



**Minutes**  
**Oregon Racing Commission**  
**May 20, 2021**

**Meeting Detail**

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, May 20, 2021. The meeting was held via videoconference.

**Call to Order**

Chair Diego Conde called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**In Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Chair Diego Conde; Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan; Commissioner Charles Williamson (joined late); 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 Jan Palmer

**Seconded:** Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

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

**Action:** Approval of the minutes from the April 15, 2021, ORC meeting

**Moved by:** Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

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

**Old Business:**

**Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director McGrail reported that four days of racing had been run at Grants Pass Downs (GPD), and continued improvements to the facility have been impressive. The stewards say the track is in good shape, including the new chute extension, and the jockeys are riding aggressively and safely. They are adjusting to the new crop rules; no fines have been issued. New Chief

Investigator Eric Shepherd is learning quickly with a lot of training, Director McGrail reported, including three days of intensive training provided on site by the Organization of Racing Investigators. Former steward Marty Hamilton is back as deputy steward, and Dr. Jean Zech-Manhart's duties have expanded to include working in the test barn during races, in addition to performing pre-race exams.

He stated that track consultant Steve Wood has begun scheduling his visits to the summer fairs. The Harney County Fair has canceled its 2021 meet -- it is not ready for this summer -- but expects and hopes to run next year, Director McGrail added.

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

Rod Lowe, GPD chief operating officer, reported that the meet has filled eight races each day, with a couple of short fields. The office has papers for 400 horses. The first of the Quarter Horse Challenge races will be held Tuesday, the Q-Racing Video Grants Pass Distaff Challenge. He added that The Cowboy Channel wants to air the Challenge races, and that might be an opportunity for GPD to further advertise the meet.

Kendra Lellis, GPD vice president, noted that Josephine County is designated "high risk," which allows 1200 people per day at the track. Daily attendance has been averaging 560. Opening day handle set a record at \$461,000, then broke the record the next day at \$570,000, and again on the following Monday at \$575,000. Handle on Tuesday, May 18, was \$430,000, resulting in an average handle over four days of just over \$500,000.

Randy Evers, GPD president, reported on the OTB network. April handle was \$1.6 million, with May's numbers expected to be \$1.7 million. Handle on Preakness day was \$192,000, compared to \$167,000 last year.

He stated that new OTBs are open in Roseburg and Eugene, with the Roseburg site off to a fast start and expected to break even in its second month of operation. GPD continues to explore other locations, such as Hermiston and Ontario, and is expecting handle to continue to increase with the upcoming Belmont Stakes and opening of summer racing in Del Mar and Saratoga.

### **New Business:**

#### **Review and possible approval of Forms B and C for Tillamook County Fair**

Director McGrail noted that Tillamook Fairgrounds Director Camy VonSeggern and her crew have done a lot of work on the track, and she wished to note particularly the contributions of Steve Wood and Gloyd Whitmire.

**Action:** Approve Forms B and C for Tillamook County Fair

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Vice Chair Steve O'Hagan

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

#### **Review and possible approval of totalizator license for Scientific Games**

ADW Supervisor Connie Winn reported that she was waiting for final materials from the applicant and the matter was tabled.

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

None

**Public Comment:**

Jordon Bennett, Harney County Fair manager, noted that Harney County is committed to horse racing, but not quite ready for 2021. They want to get their ducks in a row and do it right in 2022, he explained.

**Executive Session**

The Commission went into Executive Session at 1:50 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) and 192.355(9) to discuss written legal advice. The Commission emerged from Executive Session at 2:10 p.m.

**Deliberations**

The Commission went into Deliberations at 2:10 p.m. pursuant to ORS 192.690(1) to discuss *In Re Montes*. The Commission emerged from Deliberations at 2:22 p.m. and returned to Public Session.

**Contested Cases:**

**Review of Montes settlement agreement and stipulated final order**

**Action:** Adopt Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order entered into by Staff and Danny Montes as the Commission’s Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Order *In the Matter of Danny Montes* Agency Cases Nos. GPD20-038 and GPD20-039/OAH Case No. 2021-ABC-04371.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Commissioner Jan Palmer

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

**Confirmation of next meeting:**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. June 17, 2021, via videoconference.

**Adjournment:**

**Action:** Adjourn meeting

**Moved by:** Commissioner Charles Williamson

**Seconded:** Vice Chair Steve O’Hagan

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.