



MINUTES

Oregon Racing Commission April 17, 2014

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, April 17, 2014 in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon

Call to Order

Commission Chair, Chris Dudley, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Chris Dudley, Vice-Chair Charles Williamson, Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM,

Staff

Jack McGrail, Executive Director and Kelly Gabliks, Assistant Attorney General

Excused

Commissioner Michael Huber, DVM and Commissioner Angel Baez

AGENDA ITEMS

Approvals:

April 17, 2014 Meeting Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous with 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

March 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the March 20, 2014 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Old Business:

Sub-Committee Update Reports:

a. Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) and Multi-jurisdictional Hubs

No Report

b. Best Practices

No Report

c. Budget and Hub Funds

Commissioner Palmer stated that the sub-committee met prior to the ORC meeting. She stated that there will be discussion and recommendations later in the meeting under new business.

d. Medication and Horse Welfare

No Report

e. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jack McGrail stated that the summer race meet jockey insurance agreement has been entered into. He stated that the Commission has requested a check for the funds that were allocated to assist with the insurance and will forward the check to Dean Noyes at Crooked River Round-Up (CRRU) when it arrives. Director McGrail thanked Rod Lowe for putting together a proposal of repairs for the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association's (SOHRA) starting gate. He also thanked him for attending the ORC meeting to make his case for the funds that SOHRA has requested. The ORC asked each of the fairs to submit a proposal for financial assistance to complete starting gate repairs if assistance was needed. SOHRA was the only fair that submitted one.

Director McGrail stated that the medication and horse welfare sub-committee is scheduled to meet in May. The meeting is to review and possibly make final decisions regarding uniform medication rules from the Racing Medication Testing Consortium (RMTC). The sub-committee will make recommendations to the ORC regarding adoption once all interested parties have had the opportunity to be heard.

Director McGrail stated that the ORC has authorized purchase of helmets and vests for the summer circuit gate crew and it will be mandatory that they are worn.

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

Commissioner Jan Palmer stated that the group met Thursday April 10, 2014 at Portland Meadows.

The group discussed their financial accounts and legislative activity. She stated that the group also had discussion regarding pari-mutuel exchange wagering.

Action: Motion to authorize the ORC Executive Director Jack McGrail to submit two legislative concepts to the extent allowable by the Governor's office:

- 1) Fines for those who request a hearing and then don't show up for their hearing.
- 2) ORC retention of the one-third hub funds that are currently paid to the general fund.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

New Business:

Review and Possible Approval of Summer Race Meet Applications Form B & C:

a. Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (EOLS)

Action: Motion to approve Form B & C of the EOLS race meet application and letter that was submitted stating that they do not need financial assistance with starting gate repairs.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

b. Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA)

Action: Motion to approve Form B & C of the SOHRA race meet application & \$12,000.00 for costs towards the starting gate repairs that are listed in the proposal letter requesting financial assistance with the condition that all the repairs listed in the proposal are completed.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

c. Crooked River Round-Up (CRRU)

Action: Motion to approve Form B & C of the CRRU race meet application and letter that was submitted stating that they do not need financial assistance with starting gate repairs.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

d. Tillamook County Fair (TCF)

Action: Motion to approve Form B & C of the TCF race meet application.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

e. Harney County Fair (HCF)

Action: Motion to approve Form B & C of the HCF race meet application and letter that was submitted stating that they do not need financial assistance with starting gate repairs.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Budget and Hub Funds Discussion:

Commissioner Palmer stated that a request came in from Portland Meadows (PM) for \$25,000.00 to use for promotion of the 2014-2015 race meet. The proposal states that PM will match the funds bringing the total to \$50,000.00 to be used for promotion of the race meet. After review and discussion of the budget in the sub-committee meeting the budget sub-committee is recommending approval of the request.

Action: Motion to approve additional hub funds in the amount of \$25,000.00 to be distributed to Portland Meadows after July 1, 2014 and that PM matches and uses the funds for promotion of the 2014-2015 race meet as stated in their request.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Information, Materials and Approvals:

None

Contested Cases:

None

Other Business As May Properly Come Before the Commission:

Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (OTOBA):

Lynnelle Smith, Executive Director of the OTOBA thanked the Commission for the hub funds that were allocated to the OTOBA. She stated that in January the Commission approved the OTOBA to pay out a portion of the funds for the owner's bonuses and breeders awards. She stated that \$26,925.00 has been to thirty-seven (37) breeders for the breeder's awards. The breeder's awards are paid with the hub funds received from the ORC. She reported that a portion of the owner's bonus \$112,888.00 was paid to 100 owners. The funds for the owner's bonuses come from the .75% that is paid to the OTOBA that is required by statute from wagering. This was a partial payment that was paid in January. The next payment will be paid in July.

Director Smith stated that the OTOBA conducted their annual banquet at Spirit Mountain. The Banquet was held in March and the group was honored to have the ORC's Chair Dudley and his wife Renee in attendance. The OTOBA's "Horse of the Year" award went to Maddy's Gold owned by Hurliman Enterprises, bred by George Hurliman and is trained by Debbie Ferguson. The OTOBA was very pleased to select George and Rose Hurliman as the OTOBA's "Breeders of the Year". George and Rose will travel to Kentucky for the National TOBA awards to represent Oregon.

Director Smith stated that she provided the instant racing agreement between the OTOBA, OHBPA and PM for review and possible approval by the Commission. She stated that the OTOBA board members have conveyed that this agreement is acceptable and reasonable.

Action: Motion to approve the instant racing agreement between the OTOBA, OHBPA and PM.

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous 3 Ayes, 0 Nays

Public Comment:

Portland Meadows:

Will Alempijevic, General Manager of PM thanked the ORC for the hub funds that have been allocated to PM. He stated that it made a significant difference in the success of the race meet. He provided a letter to Chair Dudley from PM's parent company the Stronach Group and shared its contents for public record. He stated that PM and the Stronach Group are strong advocates of the National Uniform Medication Program and strongly urge the ORC to adopt their rules.

Dear Chair Dudley:

Over the past several years, there has been much discussion and concern within the Thoroughbred industry, as well as from the public, in regards to a ban on the use of race-day medications. I feel strongly that the sport of Thoroughbred racing can not only survive the elimination of race-day medications but flourish and invigorate itself while cultivating new fans from around the world. The breeding industry will become more vigorous, our horses will become stronger, and our jockeys will be safer.

The Stronach Group is supportive of all initiatives that help achieve the goal of horses competing free from the influence of medication. We fully support the National Uniform Medication Program which seeks to limit the number of therapeutic medications that are needed for the routine treatment of horses and sets medication thresholds and withdrawal time guidelines. The program also provides penalty recommendations that specifically address repeat medication offenders. In order to be fair and effective, these reforms must be adopted and implemented by all racing states.

We as track operators, horsemen, and regulators must do everything we can to eliminate race-day medications. I strongly believe that medications used on race-day can mask pain, and this can lead to catastrophic injuries that put our jockeys and equine athletes in great danger.

The integrity of our sport and the safety of our athletes, both equine and human, should and must always be of paramount concern. On behalf of Portland Meadows, I am respectfully requesting the Oregon Racing Commission implement this program as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Frank Stronach
Founder & Honorary Chairman
The Stronach Group

Confirmation of the Next Commission Meeting:

The next ORC meeting will be Thursday, May 15, 2014, at 1:30pm in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR 97232

Adjournment:

Action: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Vote: Chair Dudley took roll and the results were unanimous with 3 Ayes, 0 Nays