. These operations cannot afford to spend \$100.00 for every horse that will come into their hands.

Another concern with this bill is that it may cause the casual horse owner in some cases, who are already struggling to maintain their horse, to possibly abandon them. It will also create a real hardship for people at the track who are trying to rehome horses because most of time they have to give them away. It will be very hard to place a horse that will cost \$100.00 to exchange hands when it is being given away. This will squash the effort that is being made to find new good homes and new jobs for those horses. This will produce horrendous expenses for people who run horse businesses.

Ms. Hayes-Pounds concluded by stating the person who presented this bill originally, had good intentions but it is too wide in its scope and will create a terrible burden and hardships for many people in the industry who are trying to do and are doing a good job.

Commission Chair Robson thanked Ms. Hayes-Pounds for bringing this to the attention of the Commission. We all need to be paying attention to these things so that lobbying can be done so that these kinds of bills don't go anywhere.

Commissioner Williamson asked if the Commission is able to take a position on this bill or do they have to obtain approval from the Governor? Commission Chair Robson stated that, as of now, the Commission needs to see if it even makes it to the floor and, if so, it may be questionable whether the Commission can take a position or not. Commissioner Dudley asked what Committee the bill went into.

Ms. Hayes-Pounds stated that Lindy Mintor was the proposer of this bill and the committee it went to is the "Environment Natural Resource Committee". Commissioner Dudley stated that at this time each of us can look into this bill on a personal level but with the understanding that it is not coming from the Commission.

Ms. Welliver commented on Senate Bill #262 by stating that everyone she has spoken to about this (not just race horse people ,but small stable owners and so on) are horrified at the idea of having to license all their horses. This will be prohibitive. This will be an appalling step forward if a person has to license and change licenses every time they buy or sell a horse. Ms. Welliver stated that she couldn't even imagine what it will do to the racing industry.

Commissioner Huber stated that while it's premature for the Commission to take a stand on Senate Bill #262, if not inappropriate, hopefully all the different types of horse associations and groups won't be complacent and will take an active approach to it. Commissioner Huber stated that there are veterinary association groups that are very concerned about this bill as well.

Ms. Welliver thanked the Commissioners and staff for attending the "Oregon Day Championship." It was a great day. She expressed thanks to the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde for their Spirit Mountain Casino sponsorship that allowed Sunday racing. The comments that the OTOBA received about the day have been positively splendid. The OTOBA thanks Portland Meadows for their Trail Blazer tickets giveaway that attracted a younger crowd and helped to create a wonderful day all around. Ms. Welliver again thanked everyone.

Ms. Hayes-Pounds stated that the OTOBA will host a new owner's seminar that will have guest speakers from Owner Breeder Associations nationwide. This seminar will be held on Oregon Oaks Day. The OTOBA will keep the Commission informed.

Ten Minute Break:

Chairman Stan Robson announced a ten minute break at 2:45

Mission, Goals and Best Practices:

After the break Commissioner Dudley stated that he and Commissioner Robson met with the sub-committee to review changes made to the Mission, Goals and Objectives document. The draft was e-mailed by Director Evers to all the Commissioners prior to this meeting for review. Commissioner Dudley stated that Executive Director Evers tried to encompass within this document the comments that were made at the last meeting.

Director Evers reported that the key elements requested by the Commissioners are the items that have been drafted into the landscape of this document: promote live racing , preserve jobs, strong direction, improve security for the protection of horses, humans and property, and to maintain being a leader in ADW licensing, to name a few.

Chair Robson stated that Commissioner Williamson had to leave for a previous commitment but commented to Chair Robson that he thought the Mission document was very well done. Commissioner Dudley stated that one of the comments Commissioner Williamson made to him as he was leaving was that he had concerns about long term goal number two as it states that the Commission will insure the safety and security of horses, humans and property. His concern is that the word “insure” may convey some kind of guarantee when, in fact, the Commission cannot make a guarantee. Commissioner Dudley stated that he did not have that same concern because this is a goal. It isn’t a minimum standard or something the ORC would violate in some inappropriate way if it weren’t met. It is a goal not a guarantee. Goals should be set high. Commissioner Robson stated that he did not see any reason to change the wording.

Commissioner Huber stated that he would like to see a change made to the horse medication and safety sub-committee meetings from a minimum of six meetings per year to four meetings per year. This way they may have more meetings if necessary but that four, as minimum, is a more appropriate number.

Action: Motion to approve the Mission, Goals and Best Practices document as submitted with one change from a minimum of six medication and horse safety sub-committee meetings per year to four per year.

Moved by: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commissioner Johnson

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 nays

Confirmation of the Next Commission Meeting:

Thursday, February 17, 2011 Room 1A at 1:30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.