



## MINUTES

### Oregon Racing Commission January 19, 2012

#### Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, January 19, 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 Christopher Dudley, Commissioner Charles Williamson and Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

#### Absent

Commissioner Michael Huber, DVM

#### Staff

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

#### Executive Session

Commission Chair, Stan Robson, excused the public meeting at 1:33pm to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters exempt from public disclosure. The public meeting reconvened at 1:45pm.

**Action:** Motion to adopt the Steward's recommendation including the criteria outlined in the recommendation for the reinstatement of an ORC license as an exercise rider only for Mr. Whiteside.

**Moved by:** Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

**Seconded:** Commission Palmer

**Vote:** 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

## AGENDA ITEMS

### Approvals:

#### January 19, 2012 Meeting Agenda

Action: Motion to approve the agenda as submitted with addition of a medication report presented by Dave Nelson of the Oregon Quarter Horse Racing Association (OQHRA).

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Seconded: Commission Palmer

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

#### December 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes

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

Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Palmer

Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

### Old Business:

#### Sub-Committee Update Reports:

- a. Advanced Deposit Wagering (ADW) and Multi-jurisdictional Hubs  
Commissioner Williamson stated the sub-committee had not met.
- b. Best Practices  
Commission Vice-Chair Dudley stated that he received the Commissioner self-evaluation forms just prior to the meeting. He stated that he will create a report and hopes to have it ready for the next meeting.
- c. Budget and Hub Funds  
Commission Chair Stan Robson stated the sub-committee had met. After review of the budget it was decided that the funds requested by the Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG) of \$1500.00 could be approved. Commission Chair Robson stated that there are some additional hub funds available. The sub-committee is considering the disbursement of those funds and will have a recommendation at the February meeting.  
  
Action: Motion to approve the request for \$1500.00 for miscellaneous expenses for the Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG).  
Moved by: Commission Vice-Chair Dudley  
Seconded: Commission Palmer  
Vote: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays
- d. Medication and Horse Welfare  
Executive Director Randy Evers stated that the sub-committee had not met. He reported that the sub-committee will meet before the February Commission meeting and will have a report at that time.
- e. Executive Director's Report  
Executive Director Randy Evers stated that the annual summer fair race meet committee meeting is on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 10:00am. The meeting is held in Salem at the Salem Convention Center. Typically this meeting is attended by Oregon Horsemen's

Benevolence and Protection Association (OHBPA), Racing Commissioners, the Oregon Thoroughbred Owner's and Breeder's Association (OTOBA), possibly the OQHRA and Portland Meadows. The meeting is conducted by Summer Race Meet Committee Chair Don Slone.

Directors Evers reported that all the Fairs have submitted their race dates for review and that they will be on the February ORC meeting agenda for consideration of approval.

Director Evers announced that Audrey Kauffman has been accepted into a management training program called "Leadership Oregon". This is a state program that is designed to train state employees leadership responsibilities. Director Evers stated that the ORC is very excited for Ms. Kauffman to share what she is learning with staff.

Commission Vice-Chair Dudley asked Director Evers if there would be further discussion about the race meets. Director Evers stated that there would be discussion in February when the race dates are reviewed.

Commission Vice-Chair Dudley stated that he had received a letter from Crook County that addressed concerns they are having about how their meet might be affected with only one day between themselves and Portland Meadows. Director Evers stated that this and, any other concerns, will be discussed at the Fair meeting on January 21, 2012.

f. **Portland Meadows' Report**

Will Alempijevic, General Manager of Portland Meadows (PM) stated that he provided to the Commissioners a recap report that summarizes the meet from when it began back in October 2011 thru Sunday, January 15, 2012. The current race meet started two weeks later than in previous years. In those previous years there were weather conditions that caused cancellations and that altered the number of race days comparatively to date. For the current meet, PM has now run the same number of races to date. PM has run 37 days this race meet compared to 37 days in previous meets that started two weeks earlier.

PM has run 344 races this meet compared to 349 races in the previous meet. The average runner per race is 7.57 this meet versus 7.98 last meet. This drop is due to there being about fifty less horses on site. The purse this year is \$1.5 million versus \$1.7 million last year. The average purse each day over the 37 race days is approximately \$41,000 versus \$46,000 last year. The drop is just over \$200,000.00 year-over-year and is attributed to reduction in stakes races, fewer races run and some minor changes to the purse structure. The average daily handle is \$30,270.00 in state, which is a drop of 6.3 percent from last year's average daily handle of \$32,329.00.

Export sales per day this meet are \$582,000.00 versus \$672,000.00 last meet. This is a drop of 13.4 percent. The total handle per day on Portland Meadows live races, the instate fair and the export sales is \$612,000.00 this meet, versus \$704,000.00 last meet. This is a drop 13.1 percent. Mr. Alempijevic stated that while it seems gloomy, there has been a significant increase since the December recap in export sales. Mr. Alempijevic reported that as PM moves forward things are looking better.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that with regard to wagering in Oregon, PM has processed almost \$4.9 million in wagers versus \$5.1 million last year. This is a drop of almost 5 percent. The off track betting (OTB) handle is almost \$4.8 million this meet versus \$5.1 million last meet, for a drop of almost 6 percent.

Mr. Alempijevic reported that since opening day on October 17, 2011 thru January 15, 2012, PM has processed \$9.7 million in wagers in the PM network versus almost \$10.3 million in the previous meet, which is a drop of about 5.5 percent.

Executive Director Randy Evers commented that trainer Jim Ferguson, President of the OHBPA had his 1000<sup>th</sup> win on January 18, 2012.

- g. Future of Racing in Oregon (FROG) update  
Commissioner Williamson stated that the group met and had more discussion about the economic impact study. Commissioner Williamson reported that Will Alempijevic has taken the lead on researching the information needed. The meeting was adjourned early. The next meeting will be on February 9, 2012. Commissioner Jan Palmer will facilitate the next meeting.

New Business:

Oregon Quarter Horse Racing Association (OQHRA):

Dave Nelson, member of the Board of Directors of the OQHRA, stated that the purpose of coming before the Commission is to request attention to the recommendation of the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) regarding the use of Clenbuterol. He provided a copy of the report released by the AQHA to each of the Commissioners for their review. The use of Clenbuterol has been under debate for the last two years. Mr. Nelson stated that he has used this medication on young horses with amazing results. Mr. Nelson requested that the medication and horse welfare sub-committee review the recommendation by the AQHA and would like to refer the adoption of the recommendation in the next rule change.

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, February 16, 2012 Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building at 1:30p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10p.m.