

Commission Meeting
7/23/21
Location Emerald Downs
Meeting started at 9:30 a.m.

Present were: Robert Lopez, Chairman; Dr. Everett Macomber, DVM, Commissioner; Dr. Claude Ragle, DVM, Commissioner; Ex-Officio Representative Emily Wicks, Doug Moore, Executive Secretary; Melanie Bowdish, Confidential Secretary, Ken Doll, presiding steward.

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of June 11, 2021. Commissioner Macomber move to approve, Dr. Ragle, seconded, minutes approved.

Item #2. Commissioners' report.

Bob Lopez attended the ARCI model rules committee meeting and ARCI Board of Directors meeting.

At the board of directors meeting they discussed rules and enforcement plans regarding the Horse Racing Integrity and Safety Act and individual jurisdictions are scheduled to have some input in the fall. HISA indicated that they want the states to maintain the infrastructure. Law is scheduled to go into effect July 1, 2022. They still do not know exactly how it will be implemented, how the rules will be developed and how much it is going to cost and how the industry will pay for it.

Dr. Macomber reported that he spent Sunday, July 23 at the track for Washington State Legislature day. Representative Emily Wicks and Senator Fortunado also attended. Thanks were given to Phil Ziegler, Bob Fraser, and Jack Hodge for setting it up. Everyone is hoping for more attendees next year (post COVID). We need to spend more time educating the legislative branch of the government on our industry, as we will most likely need their help in the future.

Item #3. ADW Renewal- Watch and Wager – Commissioner Macomber move to approve, Chairman Lopez 2nd, motion carries.

Item #4. ADW Renewal- XpressBet – Chairman Lopez move to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd- motion carries.

Gene Chabrier was in attendance to represent Xpress Bet. Chair Lopez asked if Xpress Bet sees the increase in ADW handle slowing down with live racing opening back up. Mr. Chabrier reported that the trend they are seeing is it is continuing to grow, as it is still way over 2019 when live racing was open. They see the trend continuing to move up, but most likely not at the rate that it did in 2020.

Item #5. Industry Reports

Emerald Downs report;

June 30 was a big day for the track, the state dropped all COVID restrictions. July 3 tickets were sold in advance for the annual fireworks show, it sold out quickly. The attendance was capped at 6300 people for the 3rd of July. Feedback was good, and it was a manageable crowd.

Emerald Downs is providing free programs with admission to the races this year. There is a noticeably younger crowd that attends. Corgi day is this Sunday, they are expecting a lot of people, and hope for a big day. The corgi races will be shown on August 8th on ESPN, with more details to come. Emerald Downs also added two additional Washington Cup stake races on September 12.

Chair Lopez asked if they were having the Indian relay races this year. Phil reported that they will be held on September 10 through the 12, with Friday night being the trial heats and no live racing. The Weiner dog races in are scheduled for August 22, along with a couple of family days, and Longacres Mile Day is August 15.

The WHBPA had nothing to report.

WTBOA Report - Dana Halvorson reported that at the current time they had about 130 horses in the sale, specifically 98 yearlings, 1 weanling, 30 broodmares (2 with foals at side which will sell as a package with the broodmare). 129 entries total.

Item #6. Approval of satellite location, Angel of the Winds Casino- (Action Item)- Commissioner Macomber motion to approve, Commissioner Ragle 2nd - motion carries

Bob Fraser informed the commission that the Angel of the Winds Casino is operated by the Stillaguamish Tribe. The OTB area will be in the Keno area, and will also be the future sports book location. This casino is more than just a casino, offering bowling, golf, and other activities so horse racing will fit in. Also Emerald will be looking at other locations with other tribal casinos as they open sports books at their sites.

Dr. Macomber asked if all the satellite locations have open up after COVID. Bob Fraser reported that there are a couple that haven't yet, one in Shoreline is still in lease negotiations, and they will most likely closed through the summer, Bob should have more clarity in September.

Item #7 –Executive Secretary's Report

a. Wagering Recap (June 2021)

Used 2019 handle figures as comparison due to COVID in Handle was down in-state 45% for the month.

b. Monthly Financial Statement (May 2021)

May's expense vs revenue showed an gain of \$14,919 in the operating account. This results in projected fund balance at the end of biennium of \$404,498.

A meeting with Representative Shelly Kloba and Senator Derek Stanford is scheduled later today regarding the entire industry and how the legislature may assist everyone rather than WHRC's issues alone.

Chair Lopez stated that our funding issue are still there, especially with the unknown costs of HISA. In fall/winter we will have a better idea of how much the new legislation will cost.

Mr. Moore- Sportech has been bought out by Bet Makers, LLC but the officers have not changed for Sportech.

Item #8- Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.



Douglas Moore, Executive Secretary