

WHRC Commission Meeting
January 14, 2022
Via Zoom Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Item #1. Election of WHRC Chair and National Racing License Compact representative. (Action Items)

WHRC Chair- Commissioner Macomber moved to re-elect Chairman Bob Lopez, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

National Racing Compact representative- Commissioner Macomber moved to re-elect Chairman Bob Lopez, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

Item #2. Approval of the meeting minutes of November 12, 2021 and Special meeting November 23, 2021. (Action Item)

November 12, 2021 meeting minutes- Commissioner Macomber moved to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

November 23, 2021 meeting minutes- Chairman Lopez moved to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

Item #3. Commissioners' reports.

Chairman Lopez meetings:

November 16, 2021 - HISA open feedback meeting

November 22, 2021 - Safety Rules meeting with Mr. Moore, Amanda Benton, and Dr. Friedman

November 30, 2021 - National Racing Compact meeting to discuss software.

December 9, 2021 - National Racing Delegation meeting and Model Rules Committee in Tucson

December 10, 2021 - ARCI Board of Directors meeting in Tuscan

January 11, 2022 - Board of Directors meeting

HISA- No enforcement agency being named right now, the only other agency with qualifications to do this would be ARCI. They sent a letter offering to be the enforcement agency, have not heard back yet. A Zoom meeting next Tuesday, January 18, 2022 with HISA.

Mr. Moore- The portion of costs has not been decided but formal has been drafted. It cannot be more than 10% of the purses at any given track. Encourage all stakeholders to look at the FTC website and give feedback on the proposed safety rules, the deadline is the January 19, 2022

Item #4. Industry Reports.

a. Emerald Downs report;

Phil Ziegler- Simulcasting opens Monday for racing for Martin Luther King Day. Have been fortunate with Omicron going around and the track has stayed healthy. A lot has been shifted to online but is handle is still up. The track will be opening for training around the beginning of March.

Dr. Macomber- Are there any grandstand restrictions? No, there are no restrictions other than vaccination proof and mask mandate.

b. WHBPA report; and

Pat Lepley - We have approved the stakes schedule, the revised schedule has been sent. We will have some comments for the HISA rules meeting. Some progress down in Olympia regarding sales tax return legislation, the HPBA has gone out on a limb, we have used the funds we have left to hire a lobbyist, we have made some good progress.

There is hope for a hearing on the tax rebate bill within the next two weeks. We are surprised about the number of legislators who have supported our interest. Senator Fortunato- Requested the revised bill be sent to him, has not seen it as of yet and would like to track it in the Senate. Has anyone contacted the Democratic side? Pat Leplay- HB1928, has 6 or 7 sponsors at this point.

MaryAnn- We got news yesterday that the arguments have been set for the HBPA affiliate lawsuit 2/16 in Lubbock, TX in district court.

c. WTBOA report.

Ann- The breeders have hired someone to replace her. The new hire will be starting the 27th of this month. The online stallion auction is wrapping up. The next event they are working on is the Annual Awards Banquet, celebrating champions last year, tentatively scheduled for the last Saturday in February.

d. Sun Downs report.

Shorty Martin - Sun Downs signed a new 3-year contract with the county. On February 1, 2022 will be at the track and do a walkthrough. Currently working on stakes schedule. A program will be put together. Race dates expected to be submitted are April 23, 24, and 30 and May 1, 7 and 8, 2022.

Item #5. Approval of Emerald Downs 2022 date request . (Action Item)

Based on the proposal submitted at the November meeting live racing will begin on May 15 and concluding on September 18, a total of 52 days.

Commissioner Macomber move to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motions carries.

Item #6. Class C Purse fund update.(Informational Item)

With no live meet being conducted in 2020 or 2021 the funding has built up. There will be some additional interest, but currently there is \$136,244.34 in the account. This covers the full \$15,800 allowed to submit and will leave a surplus for 2023.

Item #7. Approval of Split Sample Laboratories. (Action Item)

Requesting that we approve these labs for 2022. The lab we used to use, ALS, is no longer accredited and was removed from the list. Granting the contract in 2021 to Industrial Laboratories ended up being a good move for the commission last year.

Dr. Macomber move to approve, Dr. Ragle, 2nd, motion carries.

Item #8. Request for exemption regarding lasix use from HISA. (Action Item)

Information was received that if and when the HISA implementation of the medication portion become effective, there is an avenue to apply for exemption regarding the use of lasix. Based on age group, (three-year-old and older, with the exception of stakes races) will be allowed to continue the use of lasix for up to a three year period. Each year the age group moves up by one year. The WHRC would be required to request the exemption and not knowing timeframes. Mr. Moore asked for approval to apply for exemption when it is appropriate.

Dr. Lopez, moved to approve, motion carries.

Item #9. Proposed rules amendments (Discussion Item)

a. WAC 260-28-295 Trainer responsibility

Move forward with rule making, no opposition

b. WAC 260-50-045 The riding crop

This rule will be held pending HISA implementation.

c. WAC 260-60-460 Cancellation of claims

WAC 260-60-460 - Blaine Wright- The rule in currently being used in California and it creates numerous issues. The Horseman don't like the rule. He indicated that those running in both states like the rule in Washington, claiming rules need to stay the same.

Phil Ziegler- The rule in California is quite different than the model rule. He prefers the ARCI model rule.

Frank Lucarelli- Agreed with Blaine Wright. I don't know any trainer or owner that likes that rule in California. When speaking to other horseman, they agree that the current rule in Washington is better.

Dr. Macomber- in favor of staying with current rule.

This rule will be held pending HISA implementation.

d. WAC 260-70-625 New Section - Interarticular injections

Move forward with rule making.

e. WAC 260-70-640 Permitted medications

Move forward with rule making.

All rules that are moving forward will be sent out for additional stakeholder comment to be presented at the February meeting along with Dr. Friedman's yearend report. The commission may reconsider or amend the current proposals at that time.

Item #10. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Wagering Recap (November/December 2021); and
- b. Monthly Financial Statement (October/November 2021)
- c. Legislation update - (HISA and Industry)

The fund balance has been stabilized for at least this biennium, but with the uncertainty of HISA costs and other increased expenses, including the return of non-profit racing, a conservative approach is still warranted for spending.

Item #11. Travel - April ARCI General Membership Conference (Action Item)

Approval was requested for Commission Lopez and Doug Moore to attend. Additionally, the ARCI will be offering new commissioner training which is beneficial and Dr. Ragle also may attend. Chairman Lopez- Move to approve, Dr. Ragle 2nd, motion carries

Item #12. Discussion Items - Commissioners

Dr. Macomber- Keep a close eye on the budget with HISA's decisions coming on.

Anne Sweet- Reported that her replacement is Anne Katherine, and she will be starting on the January 27, 2022.

Item #13. Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission

Item #14. Ownership change - Hawks Prairie Casino (Tentative Action Item)

TIL Gaming LLC is in the process of purchasing a portion of the Hawks Prairie Casino. The group is currently licensed by the WSGC with no issues reported. Commissioner Ragle move to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.


Douglas L. Moore, Executive Secretary