

Washington Horse Racing Commission
Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
March 12, 2021

Present were: Executive Secretary Mr. Moore, Deputy Secretary Amanda Benton, Confidential Secretary Melanie Bowdish, Chairman Bob Lopez, Commissioner Dr. Everett Macomber, and Commissioner Claude Ragle.

Members of the Public attending were: Ann Sweet, Chad Riney, MaryAnn O'Connell, Phil Ziegler, Shorty Martin, Kim Torretta, Ken MacKenzie, Jenny Webber, Lanna Allen, Patrick LePley, Dana Halvorson, Kathy Johnson, Mike Wilson, Mary Griffin, Roddina Barrett, and Ken Doll.

Item #1. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 12, 2021 (Action item)

Macomber move to approve, motion carries.

Item #2. Commissioners' reports. (Informational items)

Dr. Macomber- Attended several ARCI video sessions on different topics relating to racing.

Item #3. ADW License Renewal – Twin Spires (Action Item), Chad Riney represented Twin Spires.

Dr. Macomber- Is there any anticipated any when track are allowed to open up for public attendance for live racing?

Chad Riney indicated they anticipate a decrease in ADW handle when that happens as people return to the track.

Dr. Macomber move to approve. Motion carries

Item #4. ADW License Renewal – Ebet Technologies, Inc (Action item), Kim Torretta and Ken McKenzie represented Ebet Technologies.

No questions from commissioners.

Chairman Lopez, moved to approve. Motion carries

Item #5. Industry Reports.

a. Emerald Downs report;

Moving to Phase 3, we are able to have sporting events in the state at 25%. Plans have been sent to the governor's office for approval.

Looking for off-track betting locations to reopen, but prepared for a decline in satellite facility wagering as customers have become accustomed to using ADW firms.

Starting next Wednesday, opening the 5th floor at 7:30 am to allow owners to watch training. The public is welcome to come watch training. Wed-Sun, 5 days a week.

Jack Hodge- 304 horses on the grounds currently. Phil has contacted the Muckleshoot tribe regarding the vaccine. Working on helping the essential employees get vaccinated. Will set up a vaccine clinic on the 2nd floor of the grandstand in the next couple weeks. Sign up for vendors, employees, and licensees for those who have not been vaccinated. Hoping that after 10 days to 2 weeks once essential licensee are vaccinated they will be able to open up the backside to owners.

Dr. Macomber- Status of the café? Jack Hodge- I thought it was open.

Dr. Macomber- How many people are able to attend in phase 3? Phil Ziegler- By the time we run 2 months from now, hopeful that an analysis on outdoor sports to increase capacity will be done. We don't know the number they will approve and their protocols had been sent to the governor's office.

MaryAnn O'Connell- Quarter Chute decided to close until April due to lack of business. We need to educate people on the vaccine; there is a fear of the unknown.

Phil- Incentives to attract new trainers had been created. There have been some new trainers that had submitted stall applications, and that's a good sign.

b. WHBPA report; and

Pat Lepley- HBPA meeting, approved the purse condition contract with Emerald and sent over for signature. Approved 2021 overnight purse and stake schedule. Will allow for the 10% increase of the purses that started in the beginning of 2020 to continue. Discussed COVID 19 protocols with EMD.

c. WTBOA report.

Dana Halvorson- Awards went well. Presented a nice award for Doug Moore, Thank you to Doug and Commissioners for all the help having our sale last year. Their on-line auction will be available from 4/15 to 4/18, donations for the auction are still being solicited, get in contact with our office for an application for donation if anyone has anything to donate. We had a really good year and would like to thank everyone for participating.

Item #6. Sun Downs request to cancel race days (Action item)

Shorty Martin reported the County has designated Benton County fairgrounds as a COVID vaccination site. Per the County Commissioners, no other events are allowed to be conducted the grounds while this is taking place. Tri-City Horse Racing is beginning the process to open up next year.

Macomber moved to approve the request for withdraw the 2021 race dates, Lopez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Following this agenda item, Chairman Lopez had to excuse himself from the meeting and Dr. Macomber chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Item #7. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Wagering Recap (February 2021); and
- b. Monthly Financial Statement (January 2021)
- c. Legislative updates

SB 5364, The sales tax legislation, did not get a hearing with Ways and Means. Possibility of bringing it back next year once there is a better understanding of the bill.

SB 5212, Sports Betting, did get a hearing in Labor, Commerce, & Tribal Affairs but was never scheduled for Executive Session and did not pass any further.

HB 1022- moved out of the House fairly easily. Scheduled for a hearing in Labor, Commerce, & Tribal Affairs on Monday and Wednesday for Executive Session. Confident that will happen, will go to Senate Ways and means from there and to the floor from there.

Questions and discussion by Dr. Macomber regarding the HISA Federal Legislation. HBPA indicated they had signed onto a law suit filed by the National HBPA on the legality of the legislation. No other news to report as there has been no committee appointed yet by the Federal Government to organize the legislation.

Item #8. Discussion Items - Commissioners

Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission

Adjourned at 10:23 am.

Next meeting is April 9, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Douglas Moore", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Douglas Moore, Executive Secretary