



# WHRC Commission Meeting

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Date:** December 6, 2023

**Call to Order:** 9:30 am (PT)

**Adjourned:** 9:34 am (PT)

**Attendees:** Chair Robert Lopez, Commissioner Douglas Moore, Commissioner Dr. Claude Ragle (via Zoom), WHRC Executive Secretary Amanda Benton, Deputy Secretary Ann-Kathrin Zemann (via Zoom), Confidential Secretary Melanie Bowdish

## Agenda items

### 1. Shoreline OTB Application

Executive Secretary Amanda Benton was contacted by Bob Frazier, Vice President of Operations at Emerald Downs Racing, LLC, regarding the Shoreline Off Track Betting Facility. The property owner, John Mitchell, evicted the former tenant, who operated the satellite betting, this last Monday. Mr. Mitchell is seeking to operate the OTB facility himself, until another tenant is found. The Washington Horse Racing Commission received his application this morning, December 6, 2023. Bob Frazier and John Mitchell were on the Zoom call to answer questions.

Chair of the Commission, Robert Lopez, inquired about the reason as to why the former tenant of the Shoreline OTB was evicted. Mr Mitchell reported that the tenant got behind on rent for a significant amount of time. They finally gave the tenant a payment plan or an eviction date.

Commissioner Douglas Moore asked Mr Mitchell if he had been operating the facility himself in the past and he affirmed that and he was previously licensed with the WHRC to operate an OTB site.

Mr. Frazier also added that he has done business with Mr. Mitchell for over 20 years. He also emphasized that it is important that the Shoreline OTB remains open, since it is the largest OTB site in the State of Washington. Once a new tenant is found, they will submit another application for this person. The employees will not change, since they are employees of Emerald Downs Racing, LLC and not the Shoreline OTB.

Chair Robert Lopez entertained a motion to approve the Shoreline OTB application request.

Commissioner Dr. Ragle made a motion; Commissioner Moore seconded. It was moved and seconded that the commission approved the application for the Shoreline OTB. Motion carried.

Executive Secretary Amanda Benton will prepare a letter; Shoreline has the authorization to remain open.



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Amanda Benton, Executive Secretary