



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
May 19, 2022

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, 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 1:32 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; Catriona McCracken, Assistant Attorney General

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 3, 2022, ORC special 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:

Medication and Horse Welfare Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee Chair O'Hagan stated that the Medication and Horse Welfare Subcommittee met Wednesday and received an update from Senior Commission Veterinarian Tom Everman on

Grants Pass Downs. Dr. Everman reported two veterinary clinics had agreed to be on call during training, but there is no regularly scheduled attending veterinarian at the track during that time.

As of this week, 22 trainers and 105 Thoroughbreds are on the backside.

Dr. Everman told the subcommittee a few issues remain to be worked out before races start. He said he anticipated complaints about haul-ins being stabled so that they face the chute near the starting gate.

The subcommittee also briefly discussed how to persuade horsemen to haul from Grants Pass to Union for the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (EOLS) meet.

Subcommittee Chair O'Hagan reported that Dr. Everman reported on the Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC) conference he attended in March in Louisville. The conference included a cardiology wet lab, and Dr. Everman noted that HISA (Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act) calls for pre-race exams to include cardiac analysis. Most sudden deaths on the racetrack are thought to be due to cardiac arrhythmias; however, Dr. Everman explained, these don't show up on necropsy, and the consensus among veterinarians is these arrhythmias are rarely detectable in pre-race exams.

Dr. Everman also told the subcommittee that ORC rules and the track do not require vaccinations, but HISA will require them for commercial meets. He also noted that most horsemen already vaccinate their horses as a matter of course. Because HISA applies only to Thoroughbreds, Dr. Everman wondered if the Commission will end up with two sets of rules – one for Thoroughbreds and one for Quarter Horses – during a commercial meet.

Chair Conde noted that the HISA rules apply in Oregon only to meets that simulcast, so will not affect any of this year's fair meets.

Executive Director's Report

Director McGrail stated that it is important to the horsemen, the industry and the state's image that the fair meets start robustly with a good turnout at EOLS. He encouraged horsemen to explore ways to incentivize attendance at EOLS, noting that not many horses are committed to the meet at this point.

He noted Oregon has a few months to see how HISA plays out in other jurisdictions.

He also thanked the Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA) and the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) for pivoting quickly in a short amount of time to hold a fair meet at Grants Pass.

Commissioner Williamson wondered if the horsemen could be paid, for example, \$1 a mile to cover their costs to haul to Union. Director McGrail responded that something like that was a good idea, perhaps designating a starter fee for each horse that starts or writing conditions for racing that would encourage new participation. He stated that the Commission will look at the

budget and perhaps redirect funds. He added that it was important for the horsemen to recognize that supporting the EOLS meet supports the entire industry.

“The fairs are all we’ve got,” Commissioner Williamson stated. “We have to do everything we can to make them successful.”

In response to a question from Assistant Attorney General McCracken, Director McGrail explained the executive director has some discretion about allocating funds, when the amount is not substantial, without a vote of the Commission. At this point, there is nothing to vote on, he added.

Update on SOHRA/OHBPA meet at Grants Pass Downs

Rod Lowe of SOHRA reported the meet has secured licensing and needed equipment for a seven-day meet. The track opened for training May 6. Gates will be up Sunday and a clocker is on staff, so horses should be fit to run at EOLS. Several more trainers and jockeys are on their way to Grants Pass, he added. SOHRA is working on posters and advertising, and contracts have been signed with food and beverage vendors.

Randy Boden of OHBPA reported his organization has established a for-profit, HRA LLC, dba Horsemen’s Racing Association. They are working on their application to take over the commercial racing license on July 1 so there will be no interruption of the OTB network. They are putting together contracts with vendors for the new entity.

The OHBPA plans to discuss the EOLS meet at its upcoming board meeting. The horsemen understand the importance of that meet, he stated, but there has not been an exciting reception from those at Grants Pass to traveling to Union. There will have to be a financial incentive to persuade the horsemen to make the trip.

New Business

Review and possible approval of 2022 Crooked River Roundup Forms B & C and 2022 Tillamook County Fair Forms B & C

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

Action: Approve Forms B & C for Crooked River Roundup and Tillamook County Fair

Moved by: Vice Chair Steve O’Hagan

Seconded: Commissioner Charles Williamson

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

Review and possible approval to begin rulemaking on proposed rule amendment to OAR 462-220-0030(3)(c) regarding responsible wagering

ADW Supervisor Connie Winn explained that over several meetings, the ADW subcommittee came up with stronger language regarding responsible wagering. All ADW licensees already have policies in place, but the Commission wanted to solidify that in rules.

Action: Begin rulemaking on proposed rule amendment to OAR 462-220-0030(3)(c) regarding responsible wagering

Moved by: Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Seconded: Commissioner Charles Williamson

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

Contested Cases:

None

Public Comment:

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. June 16, 2022, in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St., Portland, OR. Chair Conde noted that the meeting date might be changed to later in the month and stakeholders would be notified.

Counsel McCracken advised the Commission that she will be out of the country in June and to be certain to advise her substitute if the meeting date is changed.

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 2:05 p.m.