

Washington Horse Racing Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2014

The meeting convened at 9:30 A.M. at the Auburn City Council Chambers, Auburn, Washington. Present were: Jeff Colliton, Chairman; Paul George, Commissioner; Dr. Everett Macomber, DVM, Commissioner; Matt Kernutt, Assistant attorney General; Isaac Williamson, Assistant Attorney General; Doug Moore, Executive Secretary; Patty Brown, Confidential Secretary.

Chairman Colliton announced that the hearing listed as Item #6 on the meeting agenda would be moved to be heard following Item #3 Industry Reports.

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of October 7, 2014.

Commissioner George noting one correction on page 4, moved to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Macomber seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Item #2. Commissioner's reports.

Commissioner George reported on his unsuccessful attempt to be elected to the Legislature. He noted the highlight for him was watching the Breeders cup classic although the horse, "California Chrome" ran 3rd.

Commissioner Macomber said he had confined his efforts to voting and had spent a fair amount of time addressing medication issues.

Chairman Colliton said he and Doug Moore along with representatives of the Class C, Tri City Horse Racing Association had met with the Benton County Commissioners last Tuesday. He reported it looks to be promising on the future of horse racing at the Kennewick race track. Mr. Moore said the County Commissioners are aware of the problems experienced by the Association when trying to work with the Fair Board and the difficulty when working to set up the horse racing events held there. Mr. Moore also said Malon Cowgill had put a group together, not only for horse racing, but included barrel racing and roping which may assist with horse related events taking place there.

Mr. Moore said that the County Commissioners indicated that we could expect provisions included within the lease relating to an Association being allowed to conduct a horse racing meet.

Commissioner George said he was delighted the commissioners were willing to work with horse racing.

Chairman Colliton said Mr. Moore had done a very good job on briefing the commissioners as to how much the racing commission has invested financially in upgrading the facility to keep racing alive there.

Item #3. Industry reports.

- a. Emerald Downs. Bob Fraser, VP Operations, reported the handle to be down 1.3 percent, which he felt was not too bad for this time of year; with the handle shifting from live meet to full

simulcasting. He reported off track to be up 11 percent; noting that the Kirkland location had helped. Breeders' cup day was down a little. Mr. Fraser said they are now budgeting for next year; and working on the typical winter events; bookings for Christmas, and other group sales. He said the hope to be able to upgrade the tote systems equipment, as the current contract expires this year.

Mr. Moore presented the last handicapping results report for Sophia McKee, Marketing Director who was unable to be present.

- b. WAHBPA. MaryAnn O'Connell, Executive Director, said she is working on closing down the meet and working on medication rules. She reported their recent fund raising for the Bridge of Hope group was successful with the most money ever collected.
- c. WTBOA. Anne Sweet, Editor, said they were working on closing out the year too. She reported a new stallion "Gallant Son" will be standing at Bar C racing stables.

Break. Reconvened at 11:45 A.M.

Item #4. Owners/Breeders Awards update. Mr. Moore said the Owner's award factor for 2014 is 13.079 percent and there are 228 recipients; the total fund being distributed is \$533,671.63; for the Breeder awards, the factor for first is 11.1188 percent; second is 6.1689 percent; and third is 6.2661 percent, with 170 recipients and a total fund of \$350,635.71. Mr. Moore said hopefully the checks will be printed and mailed by end of next week.

Item. #5. Stewards end of meet report.

Mr. Ken Doll, Presiding Steward was available for questions. Commissioner George asked about employees being allowed to take vacations during the live meet. Mr. Moore said due to Human Resource rules of the Department of Enterprises Services, in order for an employee to take annual leave, they must be scheduled to work and the situation with Commission employees; they are employed only April to September. Commissioner Macomber asked why there were so few WA bred races. Mr. Doll said inability to fill race cards due to the lack of horses.

Mr. Moore said Tim Harder had been working on a project as an intern at the Olympia office comparing the WHRC WAC rules to the ARCI Model rules. Mr. Harder had completed the project and Mr. Moore presented the report. Mr. Harder was available to answer questions. A copy of his report was given to the Commissioners, with a copy given to Emerald Downs and WA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association.

Item #6. Hearing before the Commission.

- a. Vince Gibson - WHRC 2014-004.

Chairman Colliton opened the hearing at 9:55 A.M. Mr. Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General represented staff. Mr. Gavin Simkins, Attorney, represented Mr. Vince Gibson. Exhibits were entered and testimony was taken. The hearing was concluded at 11:40 A.M.

Break. Reconvened at 1:45 P.M.

Item #7. Executive Secretary's report.

- a. Wagering Recap September 2014.

Mr. Moore reviewed the wagering recap for September 2014. He reported October 2014 wagering totals. Mr. Moore said he will start reporting on fiscal year rather than race year basis.

- b. Monthly financial statement (September 2014).

Mr. Moore explained the revenues and expenditures and reported the Fund balance to be \$767,471.

Item #8. Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission.

Chairman Colliton said the next meeting will be January 9, 2015. Hearing nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.

(1:55 P.M.)

Doug Moore, Executive Secretary