

WHRC Commission Meeting
November 12, 2021
Via Zoom

Present were: Robert Lopez, Chairman; Dr. Everett Macomber, DVM, Commissioner; Dr. Claude Ragle, DVM, Commissioner; Doug Moore, Executive Secretary; Melanie Bowdish, Confidential Secretary, Amanda Benton, Deputy Secretary, Kenneth Doll, Steward, Senator Phil Fortunato, Representative Joe Schmick.

1. Approval of the meeting minutes of October 8, 2021. (Action Item)
Dr. Macomber moved to approve, Dr. Ragle seconds, motion carries.
2. Commissioners' reports.
Robert Lopez reported that he had been spending most of his time with the ARCI reviewing the Horse Racing Safety and Integrity Act.
3. Industry Reports.
 - a. Emerald Downs report; Visited the Grants Pass track, had a tour of facility. Breeders Cup weekend, did quite well, simulcasting was up this year compared to last year. In 2020 live attendance could only be seated outside, so there was a better crowd this year at the track.
 - b. WHBPA report;
Discussed HISA. Lawsuit is moving forward. Have a had several AG's (not from racing states) join the lawsuit as well.
Dr. Macomber asked if they had any updates or issues relative to the backside? Nothing to report.
 - c. WTBOA report;
Stallion season auction coming up. Main thing is now working on a replacement for Anne Sweet who is retiring. There are 3 new stallions moving into the region. Anne asked if anyone knew someone who would be a good fit, send their way please.
 - d. Sun Downs report.
Meeting with the county next week to finalize contract. Plan to run same dates as the in the past, three weekends with closing weekend Kentucky Derby week. 3 days in April, 3 days in May looks like this years schedule.
4. End of the Meet Report (Informational Item)
 - a. Stewards end of the meet report 2021 - Ken Doll, Presiding Steward
Emerald did a good job this year overall. He was unable to do the pre-season security walk through like normal due to COVID. Did notice at the end of the meet where container trucks may have pushed down a perimeter fence but that should be an easy fix.
Chairman Lopez- Concerns over the 6 violations for smoking in the barn and tampering with smoke detectors. Asked if this was higher number of infractions or not. Ken reported that it was higher than last year, but not as high as other.

Dr. Macomber asked if the photo finish system was digital or analog? Mr. Moore reported it is all digital.

Dr. Ragle- Anything specific that you are concerned about going forward? Ken Doll- Nothing.

5. Adoption Hearings: (Action Items)

a. WAC 260-48-915 Quinfecta pools with carryover

Only change to this is the terminology of the name, the industry standard is pentafecta. Dr. Macomber moved to approve, Dr. Ragle 2nd - Motion carries

b. WAC 260-60-410 Claimed horse - in whose interest run - Delivery and passage of title
Adopt the ARCI model rule for the timing of transfer when a horse is selected for post race testing. The amendment changes the WHRC's from upon arrival in the test barn to following collection of the sample. This ensures the trainer of record, or his designee, maintain control of the horse until the sample has been collected, being as that trainer is the responsible party for any violations. Chairman Lopez move to approve, Motion carries.

6. Update on HISA (Informational Item)

Chair Lopez informed the meeting that we still have not learned much on how much this will cost us. HISA has said that while the bill passed indicated that states can chose to opt in coverage on all breeds, announced they would only covers thoroughbred racing, possibly adding other breeds at a later date. Mr. Moore said that w need to continue to update our stakeholders so we can continue to work together to make submit comments that will work for our region. It is troubling from a staffing issue- we don't have the staff to do the jobs for the work they want us to do, or the financial resources. Other states are considering are looking at turning the entire program over to HISA to do it because they don't have the staffing or resources to do it either.

7. Update on possible Industry Legislation (Informational Item)

More organization to that this year. Al Ralston, the lobbyist hired by the WTBOA and WHBPA is working on this. The WHRC is providing information and statistics to assist. Al Ralston reported that there are a couple of roadblocks, most notably the possible opposition from the chair of the Senate Ways and Means committee. He is going to be looking in to what we can do to make this a piece of House Legislation to begin with. Legislators spoken with so far have an interest in this. The hope is to get new sponsors in the House and will also be working with the Senate to try to get it introduced as a companion bill there.

A special meeting is planned on November 23rd to make on some other issues and a decision on new draft of the legislation may be available to discuss at that time.

Motion to continue to have Lopez work towards this for the commission.- Macomber 2nd, motion carries.

8. Executive Secretary's Report

a. Wagering Recap (October 2021)

Handle was up overall, but in 2020 there were either limited or no spectators at the track.

b. Monthly Financial Statement (September 2021)

During September the WHRC received the general fund allotment approved by the legislature last session, along with the past due pari-mutuel tax increase, which significantly increase the fund balance. Even with that, it is expected that the fund balance will steadily decrease with the current revenue throughout the biennium based on salaries and benefits, the return of non-profit racing, and the still to be determined costs of the HISA requirements.

Owners/Breeders checks should be going out next week.

Anticipate a special meeting on 11/23 to adopt the source market fee percentage change, Emerald Downs date request and a review of the possible draft of legislation. Senator Hobbs has accepted the appointment as Secretary of State, staff thanked him for his work with WHRC.

9. Discussion Items – Commissioners

10. Any other business that may be properly brought before the Commission

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.



Douglas L. Moore