

Washington Horse Racing Commission
Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
January 8, 2021

Present were: Executive Director Doug Moore, Deputy Director Amanda Benton, Confidential Secretary Melanie Bowdish, Commissioner Everett Macomber, Senator Fortunato, Chairman Bob Chairman Lopez, Ken Doll, Representative Schmick, Commissioner Claude Ragle

Members of the Public attending were: Maryann, Dana Halvorson, Brett Anderson, Lanna, Phil Zeigler, Petra Lewin, Debbie Pabst, Anne Sweet, Patrick Lepley, Mary Griffin, Mike Wilson, Garret Cocc, Jennifer Webber, Hugh Wales, Drew MacEwen, Karen Martin, Joe, Pam, Dana Halvorson

Senator Fortunato to Mr. Moore- Questions regarding bill. Mr. Moore explained the background of legislation.

Chairman Lopez motion to support, approved and motion carries.

Request for legislation- Approved in the governor's budget. Thank you Rep. MacEwen. Reach out to chair and vice chair to move through appropriation. Senator Fortunado to run as a companion in the senate.

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of November 13, 2020 (Action Item)- Macomber move to approve, Dr. Commissioner Ragle 2nd motion carries.

Item #2. Commissioners' reports.

Chairman Lopez participated in two meetings in December. Rules will be discussed further in the agenda.

Item #3. Industry Reports.

a. Emerald Downs report;

Phil Zeigler- Being stuck on track level due to COVID, it is a financial hardship. Not as much purse money. We need to get OTB's open. Phase 2 will give us that. This winter could be going between phase 1 and phase 2. Going through all winter at track level, we are seeing other tracks lowering purses.

Phase 2- 25% occupancy, 6 people per table and 2 households. Would not be a factor for us, we have the space to accommodate. Phase 2 will be a very significant time for revenue generating.

b. WHBPA report

Patrick Lepley- meeting with Emerald management on 11/24. Covered changes to contract, currently working on, cleaned up language and modernized contract. Also spent time discussing where we will get horses for the meet. If we can stay with the purses we finished the meet with we will probably get more horses. Uncertain what will be happening in California. We are not sure

what impact the federal legislation will have. If we can get the simulcast up to the 5th floor, we will be much better off.

Maryann- Wrap up 2020. Putting together budget. On federal legislation- reached out to senators and representatives. Did not get a good response. Adam Smith's office is the only office who responded. They took the time to listen to concerns and encouraged updates to their office.

c. WTBOA report; and

Dana Halvorson- Had stallion season auction, we were up substantially. 79 stallions represented and did extremely well.

We had to cancel the banquet this year due to COVID. Looking in to having a Zoom auction, working on a date for that for fundraising.

d. Sundowns report

Francis Martin- Planning to apply for dates at the February meeting. Racing if we can have a crowd. Open race track for training around the 1st of March. If it opens, regular dates, 3 weekends starting in April.

Commissioner Macomber- Will there be a date for Kentucky Derby in April? Mr. Moore anticipates it will.

Item #4. Emerald Downs date request (Action Item)

Mr. Moore- Asking for 50 day race meet. Will get remainder of packets prior.

Chairman Lopez - Will there be a possibility of adding dates next season? Phil Zeigler- We will have the barn area open on 3/1 track will open for training on 3/5, 75 days from then will be 5/19, we will open for racing then. Trainers need to know when they can get in and when they can start training. We will adjust and hope they are all for the positive. If we can have fans, we will adjust accordingly as well. Right now these are the dates we intend to run.

Commissioner Macomber- What is the status of the timing equipment (stridemaster)? Phil Zeigler- Wouldn't do anything like that as a primary to start the meet. It wouldn't be for the beginning of this meet.

Phil Zeigler - We have let everyone know for a while now the time period since closing day. We haven't altered from those dates. In communication with Grants Pass, they're looking at mid November for closing, it will give opportunity. Preparing for the environment we are under now, can only go up from here. Promised horseman by the end of this month to work on COVID protocols and testing required. Tight protocols will be in place.

Chairman Lopez, Move to approve race dates, Commissioner Macomber 2nd. Approved and motion carries.

EMD office open: 2/27-28, closed 1st and 2nd, open 3rd

Item #5. Class C Purse fund update (Informational item)

3 handle reports: New software, our mutual reports will be a mix.

Commissioner Macomber- Tracks from eastside? Mr. Moore- They want to run but we don't have the money for the revenue.

Item #6. Approval of Split Sample Laboratories (Action Item)

Mr. Moore- Motion to approve Dr. Macomber, 2nd to approve Commissioner Ragle. Motion carries.

Item #7. End of the Meet Report (Informational Item)

- a. Stewards end of the meet report 2020 – Ken Doll, Presiding Steward
Dr. Macomber question- Twitter hits 41 followers, 118 Tweets, 113 retweets.
Chairman Lopez- Issue with riding crops this year? No issues. Some minor things but were really good and adapted well.
Mr. Moore- Correction to report. 4.5 mile censor will be corrected prior to adding to our website.

Item #8. Adoption Hearings: (Action Item)

- a. WAC 260-24-550 Official veterinarian (s)- approved.
- b. WAC 260-28-020 Stable names – registration fees and restrictions- Commissioner Ragle approve, Macomber 2nd, motion carry
Chairman Lopez question- stable license.
- c. WAC 260-36-085 License and fingerprint fees- approved. Chairman Lopez move to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd. Approved.
- d. WAC 260-36-120 Denial, suspension, and revocation – Grounds- move to approve.
- e. WAC 260-40-090 Registration certificate- Commissioner Macomber move to approve, motion carries
- f. WAC 260-70-570 All horses subject to inspection- Chairman Lopez move to motion- motion carries

Item #9. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Wagering Recap (November/December 2020)
Overall, \$15,000 less from our operating account.
Chairman Lopez- Is it possible to get the numbers from prior periods to compare where we are difference wise. Mr. Moore will write in the difference, due to reports in new system.
- b. Monthly Financial Statement (October/November 2020)
- c. ARCI Model Rules update
HPBA (MaryAnn)
- d. Legislation update (Federal and Industry)

Item #10. Travel – April ARCI General Membership Conference (Action Item)- Attended by Zoom, no travel needed to approve. There is a plan for a meeting here in Tacoma this summer for first in person meeting.

Item 11. Discussion Items – Commissioners

Ann Sweet- They will be celebrating 2020 Equine champions, may be virtual. Some point early this year.
Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission



Douglas Moore, Executive Secretary