



# WHRC Special Commission Meeting

- Location:** Emerald Downs, 2300 Ron Crockett Drive, Auburn WA 98001, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Tribal Council Room and Zoom Video Conference
- Date:** May 2, 2023
- Call to Order:** 9:34 am (PT)
- Adjourned:** 9:46 am (PT)
- Attendees:** Robert Lopez – Chair, Douglas Moore – Commissioner, Dr. Claude Ragle – Commissioner, Amanda Benton – Executive Secretary, Senator Phil Fortunato, Representative Joe Schmick

## Agenda items

### 1. HISA Voluntary Agreement:

Executive Secretary Amanda Benton went over the proposed language of the HISA voluntary agreement. The draft shows red lines. These red lines have been accepted. There are several changes from last year's voluntary agreement that include:

- HIWU has been added as a signatory, as they are authorizing the Washington Horse Racing Commission to implement one limited area of the anti-doping and medication control program, which is outlined in the Stewards section. This is regarding selecting covered horses for post-race testing.
- Another change is in the regulatory vet section. Language has been added to reflect that the association vet, at the discretion of the regulatory vet, may perform limited duties, including pre-race and claimed horse inspection. The regulatory vet will retain final approval over the determination that a horse is not approved to compete.
- Proposed effective date of May 3, 2023, and a termination date of December 23, 2023.

- Furthermore, a section was added regarding access to the test barn and office area. There are two areas that the WHRC has been working on with Alex (last name) (HISA). One area is the Public Records Section, the other one is the No Data Sharing Section. HIWU took themselves out of these sections and we confirmed that they are ok with being added back in. The WHRC will send the draft to Alex (last name) today. Everything in the draft has been agreed to by both parties. The only change that will be made is adding HIWU back into the language of the voluntary agreement.

AAG Suzanne Becker suggested that the commissioners delegate the final adjustments to these sections to the Executive Secretary Amanda Benton to finalize if the commission is inclined to approve the contract. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the voluntary agreement with HISA/HIWU, pending the red line changes and other amendments, regarding the data sharing and if any further changes are arising, we will meet again. Furthermore, the commission gave Executive Secretary Amanda Benton the approval to finalize and sign the agreement on the commissioner's behalf. Commissioner Dr. Ragle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **2. Emerald Downs Grant Request:**

Emerald Downs requested a grant to cover the costs of the morning vet program. The total requested is \$29,440.00, which covers 184 training days, at \$160 per morning. This is less than the amount the commission previously approved for the class c races, hence it was in the budget. Commissioner Lopez asked if the amount was consistent with what the commission paid last year. It is slightly more, since the vet raised their fees from \$150 to \$160 per morning. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the grant as written, to provide funding for the morning vet program. Commissioner Dr. Ragle seconded the motion. It was moved and seconded that the commission approves the grant for Emerald Downs to fund the morning vet program.

## **3. Scott Bergsrud – Referral to Commission:**

Mr. Bergsrud applied for a license on April 21, 2023. Mr. Bergsrud appeared before the stewards, and they referred the matter back to the commission. The stewards referred it because of a previous commission order. Commissioner Lopez was not comfortable in proceeding, considering this matter to amend a previous commission order. Commissioner Lopez referred this matter back to the stewards for them to act. Once the stewards take action, Mr. Bergsrud will have the ability to appeal. The commission will have a special meeting to consider the matter.

The next meeting of the Washington Horse Racing Commission will be held on June 9, 2023, at 9:30 am at Emerald Downs and via Zoom.



Amanda Benton, Executive Secretary