



**Minutes**  
**Oregon Racing Commission**  
**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**Meeting Detail**

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 PM on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, via Microsoft Teams videoconference.

**Call to Order, Roll Call and Mission Statement:**

Chair Margaret Doherty called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, and Karen Parkman conducted roll call.

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:** Chair Margaret Doherty, Commissioners Harvey Stein, DVM, and Lindsay Fowler.

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

**Excused:** Commissioner Marc Kinsley, DVM

**Absent:** Vice Chair Quinn Berry

**Approvals:**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Action:** Approve meeting agenda.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Executive Director's Report – Director Winn:**

Director Winn reported on the ARCI 2026 annual conference, which she attended the week before. Lisa Lazarus, CEO of HISA, presented AI initiatives to detect at-risk horses and promote responsible wagering and gambling. The American Betters Voice Panel explored declining interest in horse racing and if it should include fixed odds, which is common in other countries, and decreased takeouts. However, the Interstate Horse Racing Act prohibits interstate fixed odds, and funding needs precludes lower takeout rates. That said, Kentucky is currently trying to pass a bill to allow fixed odds racing in their state. At this point, it would not affect Oregon if passed. Former White house Chief of Staff and CNBC, Mick Mullenvy, and former CNBC Ian McGinley discussed prediction markets and potential impacts on state-level consumer prediction. Currently,

the threat to horse racing appears to be less than in the past. Also discussed were unsanctioned weight racing, interstate racing contacts, and computer assisted wagering.

Director Winn reported that in the formerly mentioned Kentucky bill, there is a requirement for the modernization of Tote companies by April 1, 2026, which may be a consideration for Oregon as well. What this does is prevent the appearance of odds changing mid-race, which can occur due to last second bets and the lag period where tote companies must communicate with each other when a bet is placed. This would enhance public perception that wagers are not being snuck in after the races begin.

Director Winn stated she and Deputy Steward Crystal visited the Harney County Fairgrounds to conduct an on-site evaluation. The community is motivated to see racing return; however, the track needs many improvements. The ground has not been worked in 6 years and is primarily clay. Sand will need to be added to make it workable. The paddock and jockey room were demolished and need to be rebuilt, and a starting gate will have to be purchased. There is a large pole barn that could be repurposed. A comprehensive project plan is in development.

Director Winn stated she has been discussing collaboration initiatives with OTOBA and how the ORC can better support them. Director Winn reported that one-time funding of \$1 million will be allocated to county fairs for racing by HB 5402 as compensation for the loss of greyhound racing. The ORC is scheduled to meet with the Emergency Board in June to approve an increased spending limit, which would restore several critical function.

The next in-person meeting is scheduled for May in Portland. Commissioners based in the Portland area may receive travel reimbursements, but all other travel must be limited. A remote video conference will be available as usual for out-of-area attendees. If funding is restored by the E Board in June, an in-person meeting will occur in Grants Pass in the fall. Otherwise, this will be the last in-person meeting for the biennium. The 2026 Annual Advanced Deposit Wagering Forum will also be held in Portland to discuss wagering trends, regulatory development, and marketing strategies with industry leaders. The ORC is honored to once again facilitate this meeting.

Lastly, the ORC has been engaging in community outreach with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Grants Pass and with the Burns Paiute Tribes and the Confederated Tribes on Umatilla.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion and possible approval to begin the rulemaking process for the following rules: -**

#### **Director Winn**

##### **a) OAR 462-230-0010 Totalizer licensing fees**

Director Winn reported this rule increases licensing fees- from \$1k to \$1.5k.

**Action:** Approve beginning the rulemaking process of OAR 462-230-0010.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**Rule hearing report: - Director Winn**

- a) **462-220-0085 Prohibited persons or entities.**
- b) **462-220-0010 Clarifies source market fee exceptions.**
- c) **462-220-0110 Source market fee payments.**

Director Winn reported that there were no public attendees to any of the rule hearings and no public comments received on any of the three rules.

**Discussion and possible approval to adopt the following rules: - Director Winn**

- a) **OAR 462-220-0085 Prohibits persons or entities.**  
Discourages wagering companies from working with individuals known to be engaged in activities not allowed in Oregon.
- b) **OAR 462-220-0010 (3)(4)(7) Defines “White Labels” and “Authorized Wagering Service Partners”.**  
Defines the terms that will be replacing “Affiliate.
- c) **OAR 462-220-0030 (3)(F)(G)(H) Changes name from “Affiliate” to “Authorized Wagering Partner” (comment period requests change to “Service Partner”).**  
Removes term “Affiliate” as it is increasing workload of wagering partners through Google and Apple.
- d) **OAR 462-220-0110 Clarifies source market fee expectations.**  
Clarifies expectations for payments of source market fees.

**Action:** Approve the adoption of OAR 462-220-0085.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**Action:** Approve the adoption of OAR 462-220-0010 (3)(4)(7).

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**Action:** Approve the adoption of OAR 462-220-0030 (3)(F)(G)(H).

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**Action:** Approve the adoption of OAR 462-220-0010.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**Review and possible approval of HRA application – Rod Lowe, CEO of HRA, LLC**

Rod Lowe reported that due to current racing costs and industry events, the HRA had reduced the number of days of racing to 8 days instead of their normal 12-day season. However, with the \$100k grant from OHBPA, HRA is now applying for 10 race days for 2026. Mr. Lowe urged the importance of industry working together to find funds and support legislation to get back to a full season in 2027 and the future. HRA is launching a community fundraiser on April 27<sup>th</sup> to help fund improvements to the grandstands, parking lot, new paddock, new jocks room, and new bathrooms at Grants Pass Downs (GPD). HRA would also like to build an OTB that operates year-round at GPD. Overall, cost for these improvements and additions will likely be around \$5-6 million. Mr. Lowe reported most of these projects had preliminary plans drawn when TMB Racing was funding the track, however HRA will work to get it done bit by bit as funds allow them to build a better commercial track. With help from industry and community, Mr. Lowe is confident this vision will be realized.

Director Winn noted that the HRA has until September 1<sup>st</sup> to obtain jockey medical insurance and a couple employees need license renewals, so approval will be conditional pending those items. Additionally, she asked that HRA replace their backside vet. Mr. Lowe stated that HRA intends to have Dr. Bradley be the backside vet this year, but this is pending a new hire starting in July at his practice.

**Action:** Approval of HRA application with Dr Bradley, DVM hired as the track medication vet, conditional upon jocks insurance and staff license renewals.

**Moved by:** Commissioner Fowler

**Seconded:** Commissioner Stein

**Vote:** Commissioners voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dr Alice Lombard asked if there was a treating vet on site at Grants Pass Downs in the case of emergencies. Rod Lowe stated they did not have one. Director Winn responded that if no other vet is present, in the case of an emergency, the ORC vet can render emergency care until a treating vet arrives.

**CONTESTED CASES:**

None.

**CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 1:30 P.M in person at the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon St, Portland, OR 97232 - Room 1A, and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 PM.