

Washington Horse Racing Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
April 9, 2021

Present were: Mr. Moore, Melanie Bowdish, Bob Lopez, Ken Doll, Amanda Benton, Dr. Macomber, Dr. Ragle, Ken Doll, Shorty Martin

Members of the Public attending were: Patrick Lepley, Anne Sweet, MaryAnn O'Connell, Garret Cocchiarella, Lanna Allen, Dione Asmussen, Mike Wilson, Annie Birkliid, Suzanne Becker, Jenny Webber, Debbie Pabst, Petra Lewin, Phil Ziegler

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of March 12, 2021 (Action item) Motion to approve, Dr. Macomber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Ragle- Motion carries

Item #2. Commissioners' reports. (Informational items)

Chairman Lopez- Was named ARCI Board of Directors Chairperson. Also, attended the National Racing Compact delegate meeting and ARCI Strategic Planning meetings on March 10, 2021. Planned to attend the ARCI Model Rules meeting on April 16, 2021, and the ARCI Annual Board of Director's meeting on April 19, 2021.

Dr. Macomber- Signed up to sit in on the model rules meeting.

Item #3. Industry reports

a. Emerald Downs report;

Preparing to have fans. Finalizing protocols and the amount of people allowed.

Muckleshoot is doing a vaccine site- 100 people signed up on 5/8. It is a Johnson and Johnson vaccine and available to all horsemen, including owners and breeders. Doses are limited so call the race office at (253) 288-7000 for an appointment.

On 5/29 they are planning on having owners allowed to access the stable area. Please get vaccinated if you would like to go.

Chairman Lopez- asked how many horses are on the grounds right now. Phil Ziegler- last reported was 430. Still actively getting inquiries from new trainers. There are still some unknowns with other tracks right now as to if and when they may run.

b. WHBPA Report;

Nothing to report other than what was discussed last month.

MaryAnn- Executive meeting of the HBPA is scheduled for a Zoom conference is next week.

c. WTBOA Report; and

Working on taking the WTBOA sale entries, sale is scheduled for Tuesday August 24<sup>th</sup>. They currently have 83 yearlings signed up. Hoping to get up to 100.

Also working on the online benefit auction for the WTBOA which is scheduled for April 12-18<sup>th</sup>

Anne Sweet asked if owners able to get licensed in the office yet? Mr. Moore informed the group that the commissions is encouraging them to get licensed over the phone or by mail but if they do come to the office we will license them. Will not be giving badges until they are eligible to go to the stable area, we will license and get them on the list.

d. Sun Downs Report

N/A

Item #4. Emerald Downs Race Meet Packet (Action Item)- Dr. Macomber, motion to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup> -motion carries

One amendment made to the cover letter submitted which listed and incorrect date of March 19<sup>th</sup> as opening day was changed to Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Has been updated in official records.

Provided the same information as in previous years regarding officials and other items. Year end fiscal statement will be provided when completed. Racing information has been provided. Wagering information has been provided along with ticket cancellation policy. Decided to not offer the pick 7, will offer a pick 6 instead.

Phil Ziegler: Change from the pick 7 to the pick 6, as it the seems to be a slightly more popular format.

Follow-up on OTB locations. Yakima is already open, Shoreline is not open yet (Club Hollywood), trying to get most of the OTBs up and running and will hopefully be online this week.

Dr. Macomber- asked if the State opens up to phase 3 will that impact the amount of people able to be at the races.

Phil Ziegler - We are being optimistic, but if it is how phase 2 is now, it would not allow for additional fans.

Item #5. WHRC Officials, Emerald Downs (Action Item) Chairman Lopez motion to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carries.

It was reported that staff was still having a difficult time finding a 2<sup>nd</sup> veterinarian.

Chairman Lopez- How many vet assistants are you planning on hiring? Reported that last year we had 3-4 a day working, the plan is to hire 6-7 to have backups to fill in.

Item #6. Request to appear before the Commission – Ronald Triplett (Possible Action item) Ronald Triplett requested the original order issued against his licensing status be amended which would allow him to apply for a license. Mr. Triplett's recent record has been clean and no arrests since the original order. His request was approved. An order will be issued.

Item #7. Extend Policy Statement 2020-01 – Equine testing (Action Item) Staff requested the equine testing policy which reduces the number of horses in the test barn at one time to assist

with social distancing be extended for 2021. Dr. Macomber moved to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Motion carries

Will consider re-visiting if moved to Phase 4.

Item #8. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Wagering Recap (March 2021); and
- b. Monthly Financial Statement (February 2021)

Item #9. Discussion Items – Commissioners

Dr. Ragle - Would like for us to have a monthly update on the Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act. Staff indicated they would work with Ed Martin at ARCI to provide the update at the June meeting.

Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission

Adjourned at 10:37 am

Next meeting is June 11, 2021



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Douglas Moore, Executive Secretary