

Washington Horse Racing Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2018

Present were: Robert Lopez, Commissioner; Jeff Colliton, Commissioner; Doug Moore, Executive Secretary; Patty Brown, Confidential Secretary. Everett Macomber, Chairman, was excused.

In the absence of the Chairman Macomber, Robert Lopez, chaired the meeting.

Commissioner Lopez called meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of January 12, 2018.

Commissioner Colliton moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Item #2. Commissioners' reports.

Commissioner Lopez had nothing to report. Commissioner Colliton had nothing to report.

Item #3. Industry reports.

a. Emerald Downs.

Phil Ziegler, President, Emerald Racing LLC reported the Seattle Times had given them a full page notice and picture reporting on the opening of Spring training at Emerald Downs, great advertising for them. Jack Hodge reported there were 315 horses on the grounds down about 141 from this time last year they had 455. He reported that due to the recent breakout of Equine Herpes Virus, they were recommending recent health certificates and vaccination records on horses arriving on the grounds. Mr. Hodge said Portland Meadows had not quarantined the shed row where the breakout had occurred and that most of the horses were allowed to mingle with suspected horses.

b. HBPA.

Lanna Allen said MaryAnn O'Connell was still out of country and had nothing to report.

c. WTBOA.

Dana Halvorson, President, reminded everyone of their annual awards banquet, which is set for Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. He said they've been working on a new sound system for the sales barn. Anne Sweet, Editor for the magazine said she had nothing to report.

d. Sun Downs.

Shorty Martin, Racing Secretary, said the race track is open, the barn area is open and a few horses have moved in. The race track surface should be ready to open next week. Commissioner Lopez asked if anyone training at Sun Downs had to get a license, Mr. Moore said no, but they could if they wanted to cover any employees under the horseman's L & I account, he did recommend a farm account should be obtained in any other case.

Item #4. WHRC Officials, Emerald Downs.

Mr. Moore presented the 2018 WHRC Officials noting two hires, one to backup Ms. Debbie Hopkins as licensing clerk/ mutuel inspector, Ms. Yvonne Doll; and a person to back several of the positions that currently do not have a backup; Ms. Bobbiejo Miller, Racing Official 1 has been hired to cross train for those positions. Mr. Moore noted one other hire that will take place soon is the vacant Investigator position at Emerald Downs.

The WHRC officials for the Sun Downs meet remain the same as last year.

Commissioner Colliton asked about Hugh and Kim Wales, they indicated they may not return for this year. Mr. Moore said he's talked with both of them; they were unable to return right at the beginning of the meet, but would be available the following weekend to work.

Commissioner Colliton moved to approve the WHRC officials as submitted. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Emerald Downs packet. Mr. Moore said there were a couple of changes to the Emerald Downs officials; a new track superintendent, Eric Crofoot; Tom Harris was hired as the full time announcer. Hank Seibert is taking over as Stable area Security Director. Mr. Moore said the HBPA agreements are in place and included in the packet.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the Emerald Downs smart phone mobile app and how to place a wager; do you go to a window to put money on account or utilize a debit card, etc. Mr. Fraser said you have to go to a window and open an account and it is cash only.

Commissioner Colliton moved to approve the Emerald Downs 2018 officials. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Item #5. Sun Downs Dates request and officials. Mr. Moore said Tri City Horse Racing Association has requested 6 days of live racing beginning April 21<sup>st</sup> racing Saturday and Sunday concluding on May 6<sup>th</sup>; and also to simulcast the Kentucky Derby. Mr. Moore said the officials were the same as last year. Mr. Moore said there is \$77,402 in the purse account.

Commissioner Colliton moved to approve the Sun Downs dates request and officials for their 2018 race meet. Commissioner Lopez seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Item #6. Class C Purse Fund – additional funding.

This item was tabled.

Item #7. Distribution of Donohue Fund.

Mr. Moore said the distribution amount this year is \$2,362.31. A check would be prepared and sent out to Sun Downs next week. Commissioner Lopez asked if there was an accounting from Sun Downs on how the funds were utilized last year and Mr. Moore said there wasn't but he would ask Nancy Sorick for an accounting and have it for the next meeting.

Item #8. Approval annual year-end report. Mr. Moore presented the WHRC annual year-end report for approval. Commissioner Lopez moved to approve the report and asked to include a line in the annual report detailing how the Donohue funds were utilized. Commissioner Colliton seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Item #9. Executive Secretary's report.

- a. Wagering recap (January 2018). Mr. Moore reported for the date range January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018 wagering was down 1.21 percent; comparing the race year down 11.68 percent ; and for the date range July 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018 fiscal year up .80 percent. He said wagering was fairly flat.
- b. Monthly financial statement (December 2017). Mr. Moore reviewed the revenues and expenditures and reported the fund balance at the end of December 2017 to be \$757,784. Mr. Moore said salaries were overspent due to employee leave buyout; WA Tech requirements requiring the WHRC to purchase a company to "page freeze" our website; replacement of an outdated laptop for the CrossMatch fingerprint system and software to go with the new laptop; an additional unexpected expense for the Necropsy truck refrigeration unit that quit working at the end of 2017. Commissioner Lopez asked what determined sending a deceased horse to WSU for necropsy. Mr. Moore detailed what was in place and Commissioner Lopez asked to have a policy in place for transporting deceased horses. Mr. Moore said a new centrifuge has to be purchased to replace a twenty year old one and one of the freezers in the Test Barn needs to be replaced also. Commissioner Lopez also asked about the cashing out of annual leave. Mr. Moore said new language in the bargaining agreement states that employees must cash out any unused annual leave when taken off staff.

Item #10. Discussion items – Commissioners.

Commissioner Colliton asked Mr. Fraser if he was holding a hoop fest this year. Mr. Fraser said he is hoping to partner with the city and the Parks Department but it is still in the works. Commissioner Colliton said he'd been talking with someone in Spokane and would like to give them Mr. Fraser's phone number. Mr. Fraser said that would be fine to give his number the them to answer questions.

Mr. Moore said the Gambling Commission has published their pie chart on percentages on gambling. He said horse racing had gone from 1 percent in 2016 to .72 percent in 2017. Tribal casinos keep expanding and everyone else is decreasing.

Item #11. Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission.

Ms. Sweet said she was thinking we're all in same boat. Their building now belongs to Emerald Downs, but last year HVAC had to be replaced. Things needing to be replaced.

Commissioner Lopez asked about moving the WHRC servers. Mr. Moore said that has not been done yet, he's asked for an exemption and hasn't heard any more since his request.

Commissioner Lopez said the next meeting is on March 9<sup>th</sup> and rules will be the bulk of the agenda. Mr. Moore said Dr. Friedman would reach out to Dr. Ramsey to give an update on Necropsy program for the April meeting.

Mr. Moore said he'd been advised that the Arizona Department of Racing thresholds that had been given to us was bad information. He will correct the graph and bring it back at for March meeting. Mr. Moore also said he's been receiving public comments that he will include in the packets. Commissioner Lopez asked if there was going to be additional comment taken at the March meeting. Mr. Moore said it was at their discretion. Commissioner Colliton said a problem with taking more information is that they may be anticipating on making a final decision on that day. Mr. Moore said he's encouraging anyone he's talked with to put it in writing and get it to him to be place in the Commissioner's packets.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

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Doug Moore, Executive Secretary