

Washington Horse Racing Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Meeting  
June 11, 2021

Present were: Mr. Moore, Melanie Bowdish, Amanda Benton, Chairman Lopez, Dr. Claude Ragle, Dr. Everett Macomber, Ken Doll

Members of the Public attending were: Phil Ziegler, Pat Lepley, MaryAnn O'Connell, Lanna Allen, Anne Sweet, Dana Halvorson, Jack Hodge, Bret Anderson, Suzanne Becker (AAG), Ed Martin (ARCI), Tom Cassidy (TVG), Matthew Feig (NYRABets), Melanie Frank (NYRABets), Chris Widmer (NYRABets), Tony Allevato (NYRABets), Garret Cocchiarella, Debbie Pabst, Melanie Frank, Seth Wong, Tom Cassidy, Cathy Johnson, Petra Lewin

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of April 9, 2021 (Action item) Macomber move to approve, Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries

Item #2. Update on HISA Progress- Ed Martin, ARCI (Informational Item)

They have formed their board and standing committees. ARCI Board Meeting coming up in Chicago on 7/13, invited HISA and USADA to come and speak. Executive Director has not yet been selected. Legal challenges to the federal law, will not know arguments until June 18<sup>th</sup>. Implementation date is 7/1/22. Pressure will be on HISA to give some type of preliminary investigation as to what the cost will be for the states. Most likely costs will not be known until spring 2022. There is a lot of speculation on how the authority will operate but nothing formal at this time.

Chairman Lopez- Is there some kind of baseline of medication rules that HISA has? Are they going to rely on the ARCI model rules. Ed Martin indicated that they may rely on the ARCI rules along with the IHFA rules. Regarding safety rules, there is an expectation that they may go beyond the model rules but that remains to be seen. They will be under pressure to submit rules to the Federal Trade Commission this summer. This Federal mandate only applies to thoroughbred racing and not quarter horse racing.

Chairman Lopez- Does the statute provide time to implement the statute? Mr. Martin indicated that there is an effective date, and at this time there are no plans to roll it out state by state. There are a lot of mid size and smaller states that will be affected by this. Once the rules are created, it's will be the decision by each state to determine if they have the funds to do implement this.

Dr. Macomber- Does the federal group have the authority to assess the fees for this testing and/or collect the fees from stakeholder individually? Mr. Martin, it would be very complicated and yet to be determined.

Dr. Ragle- Do they have a webpage or somewhere the constituents can be informed of any progress? [HISAus.org](http://HISAus.org) is the website. There is no contact information at this time.

Suzanne Becker- is this correct that one of the options is for an individual state to opt out and then HISA would contract back with the regulatory body to conduct the regulations? It is something they put in the statute in the anticipation that an agency could not get funded. Found out that most agencies did not have the ability to be reimbursed for services by receiving payments from a third party. They are envisioning that they will send the state a bill and the agency would collect. Most state commissions do not have authority to impose fees. Run the risk of having to go on a state by state basis to go to their Legislature to get authority to do that.

Once their leadership speaks to the ARCI board, they may try to get some AAG's and other regulators on the phone with the leadership to discuss legalities. Mr. Martin said he did inform the new group that there will not be a one size fits all solution.

MaryAnn O'Connell- The Washington HBPA's biggest concern is cost, how many owners with our purse structure will stay in the business, how much is now going to be taken away, how many horses will we lose and is this the end of Washington Racing? Mr. Martin They (HISA) don't have any information that they have provided yet on costs and plans.

Pat LePley- The Governor's office and /or the Legislature would have to allow an outside entity to supercede the WHRC's statutes and WAC's. Mr. Martin indicated we are not the only state with the same concerns. Mr. Martin felt that the legislation may have to go back for technical corrections to restructure the intent and desire of those that supported the bill.

### Item #3. Commissioners' reports

Chairman Lopez- After April meeting, attended ARCI meetings, 2 National Racing Compact license meetings, attended a delegate meeting and was elected chair, also attended opening day at Emerald Downs.

Macomber- Attended opening day at Emerald Downs, organization was considerable by the track.

Item #4. ADW license renewal – TVG (Action Item) Dr. Macomber move to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries.

Tom Cassidy (TVG)- Appreciates the partnership with Emerald Downs and looks forward to their continued relationship.

Dr. Macomber- Concerned with the expiration date of their base license in Oregon, Mr. Moore reported it was a matter of timing to get license renewed in Oregon and there were no issues expected.

Item #5. ADW license renewal – NYRA Bets (Action Item)- Chairman Lopez move to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries.

Matthew Feig (NYRABets)- Appreciate the partnership with Emerald Downs and the relationship with the WHRC. The merger with Fox Sports will bring additional revenue and new customers to Horse Racing creating additional exposure on their networks.

Dr. Macomber- With the inclusion on Fox Sports have the board members changed? Not at this time, and they will notify the WHRC if anything changes.

Item #6. Emerald Downs Report – Request for Race Day Amendments (Action Item)- Chairman Lopez move to approve, Dr. Ragle, 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries.

Phil Ziegler- Thank you to TVG and NYRABets, we have more wagering for EMD coming through them nationally than ever.

With the track being open it was great to have fans on opening night, for the first six days of racing we are seeing quite a few younger groups coming. We have plenty of room and outdoor space. Things are beginning to feel more normal. As far as industry folks, our stable area is now open for owners to sign in guests, we are following along with state guidelines. Unvaccinated should be wearing masks. Employees vaccination status is verified. Employees who work on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor are continuing to wear a mask. Attendance has been decent on Wed/Thurs, The date change request is asking to move to more weekend dates. Following the July 3<sup>rd</sup> firework shows they are requesting a Thursday/Saturday/Sunday schedule. Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m., Saturday evening, 6:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoons, 2:00 p.m.

6/20 is EMD 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 7/3 the Firework show. Will be able to have about 5,000 for attendance. Tickets go on sale Thursday morning. July 11 is Legislator Day.

Chairman Lopez- What is the horse population and field size? Phil- Population is down this year, about 600 on the grounds. Looking to put more bonus programs for this summer when other tracks close for the season to try to attract some additional trainers and horses as other meets close. Will be a struggle running three days, but they are optimistic.

Item #7. Industry Reports.

a. WHBPA Report;

Pat LePley- Encouraged that we may pick up more California horses once Golden Gate closes. Primary thing we have been working on is trying to get as many horses here as possible. Partnership with EMD is very strong. Race track is in good condition.

Mary Ann- National election for a new president. Excited about the nominee, Dr. Doug Daniels. Brings a lot of expertise and is a horse owner himself.

b. WTBOA Report

Dana Halvorson- Sale is being formulated and catalog coming shortly. Sale is August 24<sup>th</sup>. 96 nominees for yearlings. Good group of sires and pedigrees, also about 25-30 mares in the sale. Will also have video for those to buy online or over the phone. Had meeting with Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association regarding breeding, and

what other states and Canada are doing to improve their programs. Will follow-up with an overview so we can improve our programs.

Dr. Macomber- Any movement on the disease coming out of Kentucky from the breeding farms? Dana- It's a concern with the virus at particular farms, not all are seeing it. We are not seeing it in Washington.

Item #8. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Wagering Recap (April/May 2021); and
- b. Monthly Financial Statement (March/April 2021)

Introduction to Seth Wong, Industrial Laboratories

Chairman Lopez- Question regarding funding and the legislation that was passed. Mr. Moore reported that the agency would receive \$340,000 but costs for several items are increasing, testing and some other mandated expenses by the legislature, we need to remain fiscally responsible going forward.

Pat LePley- Thank you to Mr. Moore for the work he put towards the house bill. He primarily did that on his own and created some great relationships with several legislators. Mr. Moore reported that based on the legislation that was passed meetings are expected to be scheduled to talk with legislators on what solutions are out there to assist the entire industry.

Item #9. Approval of travel – ARCI summer meeting (Action Item) Dr. Macomber move to approve, Dr. Ragle 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries.

ARCI Board of Directors meeting scheduled in Chicago July 13-14<sup>th</sup> this year. Chairman Lopez to attend, estimated cost is \$1200 -1500.

Item #10. Discussion Items - Commissioners

Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission

Adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Next meeting is July 23, 2021



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Douglas Moore, Executive Secretary