



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission Special Public Meeting
May 24, 2022

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 24, 2022. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Call to Order

Chair Diego Conde called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Diego Conde; Commissioner Charles Williamson; Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

Excused

Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

Staff

Executive Director Jack McGrail

Agenda Items

Approvals:

Action: Approval of the meeting agenda

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

New Business:

Review and possible approval of purse money for Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association (SOHRA) seven-day fair meet

Chair Conde explained that SOHRA had requested the usual Commission purse allocation of \$2250 per race, plus matching funds. The total requested allocation from hub funds is \$140,000.

Commissioner Palmer asked if the funds were available. Director McGrail replied that they were; the Commission has seen substantial savings from cancellation of the commercial meet and as well as in operations.

Action: Approve allocation of \$140,000 in purse money to SOHRA for seven-day meet

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

Review and possible approval of up to \$30,000 from hub funds to assist Eastern Oregon Livestock Show (EOLS) in recruiting horses to the meet

Director McGrail stated that the Commission has the money to fund this request. He noted EOLS faces a substantial challenge this year in attracting horses. ORC staff and the horsemen's group are working with meet organizers to come up with ways to incentivize horsemen to attend the meet. He noted that the ORC ultimately will be the body to decide how the funds are used.

Action: Approve allocation of up to \$30,000 from hub funds to assist EOLS in recruiting horses to the meet

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

Public comment:

Rod Lowe of SOHRA stated that he was getting a lot of questions from horsemen at Grants Pass about getting to EOLS. Horsemen, jockeys and pony people are all interested in an incentive, he said, adding that they need information right way so they can plan their trips. He suggested the Commission make its decision about what form an incentive will take by June 1. He also thanked the Commission for its support, financially and personally, in getting the fair meet up and running.

Camy Vonseggern of the Tillamook County Fair noted that because of the high price of gas, etc., everyone has been requesting more funding from her fair, and she expects the situation will be the same for the Crooked River Roundup. Noting that she did not budget for additional expenses, she asked the horsemen "not to hit all of us up" as the fairs have limited funds.

Nate Jacob of EOLS also thanked the Commission for the additional funding. He noted only 14 stalls have been reserved so far, but "we'll be ready to run if we can get some horses."

Randy Boden of the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (OHBPA) stated he planned to get together with the executive director, Mr. Jacob and the horsemen and figure out how to get horses to Union. He noted that the Oregon Quarter Horse Racing Association and the Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association also are working on their constituencies.

Chair Conde stated that he appreciated the collaboration among all groups.

Commissioner Williamson asked that the Commission meet in Grants Pass in June. Chair Conde noted that June 30 is the end of the fiscal year and attendance might be problematic for staff.

Action: Authorize chair and executive director to move the June ORC meeting to Grants Pass if feasible.

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

Contested cases

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 is subject to change if the meeting can be held in Grants Pass.

Adjournment:

Action: Adjourn meeting

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Commissioner Jan Palmer

Vote: Commissioners Conde, Williamson and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.