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Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
April 17th, 2025

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 PM on April 17, 2025, in-person at the PSOB and remotely via Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Mission Statement:

Chair Margaret Doherty called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM, and Karen Parkman conducted roll call.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Chair Margaret Doherty, Vice Chair Quinn Berry, Commissioners Harvey Stein, DVM, and Lindsay Fowler.

Staff: Connie Winn, Executive Director; Karen Parkman, Director of Administration, Kelly Routt, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Excused: None

APPROVALS:

Meeting Agenda

Action: Approve April meeting agenda with 2 changes – remove item 5 c and d and add an executive session after public comment.

Moved by: Commissioner Berry

Seconded: Commissioner Fowler

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

Karen Parkman read the ORC mission statement.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director's Report – Director Winn:

Director Winn reported that two ADW representatives are in attendance in person. She introduced the two new test barn assistants, Betty Kay Overcash and Victoria Parra Flores. She congratulated Karen Parkman for completing the Financial Auditing bootcamp.

Legislative update:

- HB 5035 passed through ways and means. This was the budget bill.
- HB 3023 did not pass and is dead. This bill would have given the ORC an additional 25% from the general fund.
- SB 853 is still in the works, which would allow licensing fees to increase. Pending approval, the new fee schedule is in the works.
- HB 3101 is still pending. This is the fair funding bill.
- HB 3020 had a work day today, but due to the ORC meetings, the results of the session are currently unknown.
- SB 854, SB 855, SB 856, and SB 857 will all be heard in the House for public hearing on Tuesday, April 22nd.

Director Winn and Commissioner Fowler will be attending the upcoming ARCI conference, where Director Winn will be presenting Information Security Standards to their model rule committee. She thanked Dr. Alice Lombard for her recent help and announced she will be the interim ORC vet through August. Joining her during that period will be Dr. Jan Palmer, a former commissioner, Dr. Jean Manhart, Dr. Scott Leibsle, and Dr. Emilio DeBess. There is one other vet who may help as well.

The new database rollout is still underway. This database should ease licensing for many, but the ORC recognizes that new technology will not be suitable for all, and in-person licensing will still be available. The implementation of HeadCheck software to track jockey concussions is set to roll out this summer. The ORC will be hosting a Steward school in June, which has students signed up across the country and from Canada. Preparations for the 2025 race season are well under way. Lastly, Director Winn will be away on vacation for a couple weeks at the end of July.

Online Wagering (ADW) Committee Report – Commissioner Berry

Commissioner Berry reported that there was a request to alter how data is being reported and a discussion to change ADW licenses to a 5-year license.

Best Practices and Strategic Planning Committee Report – Commissioner Berry

Commissioner Berry reported that the discussion was positive. There was discussion on Key Performance Measures, safety, and finance. Key takeaways were that the commission wishes to demonstrate the value of the industry to the State of Oregon and increase awareness of horse racing to Oregon citizens, to bring in new industry participants, and to create opportunities for youth engagement.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible approval to begin the rule making process for the following rules:

- a) OAR 462-102-0050 (3) License Fees**

This rule will have an advisory meeting on April 24th, prior to any changes. Current licensing fees in Oregon are significantly lower than other jurisdictions. This rule would make it so that license fees were arranged by tier levels. This rule will not be finalized until after SB 853 is signed, and likely will not be in effect until after the 2025 race season.

b) OAR 462-120-0055 (2) State and Nationwide Criminal Record Checks, Fitness determinations

The current license length is 3 years, with fingerprint resubmissions being required every 5 years. With the new database supporting 2-year licenses, this rule would change the requirement for fingerprint resubmissions to change to every 6 years to be in line with the length of licenses.

Action: Approval to begin the rule making process for 462-120-0055 (2).

Moved by: Commissioner Berry

Seconded: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

c) OAR 462-220-0040 (6)(7) State of Oregon share of Pari-Mutual Handle – Clarifies Language

Clarifies language and updates outdated time frames.

Action: Approval to begin the rule making process for 462-220-0040 (6)(7).

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Seconded: Commissioner Berry

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

d) OAR 462-220-0030 (1) Approval of the License for a Hub Operation

Updates irrelevant language and corrects an old address. There is also a change to license length to a set 5-year license.

Action: Approval to begin the rule making process for 462-220-0030 (1).

Moved by: Commissioner Stein

Seconded: Commissioner Fowler

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

Discussion and possible approval to adopt the following rules:

a) 462-140-0130 (28)(g)(A) Paddock and starting gate medical professionals

Addition/cleanup of language for clarification.

Action: Approval to adopt 462-140-0130 (28)(g)(A).

Moved by: Commissioner Berry

Seconded: Commissioner Fowler

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

b) **462-160-0120 (4) Use of tubes**

This rule has gone through the process, however, additional comments during the last medication and safety meeting after the public comment period may warrant further discussion. The rule would have limited the use of tubes for medications to 12 inches. However, a case was brought up where a horsewoman was too short to reach the horse with a 12-inch tube, but an 18-inch tube would work.

After further discussion, the commission decided to extend the public comment period and change the language to allowing a tube no longer than 18 inches.

Action: Approval to extend the public comment period for an additional 14 days for 462-160-0120 (4).

Moved by: Commissioner Berry

Seconded: Commissioner Stein

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).

2025 WVC Annual Conference – Commissioner Stein, DVM

Commissioner Stein reported that he attended the WVC conference in March. There was discussion on ulcers and airway disease, as well as possible causes of bleeders. There were new technologies presented for regenerative therapies for joint injections. This led to discussion on HISA rules, which were largely negative. There was a discussion on the shortage of equine veterinarians and why there is a lack of equine vets graduated from vet school. It was found that interns were included in the average salaries of equine vets, which made it look lower than small practice vets. It was also found that equine programs were being discouraged and there was a lack of mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities. At the alumni dinner, Commissioner Stein found one vet who was licensed in Oregon, and they were a mixed practice vet that had little interest in equine medicine. Another out of state vet that he spoke to on his flight home echoed that equine medicine had been discouraged, especially for a female vet. Another alarming report he found stated 50% of equine vets drop out of equine medicine after 5 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Leah Nelson of the AQHRA brought to the commissioner that there was an outstanding balance of \$27.2k from 2024 for extra races. She asked that they be reimbursed in the future. Director Winn recommended that if there is extra money after track repairs, the commission consider reimbursing this money next. Commissioner Berry added he agrees.

Connie Ericson, president of OTOBA read a letter from their board of directors objecting to inadequate funding regarding the 2025 Hub fund request and that purses do not make up for the costs of breeding. They believe the ORC's focus should be on Oregon breeders and owners and not purses. She presented that foal numbers are low nationwide, but because of the foal incentives offered by OTOBA, Oregon foal numbers were up between 2023 and 2024. OTOBA feels they have been abandoned by the ORC and asks for reconsideration of fund allocations.

Randy Boden, Executive Director of the HBPA, reported that the bill for the fair meets has passed into ways and means.

Darla Wolff commented that she supports the \$200k funding for Thoroughbred owners, which she is. She commented that without the added racing incentives from OTOBA, Oregon owners could just go to California and Washington where there are more incentives and higher purses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to ORS 192.660(2) (f) the commission entered executive session at 2:33 PM. The commission returned from executive session at 2:50 PM.

CONTESTED CASES

None.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. remotely via Microsoft Teams.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 PM.

Action: Adjourn meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Fowler

Seconded: Commissioner Berry

Vote: Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (4:0).