

WHRC Special Commission Meeting
November 23, 2021
Via Zoom

Item #1. Adoption hearing - WAC 260-49-070 Distribution of Source Market Fees.

Proposed amendment would change the percentage received by the WHRC to 5.5% from 10% beginning January of 2022. The change would offset the increase of the pari-mutuel tax required by RCW 67.16.105 that resulted by the 2020 In-state handle dropping below \$50,000,000 in 2020. That created a little over \$200K in additional pari-mutuel received in 2021. Chair Robert Lopez- moved to approved, Dr. Macomber 2nd, motion carries.

Item #2. Refund on Daily Race Day Fees

Another impact of the reduction in In-state handle was that the daily license fees should have been reduced from \$500 per day to \$200 per day. Emerald Downs overpaid for 2021 the license fees by \$14,700. Staff asked the commissioners to approve the refund. Dr. Macomber move to approve, Chair Lopez 2nd, motion carries.

Dr. Ragle commented that the last update to that RCW appears to have occurred in 1999 and asked what do other states charge the racing association for license fees? That information was not prepared, but staff reported that it is unclear if other states charge those type of fees.

Item #3. Emerald Downs provided proposed race dates for 2021.

Race date approval is required to be at a regularly scheduled meeting so the formal approval will be considered at the next meeting in January. The proposed race dates at this time are informational only. Phil Ziegler and Emerald Downs will be requesting a 52 day live season starting on May 15th and ending on September 18. They are also expanding the incentive program for trainers and owners this year. They will send a press release with the dates with the caveat that it is still pending formal approval soon. Phil also reported that based on availability of purse funds there is a possibility of extending the meet and adding more race days in September.

Item #4. Update on HISA

Chair Lopez reported that Dr. Friedman, Doug Moore, Amanda Benton, and himself had reviewed draft submitted by HISA and are preparing comments. The other commissioners will be provided with the proposed rules for their input as well. Encouraged review and comments from stakeholders by December 1st or sooner. Dr. Macomber asked what is the current status of the lawsuit by HPBA? WHBPA president Pat LePley said there are multiple lawsuits with multiple different courts, they are all pending. Not sure if there is a timeframe on when any of the courts will make a decision or ruling.

Item #5. Report on industry legislation that would return a percentage of all equine related products sales tax to the industry.

The WHRC supported this legislation last year. Doug Moore reported that in working with Al Ralston the only change this year would be section 2,c, II that the last part would be stricken and that the funds in that portion of the bill would go solely for grants to outside equine activities in hopes of more support from other groups. Al Ralston is still working on sponsors in both the House and the Senate, but has been meeting with legislators and receiving positive feedback. Robert Lopez asked if the commission should wait until the January meeting to vote on support of the legislation. Mr. Moore indicated that Al Ralston is hoping to have the legislation filed soon and there may be hearings prior to the next commission meeting. Dr. Macomber move to approve the support, Dr. Ragle 2nd, motion carries.

Item #6. The factors and breakdowns of the 2021 Washington Bred bonus program were provided as requested at the last meeting. The majority of the checks were mailed out last week, only those recipients that have not supplied the required forms have not been processed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.



Douglas L. Moore, Executive Secretary

Meeting adjourned 9:52 am.