

Washington Horse Racing Commission
Special telephone conference meeting
May 8, 2020
1:30 PM

Present in Olympia were: Amanda Benton, Deputy Secretary; Patty Brown, Confidential Secretary.

Attending by Phone: Robert Lopez, Chairman; Dr. Everett Macomber, DVM, Commissioner; Dr. Claude Ragle, DVM, Commissioner; Doug Moore, Executive Secretary; ; Ken Doll, Presiding Steward, WHRC; Debbie Hopkins, Registration Clerk, WHRC; Darrell Farwell, Investigator, WHRC; Pat LePley, President, WA Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association; MaryAnn O'Connell, Executive Director, WA HBPA; Lanna Allen, WA HBPA; Dana Halvorson, President, Washington Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association; Anne Sweet, Editor Washington Thoroughbred; Phil Ziegler, President, Emerald Racing LLC; Jack Hodge, Vice President, Emerald Downs; Ron Crockett, Consultant, Emerald Downs.

Item #1. Consideration of amended date request – Emerald Racing LLC. (Action Item)

Chairman Lopez opened the telephone conference meeting at 1:30 P.M. and stated the only item on the agenda that will be discussed is the amended date request for Emerald Downs 2020 race season.

Mr. Moore presented the revised request he received via email from Phil Ziegler, President, Emerald Downs asking to revise the 2020 request for live racing to begin on June 22 for a 44 day live racing meet with a 12 noon post time; racing on Mondays and Tuesdays without fans in attendance.

Mr. Ziegler stated in support of this request, Mondays and Tuesdays are the most advantageous days to race and simulcast because there are minimal tracks running on those days. Mr. Ziegler said as the COVID 19 quarantine relaxes, they would likely return to a more traditional race schedule of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. He also said they would likely be reevaluating the post time as the date gets closer.

Chairman Lopez asked for questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Ragle said he had none. Commissioner Macomber asked Mr. Ziegler if he plans on changing the post times. Mr. Ziegler said yes that he would definitely be looking at that.

Chairman Lopez moved to approve the amended date request received from Emerald Downs Racing LLC to begin racing on June 22, 2020, and; in addition, give Mr. Moore the approval to make minor changes if necessary to avoid holding another special meeting. Commissioner Macomber seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Crockett personally thanked and commended Mr. Moore for his relentlessness with the Governor's office to keep horse racing on the forefront; and for his hard work and the extra effort to keep horse racing alive in Washington State.

Chairman Lopez reminded those present that the Commission is scheduled to next meet on June 12th and hopefully at the Auburn City Council Chambers.

Mr. Hodge said the track hours are changing beginning May 13th the track will be closed on Tuesdays and training will be Wednesday through Monday.

Chairman Lopez adjourned the meeting at 1:40 P.M.

Doug Moore, Executive Secretary