



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
September 20, 2018

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, September 20, 2018, in Room 1E of the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Call to Order

Vice Chair Diego Conde called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Vice Chair Diego Conde; Commissioner Charles Williamson; Commissioner Peggy Anderson, Commissioner Angelo Turner (by phone)

Excused

Chair Jan Palmer, DVM

Staff

Executive Director Jack McGrail; Catriona McCracken, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Agenda Items

Approvals:

Action: Approval of the meeting agenda

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson, Turner and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Action: Approval of the August 16, 2018, meeting minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson, Turner and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Old Business:

Executive Director's Report

Director McGrail reported that the fair meets concluded with racing Sept. 7-9 at the Harney County Fair. It was a successful meet, with 20 races (a couple less than last year), and the handle was in line with 2017's figures. The track received good marks from the horsemen, with several commenting on the work of trackman Steve Wood. Director McGrail noted that, among other things, Mr. Wood helps fair officials,

who work part time on the tracks, learn nuances of making the tracks safe. He noted that track announcer Al Petersen did a good job of coordinating the races and rodeo events and keeping the races on time. He added that the new fair manager, Jordon Bennett, is a hands-on asset. Director McGrail noted there were no catastrophic injuries during the summer meets.

Director McGrail reported that the Portland Meadows (PM) backside is open, with about 200 horses on the grounds, and 600 anticipated by the end of the month, after Emerald Downs closes. He encouraged people to support the meet, to send the message that a track in the Portland metro area is viable. Director McGrail noted the meet has scheduled 12 Sunday race days, an increase over last year designed to draw bigger crowds and local interest.

Director McGrail offered a couple of personnel notes: Investigator Juan Tena has left the agency. He introduced Katrina Robson, who has been hired as Chief Investigator. Current Chief Investigator Dean Muchow has delayed his retirement until the end of the PM meet, in order to mentor Ms. Robson.

Nationally, Director McGrail noted that the 2019 foal crop is projected to match that of 2018, indicating a stabilization in the industry.

Commissioner Williamson asked about jockey injuries at the fairs, and Director McGrail replied there had been one at Union. In response to a follow-up question, Director McGrail stated he did not expect that to have a dramatic impact on jockey insurance.

FROG Report

Commissioner Angelo Turner reported that FROG met this morning and discussed the Tillamook and Harney County meets. He stated that Karsten Hennze, PM general manager, reported more jockeys are needed for the meet, the effort by Prologis to buy the property is still on track, and if that goes through, Stronach Group might make PM assets (such as the starting gate) available at a good price.

New Business:

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Amendments to OAR 462-150-0030, Claiming Rules

Commissioner Williamson reported that during a public hearing on the rule this morning, the only testimony came from Randy Evers of the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (OHBPA), who testified in favor. Commissioner Williamson noted that the rule change more clearly defines events that may void a claim. There was one amendment, to Page 3, Section 11(a)(B)(b): from "claim envelope" to "claim form."

Action: Adopt Amendments to OAR 462-150-0030, Claiming Rules, with noted wording change

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson, Turner and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Amendments to OAR 462-160-0130, Medications and Prohibited Substances

Commissioner Williamson stated that the rule would bring Oregon in conformance with Washington state and Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) rules. During a public hearing this morning, the only testimony came from Mr. Evers of the OHBPA, who suggested no changes to the rule.

Commissioner Williamson noted that Mr. Evers did request some leeway in enforcement and made suggestions for getting notice of the changes to the horsemen. Commissioner Williamson stated that he asked Mr. Evers to write an email to the Executive Director, outlining the horsemen's request regarding notice and training in what the rules mean. He added that the horsemen supported the rule.

Action: Adopt Amendments to OAR 462-160-0130, Medications and Prohibited Substances

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson, Turner and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Vice Chair Conde noted that the Claiming rule will be filed immediately and will be effective by the first day of racing at PM. The Medication rule will become effective Oct. 11, 2018.

Fair Director's Report: Eastern Oregon Livestock Show

Nate Jacob, Director of Racing for the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (EOLS), reported that due to heavy rain, EOLS ran only one day out of three. Instead of a total of 23 races, the meet ran seven on Friday. Handle was \$13,616, which was up a couple of thousand for the day compared with the past three years.

The meet had enough horses, he reported, but too many five- and six-horse fields, despite adding prize money to sixth- and seventh-place finishers. A total of 129 horses entered, down two from last year.

The Jockey Incentive Program is helping tremendously, Mr. Jacob reported. Eleven jockeys were scheduled to ride, including three new to the meet; only one jockey from 2017 did not return.

Purses were \$18,250 on Friday; and scheduled to be \$26,100 on Saturday and \$20,350 on Sunday, for a total of \$64,700, down \$2,720 from last year. Mr. Jacob added that several races last year had purses higher than is normal. The bottom purse this year was \$2,500, which included money from industry groups and the Commission.

Mr. Jacob stated that EOLS lost 4-H, FFA and three horse barns in a big fire last summer. With help from the community and volunteers, the organization was able to erect three new barns with 68 stalls to replace the 72 lost in the fire. The construction was done with an eye toward better separating rodeo and fair traffic from the racehorse area, and he thought that was successful. He noted that the one thing they might have done differently, if they had consulted the horsemen, was to construct the stall doors so horses could hang their heads out.

Mr. Jacob noted that EOLS and Harney County are unique in running races, rodeo and 4-H/FFA events at the same time. He added that EOLS is proud to host all three.

One jockey, Connie Doll, was injured when her horse flipped over on her behind the gate, Mr. Jacob reported. She was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Jacob characterized the weather as "not kind." The track was in good condition Friday, but heavy rain fell that night and the next morning. Commission officials, horsemen and jockeys met several times, and races ultimately were canceled both Saturday and Sunday. Purse money was paid out to horses that

were entered, jockeys received a stipend, and Mr. Jacob reported that the meet paid TruForm Racing and the videographers.

Mr. Jacob noted that it's difficult for any organization to get younger people to volunteer. He noted as well that Union has a paucity of Spanish-speaking people, making communication with some of the jockeys and horse owners difficult – something the meet will need to think about in the future.

Other Business That May Properly Come Before the Commission:

Commissioner Williamson reminded everyone that FROG's annual Welcome Back BBQ is next Wednesday in Cindie's Café on the PM backside.

Public Comment:

Mr. Evers of the OHBPA thanked Mr. Jacob on behalf of the horsemen. He reported that the barns and sales barn at Union were beautiful, and added that everyone he talked to from the 4-H, FFA or horseracing communities credited Mr. Jacob for getting the work done.

Confirmation of Next Commission Meeting:

The next regular Oregon Racing Commission meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1C of the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Adjournment:

Action: Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0). (Commissioner Turner left the meeting at 2 p.m.)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.