



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
June 23, 2022

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23, 2022, in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building, 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Call to Order

Chair Diego Conde called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

In Attendance

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

Staff

Executive Director Jack McGrail

Agenda Items

Approvals:

Action: Approval of the meeting agenda

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Action: Approval of the minutes from the May 2022 ORC meeting and the May 24, 2022, special ORC meeting

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Old Business:

Executive Director's Report

Director McGrail reported that the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show got the season off to a good start, with the track in good shape and improved facilities. He noted that Sunday's card was canceled after heavy rain Saturday night made the track unsafe. Purses were paid out for races that did not go, based on the premise that most horsemen traveled a long way to get to Union.

The Southern Oregon Horsemen's Racing Association (SOHRA) in Grants Pass has had a good start to its seven days of racing, Director McGrail stated. Two members of the Secretary of State's audit team attended the races this week, chaperoned by Program and Administrative Coordinator Karen Parkman. They watched pre-race exams and a barn search by the investigators, went to the gate, the steward's stand and the backside – gaining an overview of what goes into operating a race meet.

The Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (OHBPA) is working hard to bring a commercial meet back to Oregon. Noting this is his last report as Executive Director, Director McGrail thanked the Commission and stakeholders for their support over the years, adding all shared the same goal of supporting horseracing in Oregon.

New Business:

Review and Possible Approval of HRA LLC License

ADW Supervisor Connie Winn prefaced her remarks by noting Randy Boden and Ron Sutton of OHBPA and Rod Lowe of SOHRA had put together a nice packet in the face of what initially may have seemed insurmountable odds. A few items are pending -- liability insurance policy, jockey insurance policy and bond -- but Ms. Winn noted they are not needed until 30 days before the race meet starts. She recommended approval with the provision that those policies be in place 30 days before the meet.

Action: Approve HRA LLC license conditional on provision of the specified documents

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Annual Review of ADW Licenses

Ms. Winn stated that all licensees had met requirements and audits turned up no problems for the following licensees. No Commission action is required.

- AmWest Entertainment LLC, dba AmWager
- Churchill Downs Technology Initiatives Co., dba TwinSpire
- eBet Technologies Inc.
- Game Play Network, dba b Spot
- NYRA Bets LLC
- ODS Technologies LP, dba TVG Network
- Premier Turf Club, dba BetPTC
- US Off-Track LLC, dba Greyhound Channel
- Xpressbet LLC

Review and Possible Approval of Totalizator License Renewals

Supervisor of Pari-Mutuels Dawn Rome reported that applications for the five totalizator companies were complete with the exception of I-Neda Ltd., which is pending a set of fingerprints and background check. She recommended approval of all applications, except for recommending a conditional approval for I-Neda.

Action: Approve totalizator license renewals for: AmTote International; Colossusbets Ltd.; Global Tote US LLC; and United Tote.

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Chair Conde recommended delaying the I-Neda Ltd. approval until next month, after the pending documents are received, but Ms. Winn noted that would in effect put the company out of business for the first part of July. She noted that the pending documents were for a person new to the company, and recommended conditional approval provided the documents arrive within a reasonable time.

Action: Approve totalizator license renewal for I-Neda Ltd., conditional on receipt of documents by June 30, 2022

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Review and Possible Approval of ORC Tribal Consultation Policy

Chair Conde stated that he, Director McGrail and Ms. Winn had met with several tribal representatives over the past year and come up with a policy he feels is a vast improvement over previous written policies.

Commissioner Williamson asked if, for example, the Commission failed to consult with a tribe because it did not know of tribal interest in an issue, whether that failure would potentially invalidate the Commission action. Chair Conde responded there was no such provision, and Ms. Winn added that as long as the Commission acts in good faith and tries to keep communication open, there should be no issue.

Commissioner Williamson added he was in favor of consulting with the tribes but wanted to be certain the Commission's regulatory ability was not compromised.

Director McGrail noted those concerns had been raised with counsel. There is no provision in the policy that would invalidate Commission action, he added.

Action: Approve ORC tribal consultation policy

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Public Comment:

Randy Boden of OHBPA thanked the Commission for approving the license for HRA LLC, as well as Rod Lowe, Connie Winn and Lynnelle Smith of the Oregon Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association (OTOBA). He also expressed his appreciation to Director McGrail for his work over the years.

Lynnelle Smith of OTOBA delivered the group's key statistics report. She noted that at the end of the fiscal year, OTOBA will issue bonus checks to owners of Oregon-bred Thoroughbreds that competed at last fall's commercial meet in Grants Pass. OTOBA has received sponsorships from the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. At the request of the sponsors, that money is being used for starting bonuses for Oregon-breds at the Grants Pass fair meet. That enabled OTOBA to use hub funds to pay starting bonuses for Oregon-breds at another fair meet. OTOBA will pay an additional \$500 to Oregon-breds starting at either Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, Crooked River Roundup or the Tillamook County Fair, as well as adding \$2000 to each Oregon-bred race at the fairs. Ms. Smith also thanked Director McGrail for his support of Oregon breeders and owners through the years.

Commissioner Williamson noted this was also Vice Chair O'Hagan's last meeting and thanked him for his contributions to the Commission. Chair Conde and Director McGrail seconded that.

Chair Conde noted the Commission had a plaque to present to Director McGrail in recognition of his service, and praised his dedication and mentorship. Commissioner Williamson noted Vice Chair O'Hagan also deserved a plaque, and Chair Conde agreed.

Contested Cases:

None

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. July 21, 2022, in Room 1B of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Adjournment:

Action: Adjourn meeting

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Vote: Commissioners Conde, O'Hagan, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

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