



MINUTES

Oregon Racing Commission November 17, 2011

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, November 17, 2011 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, Commissioner Michael Huber, DVM, Commissioner Charles Williamson and Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

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

Absent

Commission Vice-Chair Christopher Dudley

AGENDA ITEMS

Approvals:

November 17, 2011 Meeting Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted with the addition of Commissioner Jan Palmer reporting on the "Future of Racing in Oregon" meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Huber

Seconded: Commissioner Williamson

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

September 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion to approve the September 15, 2011 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

Moved by: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commission Huber

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Old Business:

Sub-Committee Update Reports:

- a. Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) and Multi-jurisdictional Hubs
Commissioner Williamson stated that the ADW sub-committee is scheduled to meet later in the day. Currently there is nothing to report.
- b. Best Practices
Nothing to report
- c. Budget and Hub Funds
Commission Chair Stan Robson stated that the Sub-Committee met Thursday, November 17, 2011 before the ORC meeting. Chair Robson stated that the Sub-Committee received budget information for both the ORC and the Racing Development funds. Everything is on-track at this time. There will be more detailed budget information finalized by next month.
- d. Medication and Horse Welfare
Commissioner Huber stated that the Sub-Committee met that morning. They discussed three topics:
 - ❖ Veterinary presence during training hours at the track;
 - ❖ The use of medication; specifically Bute and Lasix; and
 - ❖ Safety issues at the Burns race meet.

With regard to the use of Bute and Lasix, the Sub-Committee plans to hold a stakeholder meeting for the discussion of this issue. The meeting will be held in the racing office at Portland Meadows. The date and time are pending, December 11th is being considered.

The Sub-Committee is reviewing safety at the Burns race meet. The Sub-Committee will create an outline of the issues discussed. It will be presented to the Commissioners at the next meeting with the changes that the Sub-Committee would like to see implemented.

- e. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Evers stated that he is scheduled to attend the winter Arizona Racing Symposium December 5, 2011 thru December 9, 2011. On December 9th there is a Racing Commissioners International (RCI) meeting that he will also attend.

Director Evers reported that the ORC office will be closed on Thursday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving Holiday and Friday, November 25th for the State mandatory furlough day.

f. **Portland Meadows' Report**

Will Alempijevic, General Manager of Portland Meadows (PM), provided the Commissioners with the written Portland Meadows report. Mr. Alempijevic presented the Portland Meadows' report during public session. He reminded the Commissioners that the last meet at PM started at the beginning of October and this meet began in the middle of October. He stated that the days run and income produced will be much different for the beginning of the meet year over year. Last meet there were 18 race days run by this same time frame. The current meet has had 12 race days. The average number of runners per race is similar with 7.86 runners per race this meet and 7.85 runners on average last meet.

The average purse this meet is \$40,525.00 which is a drop of almost 6% from the previous meet's purse average of \$43,100.00. Mr. Alempijevic stated that last year at this time the New York (NY) off-track betting sites (OTB's) were still in business during this same time frame. He stated that PM is facing great difficulties without the income generated by the NY OTB's. Mr. Alempijevic stated that PM has lost approximately \$60,000.00 in handle, per day, due to the NY OTB's closures.

PM's "on track" handle for the current meet is approximately \$23,641.00 which is a drop of 4.8% from the previous year of \$24,800.00. PM's OTB's have processed, on average, approximately \$7,000.00 in bets per live race day, which is a 5% drop from \$7,300.00 total from the previous meet. The total in-state wager on live racing from Portland Meadows in an average daily basis is \$30,611.00 for this meet which is a drop of almost 5% from \$32,200.00 in the previous meet.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that PM is down about 29% year over year in export sales. PM is averaging approximately \$432,000.00 this year versus \$610,000.00 last year. This is a drop of almost \$180,000.00 in bets per day on export sales.

Mr. Alempijevic stated that PM has designed several promotional marketing plans to revive old players and appeal to new ones. The "Showvivor" promotion is doing very well with nineteen-hundred (1900) registered players.

The "Rewards" promotion that has been implemented for players is a point system where bettors earn points for placing bets and when a number of points have been earned they can redeem the reward points for things of value at PM.

In addition, Portland Meadows has designed a claiming series that has generated some energy and excitement and has produced dozens of claims. When claiming a horse out of one of these races, the horse becomes eligible to run in a \$26,000.00 race at the end of the series.

Oregon Championship Day, along with other product that PM offers, will have commercial spots on television.

g. **Future of Racing in Oregon Group (F.R.O.G.) Stakeholder Meeting Update**

Commissioner Palmer reported that on November 10, 2011 the third meeting was held at Portland Meadows.

Meeting Highlights:

- ❖ The group agreed to equally participate in paying for an economic impact study;
- ❖ They will continue with meetings and will learn how to facilitate them with the guidance of the professional facilitator that has facilitated the previous meetings;
- ❖ Review of the 1/3 hub funds that currently go into the general fund and how to possibly recapture those funds; and
- ❖ The next meeting will be on December 8, 2011 at Portland Meadows, 1:00-4:00pm.

New Business:

2012 ORC meeting dates:

Commission Chair Robson stated that the dates for 2012 ORC meetings have been reserved. All 2012 meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month. There will be discussion and a vote at a later meeting regarding Commissioner attendance at the Burn's race meet in 2012. There will be notification if the September ORC meeting time and location is moved.

Action: Motion to approve the ORC 2012 meeting dates as submitted.

Moved by: Commissioner Williamson

Seconded: Commission Huber

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (OTOBA)

Wendie Hayes-Pounds, Executive Director of the OTOBA, provided a detailed handout and presented a recap of the "Summer Race Meet High Point Challenge." This is a contest where the top five horses that earn the most points for the most wins over the five summer meets are awarded prize money. This prize money comes out of the hub funds that have been granted to the OTOBA by the ORC.

Oregon Horseman's Benevolence and Protective Association (OHBPA)

Dick Cartney, Executive Director of the OHBPA stated that the hub funds that are granted to the OHBPA are nearly exclusively used to enhance their purse account. Because of these funds the OHBPA was able to increase each purse by about \$400.00. These funds are critical to the horsemen. The OHBPA also gives a portion of this money to the summer fair meets to help with special races such as a "stake race." Mr. Cartney stated that the OHBPA appreciates what these funds do for the race meets and the horsemen. He thanked the ORC and the Commissioners for their support and generosity with hub funds.

Information, Materials and Approvals:

None

Contested Cases:

None

Other Business As May Properly Come Before the Commission:

None

Public Comment:

None

Confirmation of the Next Commission Meeting:

Thursday, December 15, 2011 Room 1B of the Portland State Office Building at 1:30 pm.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.