



**Minutes**  
**Oregon Racing Commission**  
**February 16, 2023**

**Meeting Detail**

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023. The meeting was held via videoconference.

**Call to Order**

Chair Charles Williamson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**In Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Chair Charles Williamson; Vice Chair Margaret Doherty, Commissioner Jan Palmer, DVM

**Staff :** Executive Director Connie Winn; Catriona McCracken, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

**Excused**

Commissioner Diego Conde

**Agenda Items**

**Approvals**

**Action:** Approval of the meeting agenda with the correction of removing the (2) at the end of rule 462-120-0030 (2) by Director Winn and Commissioner Palmer requesting switching items 6,7,8,9, and 10 from new business to be included and voted on during the Budget Subcommittee report.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Doherty

**Seconded:** Commissioner Palmer

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

**Action:** Approval of the minutes from the January 2023 meeting

**Moved by:** Commissioner Palmer

**Seconded:** Commissioner Doherty

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

## **Old Business:**

### **Executive Director's Report**

Director Winn reported that the budget had been presented on Monday to the Ways and Means committee, followed by a presentation by the CFO that recommended limitations to the budget. Senate bill 2510, which has had its first hearing, would allow a portion of lottery revenue to be directed to fairs, with a dash-1 that would provide a portion of those funds be allocated to county fair meets. It was well received and well represented. A new Racing Steward is being searched for. Commissioner Doherty will be attending the Tillamook fair meet, Commissioner Palmer (schedule permitting) will attend the Crooked River fair meet, and Chair Williamson will attend the Eastern Oregon Livestock fair meet. The June commissioner meeting will be held in Grants Pass, allowing all attending commissioners to see the Grants Pass facilities. A policy change for claiming horses has occurred. Starting at the next fair meet, all claimed horses will now be going to the test barn for identification and evaluation. Chief investigator Eric Shepherd had previously brought up the possibility of being armed at future fair meets. Further consultations, including with ORC's attorney and the police department, have concluded that this is not possible and other security options will need investigated. Right now, things are looking positively for the Shared Wallet. The new ORC logo has been complete and will be seen more in the future. This month, Director Winn recognized Travis Boersma for making the Grants Pass track what it is today. Lastly, Director Winn welcomed Maleah Thom back from maternity leave.

### **Budget Committee Report**

Commissioner Palmer reported that there are \$284,515 remaining in the hub fun 2021-2023 biennium budget. For the associations for the 2023-2025 biennium there are \$1,124,724.

#### **Review and possible approval of OTOBA, OHBPA, OQHRA, and HRA, LLC Hub fund requests**

The associations have met and agreed to splitting funds as follows: 30% to HRA and OHBPA, and 20% for OTOBA and OQHRA. Commissioner Palmer recommended approving the agreed upon amounts.

Director Winn added that the associations would submit detailed reports on how these dollars would be spent.

**Action:** Approve hub fund requests.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Doherty

**Seconded:** Chair Williamson

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

#### **Review and possible approval of additional hub funds for increased expenses of racing secretary**

Commissioner Palmer reported that the previous racing steward reported that the ORC provides one of the lowest racing secretary salaries in the area. It was agreed that a salary of \$1,000 per race day plus housing would be a reasonable increase. This would be a raise of \$200 per race day. Funds are allocated to the fairs by the ORC, which are then paid to the racing secretary. The associations agreed that if the ORC could not supply the

additional funds, they would be able to supplement the additional \$200 per day. Commissioner Palmer recommends approving the raise.

**Action:** Approve a raise of \$200 per race day for the new racing secretary.  
**Moved by:** Commissioner Palmer  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Doherty  
**Vote:** Commissioners Williamson, Doherty, and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

Finally, Commissioner Palmer reported that the rule for the commissioner pay rate was still in review. This change will be further discussed at the next commissioner meeting.

### **New Business:**

#### **Update from HRA**

Rod Lowe reported that HRA has completed licensing and finalizing race days and is now working on contracts and staffing for all of Grants Pass Racing. The OTBS are starting to build handles for the races building up towards the Triple Crown. The Prineville location is close to opening. Other locations are still being sought out, with a perspective client in Medford.

#### **Review and discuss amendment and/or repeal of the following rules:**

Director Winn reported on the following rule changes:

##### **462-120-0030 (2) Minimum working age – Repeal**

Legal counsel revealed this rule is out of date, so ORC is requesting a repeal of the entire rule.

##### **462-120-0040 (4) (h) types of licenses – Amendment**

Several changes were made by ORC and tweaked by AAG McCracken.

##### **462-120-0055 (1) (a) State and NCIC records check**

Federal requirement that all fingerprint cards will be destroyed by ORC directly.

Director Winn recommended approving these changes.

**Action:** Approve changes to begin rule making process.  
**Moved by:** Commissioner Doherty  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Palmer  
**Vote:** Commissioners Williamson, Doherty, and Palmer voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (3:0).

#### **Review and possible adoption of the following rules:**

##### **462-220-0080 Distribution of Receipts Amendment**

Updates distribution of receipts for 2023-2030

##### **462-220-0040 State of Oregon Share of the Pari-Mutuel Handle Amendment**

Removes language specific to a calendar year and strikes words “that were” from rule.

**Action:** Adopt these two rules as amended.  
**Moved by:** Commissioner Palmer

**Seconded:** Commissioner Doherty

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

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Contested Cases:**

None

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

None

**Confirmation of Next Meeting:**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2023, at 1:30 pm via videoconference.

**Adjournment:**

**Action:** Adjourn meeting

**Moved by:** Commissioner Doherty

**Seconded:** Commissioner Palmer

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.