



MINUTES

Oregon Racing Commission
November 15, 2012

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, November 15, 2012 in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon.

Call to Order

Commission Chair, Stan Robson, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Stan Robson, Vice-Chair Chris Dudley, Commissioner Charles Williamson, Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM and Commissioner Michael Huber, DVM (by teleconference)

Staff

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

AGENDA ITEMS

Approvals:

November 15, 2012 Meeting Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: Chair Robson took roll and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the October 18, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

Moved by: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Vote: Chair Robson took roll and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Old Business:

Sub-Committee Update Reports:

- a. Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) and Multi-jurisdictional Hubs
Commissioner Williamson stated that the sub-committee has not met since the last ORC meeting. He stated that the Commission might be interested in keeping an eye on how BetFair's new form of gambling develops.
- b. Best Practices
No Report
- c. Budget and Hub Funds
No Report
- d. Medication and Horse Welfare
Commissioner Huber stated that the sub-committee has not met. He stated that they are scheduled to have a meeting in January.
- e. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Randy Evers stated that he had several things to share. He attended the Grants Pass fair board meeting. He stated that the fair board has not made a final decision whether or not they will run the race meet at Grants Pass Downs. He reported that after conversations with the fair board members, it sounds very unlikely that they will run the race meet but they may partner with the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA) and let them run it.

Executive Director Evers stated that he is scheduled to attend the Racing Commissioners International (RCI) symposium in December and that there is a full agenda. The agenda will include time spent on rules and a variety of continued racing industry education.

The advanced deposit wagering (ADW) companies will have representation present at the symposium as well, and that gives us good opportunity to spend some time with them.

Executive Director Evers stated that the ORC office will be closed for Thanksgiving, November 22nd and for the mandatory furlough day on Friday, November 23rd.

Executive Director Evers reported that Dr. Stacy Katler mailed a letter this morning to explain that there was a horse exhibiting neurologic symptoms severe enough that it needed to be euthanized. He reported that the track has been quarantined until samples are tested and results come back hopefully negative for any contagious organism. These are precautionary steps to ensure horse safety.

Commissioner Williamson asked if it would be advantageous to have Jill Miller attend the RCI symposium since she is moving into the ADW manger position. Director Evers stated that he thought that was a great idea.

Director Evers thanked Jan Klukis and stated that she has done a great job for the ORC. He stated that Jill Miller will be stepping into the ADW manger position as Jan will be moving on to her new role at the Oregon Housing and Community Services Agency where she will be the Assistant to the Executive Director.

Jan Klukis thanked the Commissioners and the ORC for the opportunity to work with ORC and staff. She stated that she has enjoyed the position and offered her assistance if needed in the future.

f. **Portland Meadows' Report**

Will Alempijevic, General Manager of Portland Meadows (PM) provided a copy of the regular monthly PM report to the Commissioners. He reported that so far this race meet, PM has run 47 race days with two partial cancelations. The average field size has diminished by approximately 11%. This meet, there are, on average, 6.73 runners per race versus 7.6 runners per race last meet. PM has run 356 Thoroughbred horse races and 65 Quarter Horse races this meet with an average daily purse of \$39,117.00. This is a nominal drop in purse money of 4.5% from last meet.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that with regard to wagering on PM races, the on track handle has averaged \$28,700.00 for this meet versus \$22,800.00 last meet. This is an increase of approximately 27%. Attendance has gone up with summer racing but the handle has not increased as much as we would like to see.

The handle on PM races at PM's off-track betting sites (OTBs) has also diminished with an average \$4200.00 per race day versus last year's handle of \$7,500.00 per race day.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that Oregon's in-state wagering on PM is on average \$33,000.00 per live race day. This is an 8.5% increase over the last race meet average of \$30,380.00.

PM export sales have picked-up but are still not as good a last year's sales. Last year PM averaged \$612,000.00 per day in export sales. This year, PM is averaging \$234,000.00 per day which is a drop of approximately 62%.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that, on a daily basis, PM is processing approximately \$267,000.00 in wagers on PM races this year versus \$642,000.00 last year.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that with regard to wagering in Oregon, on-track, PM has processed \$6.483 million dollars in wagers versus \$5.5 million last year. This is an increase of 17%. At the OTB network, PM processed \$5.3 million this year versus \$5.9 million last year which is a drop of almost 8.85% in state. Combined, PM has processed \$11.8 million dollars in wagers this year versus \$11.4 million last year which is an increase of 3.75%.

Mr. Alempijevic stated that "Oregon Championship Day" is the last big event for PM on Sunday, November 18th. He stated that there has been a large amount of advertising done for this event so they hope it will be a successful day.

g. Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG) update

Commissioner Palmer stated that FROG has been meeting for almost a year. She reported that the attendance at the November meeting was good. She stated that the summer fairs were becoming more involved. There was discussion regarding the results of the election and how FROG will proceed to the legislature. There was discussion as to how FROG can help the summer fairs. The Jockey incentive program will be revisited in March.

New Business:

Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA):

Rod Lowe of the SOHRA was present to introduce SOHRA to the Commissioners. He stated that SOHRA is investigating whether it will be possible for them to run the Grants Pass Downs race meet for the 2013 summer circuit. He gave some history regarding the experience that SOHRA has in order to run a successful race meet. He stated that SOHRA owns all the racing equipment that Josephine County uses.

Mr. Lowe stated that the expense of the jockey insurance has gone up. If SOHRA requests permission from the ORC to run the meet, it will be asking the ORC to pay for the portion of the insurance that belongs to Grants Pass. SOHRA is reviewing and developing a budget to decide whether it will make the request to run the race meet.

ORC Meeting Dates:

The Commissioners discussed the proposed dates and agreed that meetings will remain on the third Thursday of each month.

Oregon Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association (OTOBA):

Lynnelle Smith, Executive Director of the OTOBA reported that Oregon Championship Day is on Sunday, November 18, 2012. It is the biggest race day of the meet for the OTOBA. She stated that the OTOBA and Portland Meadows have received sponsorship from Spirit Mountain to split. She extended a sincere thank you to Portland Meadows for their outstanding effort in advertising this meet.

Ms. Smith stated that she also wanted to discuss the owner bonuses and breeder awards. She stated that typically the awards pay out in July. Due to the change in the race schedule, the OTOBA board has voted to request permission from the ORC to release a partial payment in January. The breeder awards will be paid in full which is 10% of the wins at PM. The OTOBA board felt this would be helpful to the owners and may prevent any possible hardships that having to wait until July might create.

Action: Motion to approve the OTOBA to release partial payment of the owner and breeder awards in January as requested by the board.

Moved by: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Vote: Chair Robson took roll and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Information, Materials and Approvals:

None

Contested Cases:

None

Other Business As May Properly Come Before the Commission:

Nominations Committee:

Commissioner Palmer stated that she and Commissioner Williamson met earlier in the month to discuss nominations. She reported that after much conversation they chose to nominate Vice-Chair Christopher Dudley to the position of Chair and Commissioner Charles Williamson to the position of Vice-Chair.

Action: Motion to nominate Vice-Chair Christopher Dudley for the position of ORC Chair.

Moved by: Commissioner Palmer

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Commission Chair Robson stated that Commission Vice-Chair Dudley has been nominated to Commission Chair. He asked three times if there were any other nominations for the position of Chair. Chair Robson then requested a motion to close nominations for Chair.

Moved by: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: Chair Robson took roll to close nominations and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Vote: Chair Robson took roll for election of Christopher Dudley to the position of ORC Chair and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Action: Motion to nominate Charles Williamson for the position of ORC Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Commissioner Palmer

Seconded: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Commission Chair Robson stated that Commissioner Charles Williamson has been nominated for the position of ORC Vice-Chair. He asked three times if there were any other nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Chair Robson then requested a motion to close nominations for Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Vote: Chair Robson took roll to close nominations and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Vote: Chair Robson took roll for election of Charles Williamson to the position of ORC Vice-Chair and the results were 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Public Comment:

Chair Robson stated that it has been a great honor to serve as Chair for three years and Vice-Chair, prior to that for two and a half years.

Confirmation of the Next Commission Meeting:

Chair Robson announced that the ORC will not have a December ORC meeting due to a light agenda.

The next ORC meeting will be Thursday, January 17, 2012 Room 1B of the Portland State Office Building at 1:30p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20p.m.