

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION APRIL 21, 2005

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, April 21, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 140, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR. Commissioners in attendance were Lisa Metcalf, Jeff Gilmour and Todd Thorne and Julianne Davis. Chair Steve Walters was excused. In his absence Commissioner Thorne acted as chair pro tem. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Approval of March 17, 2005, Minutes

ACTION: MOTION (Metcalf) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

2. 2005 Summer Fair Race Meet Applications

a. Grants Pass Downs Simulcast – *cont'd from 3/17/05*

Al Westhoff, JCF, and Rod Lowe, SOHRA, were present to continue the discussion on their request for hub funds to simulcast the Grants Pass races to the Oregon OTB network. During the discussion Jodi Hanson asked specific questions regarding the financial information Mr. Westhoff provided in the request. She explained the ORC as well as Josephine County Fair is experiencing financial problems in fulfilling its regulatory responsibilities in light of current budgetary constraints mandated by state government.

ACTION: MOTION(Gilmour) Approve the request to allow Grants Pass to simulcast their races to the Oregon OTB network.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

ACTION: MOTION(Gilmour) Deny request to provide funding to simulcast the Grants Pass races.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

b. Crooked River Roundup Association – July 6, 7, 8 and 9

Jodi Hanson summarized the contents of the race meet application and recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Gilmour) Approve the race meet application and delegate authority to the executive director to approve any changes in race meet officials.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

c. Harney County Fair – September 9, 10 and 11

Jodi Hanson summarized the contents of the race meet application and recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Metcalf) Approve the race meet application and delegate authority to the executive director to approve any changes in race meet officials.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

3. MEC Oregon Racing, Inc. Request to Continue Simulcast Activities After April 24, 2005

With the absence of greyhound racing this summer, Chris Dragone stated they were requesting that the commission allow Portland Meadows to continue their simulcast activities beyond April 24th. While there is currently a bill being considered by the legislature that would allow them to conduct simulcast activities on a year-round basis, it is fairly certain that the legislative change will not be implemented prior to the end of racing at

Portland Meadows. It was the consensus of the commission that the pending legislation would be passed, however, Chair pro tem Thorne stated he wanted assurance from ORC legal counsel, Raul Ramirez, that the commission had the authority to grant the request. Mr. Ramirez reported the commission is bound by the statute currently in place which states the commission may authorize off-race course mutuel wagering only during that time when the licensee is authorized to conduct live racing. Mr. Dragone responded by saying he didn't particularly care how the commission arrived at their decision just so long as their request to simulcast was granted.

Dick Cartney, representing the OHBPA, expressed concern regarding the fact there was no horsemen's contract coverage from the end of the Portland Meadows race meet until the new law becomes enacted. Their preference would be that there be a limitation as to the amount of time allowed to simulcast without the new law.

Charlie Williamson, attorney, speaking on behalf of the OGBA and OGA, supported the simulcasting request, and asked that two percent of the greyhound simulcast revenue be set aside for adoption kennel expenses. Commissioner Gilmour reminded the OGBA and the OGA that the commission is on record as stating the adoption kennel will not be abandoned by the ORC and that funding will be provided, possibly even from Tier 2 hub funds.

ACTION: MOTION (Gilmour) Grant the request to extend the Portland Meadows race meet, per current statute, through May 31, 2005, which will allow them to continue simulcasting into Oregon races from out of state.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

4. Portland Meadows Race Meet Report

Chris Dragone reported the handle figures are still down in about the same amount as they have been. He also stated there are no plans to make up the lost days of racing incurred during the season.

5. Discussion of Allocation of Hub Funds for 2005 for Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association

Dick Cartney resubmitted the OHBPA request for hub funding to help defray the expense to horsemen for summer stabling at Portland Meadows and shipping fees for horses stabled at Portland Meadows to be shipped to Grants Pass for races in which they have been entered to run.

ACTION: MOTION(Gilmour) Set aside Tier 2 hub funds in the amounts of up to \$40,000 for summer stabling at Portland Meadows and up to \$10,000 for shipping to Grants Pass to be used to help defray horsemen's expenses.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

6. Consideration for Proposals for Use of Training Track Funds Generated from 2004 MGP Race Meet

This item was placed on the agenda as a continuation of an agenda item from the March 17, 2005, commission meeting regarding the status of training track funds generated from the 2004 MGP race meet. Jill Miller, Supervisor of Pari-mutuels, confirmed during the meeting that there was \$30,900 being held by MEC Oregon Racing, Inc. in the training track fund account. Chair Walters, after receiving clarification from Raul Ramirez that the commission had discretion on the use of the funds, suggested that the OGBA, OGA and Magna submit proposals which would be accepted until

around April 7 in order to be considered at the April commission meeting. Ron Weeden, representing the OGBA, stated their board of directors initially had considered holding the training track funds in reserve until such time as a new track operator was licensed to conduct a greyhound race meet in Oregon. Upon further consideration, the board of directors amended their proposal by requesting those funds be allocated to the OGA adoption kennel to assist them in meeting their financial obligations incurred while caring for greyhounds housed at the kennel while waiting to be placed into adoptive homes. Chris Dragone then reported there were no funds left in the training track account. Staff was then directed to look into the discrepancies as to the availability of funds and to report back to the commission at the May meeting.

7. Confirmation of Next Commission Meeting – May 19, 2005

All present will be able to attend.

8. Legislative Update

Jodi Hanson reported that SB 929 had a public hearing before the General Government senate sub-committee on March 22nd followed by a work session on April 14th.

9. Proposed Medication Rule

Jodi Hanson reported that staff had presented some proposed changes to current medication rules.

ACTION: MOTION(Metcalf) Direct staff to initiate the rulemaking process.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

10. Proposed Jockey Rule

Jodi Hanson reported staff had presented some proposed changes to current rules pertaining to jockeys.

ACTION: MOTION(Metcalf) Direct staff to initiate the rulemaking process.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

11. OTOBA Request for 2005 Tier 2 Hub Funds

Ursula Gibbons presented a request for disbursement of Tier 2 hub funds for 2005 in the amount of \$122,730 to be used for promoting and enhancing Oregon's Thoroughbred breeding and racing industry. After listening to Ms. Gibbons' presentation it was the consensus of the commission to take no action at this time on the requests.

12. OQHRA Request for Hub Funding for AQHA Challenge for Two Year Olds

Jackie Phillips and Leah Nelson made an additional request for hub funds in the amount of \$5,000 for the AQHA Challenge race that was originally scheduled to run at LeBois in Boise. It is unknown at this point in time as to where or not LeBois will be running this year, and this request would be used to help fund the race if it ends up being run in Grants Pass.

ACTION: MOTION(Gilmour) Set aside Tier 2 hub funds in the amounts of \$5,000 for the AQHA Challenge race in the event it ends up running in Grants Pass instead of LeBois.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

13. OGA Adoption Kennel Operations Status Report

Dick Gage reported they currently have forty greyhounds in the adoption kennel. At times they have had as many as fifty-four. Mr. Gage stated they

are close to finalizing a new location for the adoption kennel to become effective mid May. He also stated he will be presenting his long range goals in response to a request from Commissioner Gilmour to provide an exit plan for the adoption kennel.

14. Added Item

Commissioner Gilmour suggested that the commission and staff look into the possibility of working with other racing jurisdictions in our area to create a regional West Coast medication policy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.