

WHRC Commission Special Meeting
February 6, 2023
Via Zoom teleconference and at WHRC Olympia Office
Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. New Commissioner – Douglas Moore – Chair Lopez introduced Doug Moore as a new commissioner.

2. Industry Legislation HB 1529 and SB 5598 -
This year's version of the horse racing industry bill would go to fund the Horse Racing Commission operations. If the bill passes \$6 million dollars would be put into the horse racing commission operating account to fully fund the commission and take away the 1.3% parimutuel tax. Anything left over would be dispersed as follows:
 - 10% to Nonprofit Class C race meets
 - 10% to Washington breeders
 - 10% to Nonprofits such as 4H, FFA, Equine rescues, etc.
 - 65% Class 1 racetracks to provide incentives for horses to race in Washington
 - 5% to the HBPA to assist with the horsemen on the backside

Senator Fortunado - The HB is not moving, the SB has a hearing on February 7, 2023, and need to get people to sign in to testify. They don't have to speak they can sign in and support and support it. This is extremely important. He sent the bill report and it is now a flat \$6 million bill and if the bill gets out of the Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee it will go to Ways and Means committee.

Chairman Lopez- Asked if this will this remove the WHRC fund balance issues we have had over the last few years? Mr. Moore- Yes, it does but we still need to be fiscally responsible as we can be to return back into the industry.

Chairman Lopez- Asked if the emergency clause is necessary? Ms. Benton- The emergency clause is unnecessary and will most likely be removed.

HBPA MaryAnn O'Connell- Encouraged the commission to support the bills and will be testifying at the senate committee meeting tomorrow. She has sent the information on how to support the bill to 724 people

Mr. Moore, move to support both SB 5598 and the HB 1529, Dr. Ragle 2nd. Motion carries.

Mr. Moore - Regarding the Senate bill, Mr. Moore has been asked to testify tomorrow. He reviewed the points he is going to go over to ensure they are in line with the commission:

- Stabilizes our operating account.
- Helps fulfill our mission statements- Encourage the breeding of Washington horses.
- We will be the stewards of these funds. We will have a transparent process in where the funds go. Same with the grant program. Open, transparent program for the groups to apply for.

- Will discuss how our RCW speaks to promoting breeding in Washington.

Meeting adjourned 9:48 am.



Amanda Benton, Executive Secretary