



**Minutes**  
**Oregon Racing Commission**  
**April 21, 2022**

**Meeting Detail**

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022. The meeting was held via videoconference.

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**In Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan; Commissioner Charles Williamson; Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

**Excused**

Chair Diego Conde

**Staff**

Executive Director Jack McGrail; Catriona McCracken, Assistant Attorney General

**Agenda Items**

**Approvals:**

**Action:** Approval of the meeting agenda, amended to include review and possible approval of EOLS Forms A and B and report from Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

**Vote:** Commissioners O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

**Action:** Approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2022, ORC meeting

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

**Vote:** Commissioners O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

## **Old Business:**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Director McGrail noted that the recent cancellation of the 2022 race season at Grants Pass Downs has everyone scrambling. He thanked Travis Boersma for the money and effort he put into the facility, noting the track has been improved significantly, and those improvements provide some opportunities.

The federal Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA) assessment to the ORC is \$52,813, Director McGrail reported. If the agency chooses not to participate, HISA will assess that amount to the commercial meet. A track cannot simulcast if it is not HISA compliant, he added. Given the status of the commercial meet, Director McGrail stated this is an opportunity to step back and the agency is likely not to participate. He added that only the track-safety component is going into effect this year. The drug testing and medication component has not been unveiled yet and there are likely to be additional fees when it is.

In state government, a joint committee on gambling regulation has been established, co-chaired by Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield) and Sara Gelser Blouin (D-Corvallis). Director McGrail stated he assumed the ORC will have a seat at the table to discuss how to sustain racing in Oregon.

Regarding the fairs, Director McGrail reported that jockey insurance has increased, but not as much as expected. Conversations are taking place between the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (OHBPA), TMB Racing and Josephine County regarding using the Grants Pass track for training to get horses fit before the fairs. He noted that the Grants Pass track is a vital training facility for Oregon racing.

### **Grants Pass Downs (GPD) Report**

Randy Evers, president of GPD, reported the 2022 season was canceled due to a lack of horses. Horsemen have until April 30 to leave, when the backside will be closed. TMB Racing plans to run the OTBs until June 30, when its license expires, he stated.

## **New Business**

### **Review and possible approval of 2022 Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (EOLS) Forms B & C**

Director McGrail reported that the forms are in order and he recommended approval.

**Action:** Approve EOLS Forms B and C

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

**Vote:** Commissioners O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

### **Report from Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (OHBPA)**

Randy Boden, executive director of the OHBPA, explained that when TMB decided not to renew its license, the OHBPA decided to seek the license for the commercial meet, OTBs and the simulcast. The goal is to have no lag time after the expiration of TMB's license on June 30, so there is no stoppage of the OTBs.

OHBPA has a list of equipment – stalls, starting gate, tractors, etc. – to be sold by TMB and will acquire as much of it as possible, he stated. The group is investigating running a short meet with the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA) between the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and the Crooked River Roundup. SOHRA is meeting tonight, he added, to discuss whether they want to tackle that.

Like Director McGrail, Mr. Boden emphasized the importance of having a track where horses can train in preparation for the fairs. He added that he hopes OHBPA can put together a commercial meet for 2023. He noted that all the industry groups have been working together for the good of horseracing and he has been gratified by the cooperation.

**Contested Cases:**

None

**Public Comment:**

Ron Sutton, president of the OHBPA, reiterated Mr. Boden’s comments about the horsemen’s groups working with TMB Racing and the county, noting it was a work in progress. And today is Mr. Boden’s birthday.

**Other Business as May Properly Come Before the Commission:**

None

**Confirmation of next meeting:**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. May 19, 2022, in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Commissioner Williamson suggested the ORC should continue to have a videoconference component to its meetings in addition to meeting in person, as video is more convenient for out-of-town stakeholders.

**Adjournment:**

**Action:** Adjourn meeting

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

**Vote:** Commissioners O’Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.