

# MEETING MINUTES

## OREGON RACING COMMISSION

December 20, 2007

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chair Stan Robson, Chris Dudley, and Charles Williamson. Chair Kerry Johnson was excused.

Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

### 1. Approval of Agenda

The commissioners had no additions or changes to the agenda.

### 2. November 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

ACTION: MOTION (Williamson) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

### 3. November 21, 2007 Special Teleconference Minutes

ACTION: MOTION (Williamson) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

### 4. Portland Meadows Race Meet Report

Will Alempijevic, Director of Wagering and Guest Services, Portland Meadows, and Jerry Kohls, Manager of Racing/Racing Secretary, Portland Meadows, were present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

On-track and off-track, all product handle was up 6% from last year; live wagering, on Tuesday, December 18, 2007, Portland Meadows set an all time record of 1.14 million; in state wagering was up about 2% from last year with an average of \$37,000; export sales averaged \$365,000 [up 21%]; total average race day was about \$400,000 compared to last year's \$337,000, a 19% increase.

As of Sunday, December 16, they had run 9 more races than at this time last year; the average field size was the same as last year, at seven and a half per race; 760 horses were currently stabled at Portland Meadows, about 50 more than last year.

⇒ In response to Commissioner Williamson's question, Mr. Alempijevic provided that this year's success was built off of last year's success which occurred when they changed their racing days to the Sunday, Monday, Tuesday schedule. He added that, as part of TrackNet Media Group, they had also been able to enter new markets that had been previously closed to them.

- ⇒ Commissioner Dudley asked if the shortened year attributed to the improved numbers to which Mr. Alempijevic replied that it impacted it positively; purses were up 11.5 % resulting in better and more competitive races.
- ⇒ Looking at the on-track and OTB in-state wagering total average of \$37,500, Commissioner Dudley asked if the fewer live racing days would erase the growth seen this year by the end of the season; Mr. Alempijevic replied, "If you're looking at a gross figure, yes. It would be hard for us to run on average 20% less and then make up for that with the fewer days."
- ⇒ Executive Director Evers stated, "I don't want to let the million dollar day go by without a little bit of a celebration. I think we ought to stand up and hoop and holler a little bit because that is a significant event, I think, in Oregon racing to have a million dollar day. It was just about four months ago that we were wondering whether we were going to be racing in Oregon. So, to go from that point in time to have – and I think Monday we were at \$999,000 for handle, Tuesday we hit 1.1 million. I think it is a monumental event. We've dealt with some pretty tough issues in the last four months. We've had a disagreement about Instant Racing; we've had an ADW issue. I think it's really just a nice time to say great job to everybody. Ursula's here from the Breeder's Association; Dick Cartney's here from the HBPA; we've got a handicapper in the audience that helped make the handle. I want to thank Portland Meadows and the management, Dwayne Yuzik's been a major player, Dwayne's not here today, but Will, Jerry, the other folks at Portland Meadows management have just really stepped up and done a great job to make racing successful in this state. I just think we ought to celebrate the moment and say thank you very much."

##### **5. Confirmation of Next Commission Meeting – January 17, 2007**

All commissioners indicated that they would be present at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Vice Chair Robson announced that the day after the meeting, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, Executive Director Randy Evers and the commissioners would be touring the backside of the track.

Randy Evers added that the Hub fund requests from the fair meets and associations were due by the end of December and asked that the different groups be present at the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide the commissioners with information about their plans for those requested funds.

The commissioners also discussed the possible change of the February meeting date due to Vice Chair Robson and Executive Director Randy Evers being unavailable.

## **6. Final Order on Donald W. Murphy**

Donald Murphy, without attorney representation, was present and provided oral testimony regarding the commission's Proposed Order issued on October 4, 2007.

*At this time, the Commission entered into Executive Session and upon their return continued the meeting with the same agenda item:*

ACTION: MOTION (Williamson) Adopt the proposed order to revoke his license for two years as the final order with requested clerical changes.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

## **7. Public Comment**

None.

⇒ Commissioner Dudley attended Oregon Championship Day and commented that it was a very successful race day and that he'd enjoyed all that he'd learned and looked forward to learning more during their tour of the backside next month.

⇒ Vice Chair Robson stated that, as the commissioners were all new, it would take time to bring them up to speed on the racing industry, but that they were finding it an exciting process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.