

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION MINUTES – May 20, 2020 Emergency Meeting

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob F. Wright, *Chairman*
Judy W. Wagner, *First Vice Chairperson*
Dr. Patrick Bernard
Thomas B. Calvert
Donald "Don" Cravins
R. Hamilton "Hammy" Davis
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.
Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr.
Mike R. McHalfey
Louis Reine
Kenneth "Kenu" Romero
Mike Shelton

ABSENT

Eric G. Johnson

APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting of

6-12-2020

(Date)



Executive Director
Louisiana State Racing Commission

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) was called to order by the Chairman on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 1:00 PM on the Conference Call. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS

A. BOYD RACING, LLC d/b/a DELTA DOWNS RACETRACK, CASINO & HOTEL

2020 QUARTER HORSE MEET

1. **REQUEST BY BOYD RACING, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON AUGUST 19, 2019 (R.S. 4:158A) DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**
 - a. **Approval** for 2020 quarter horse meet licenses as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - b. **Approval** for 2020 quarter horse meet dates, races and post times as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - c. **Approval** for 2020 quarter horse meet wagering as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - d. **Approval** of Delta Downs' Post COVID-19 Re-Opening and Limited Operations Plan.
 - e. **Letter** from LaHBPA dated May 18, 2020 supporting Delta Downs' amended 2020 quarter horse meet application.

The Commission allows for comments from all horseracing industry participants and members of the public who wish to express their views on this request. No horseracing industry participants or members of the public identified themselves to speak and no public comments were offered about this request.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Item #1; Commissioner Wagner seconds; Poll Vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner III, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means to vote to approve the requests and Nay means to vote against approval; 10 – Yea, 0 – Nay; motion carries.

**B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC
d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO**

2020 THOROUGHBRED MEET

- 1. REQUEST BY BOYD GAMING, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON AUGUST 19, 2019 (R.S. 4:158A) DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**
 - a. Approval** for 2020 thoroughbred meet licenses as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - b. Approval** for 2020 thoroughbred meet dates, races and post times as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - c. Approval** for 2020 thoroughbred meet wagering as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - d. Approval** of Evangeline Downs' Post COVID-19 Re-Opening and Limited Operations Plan.
 - e. Letter** from LaHBPA dated May 18, 2020 supporting Evangeline Downs' amended 2020 quarter horse meet application.

The Commission allows for comments from all horseracing industry participants and members of the public who wish to express their views on this request.

Commissioner McHalfey states his opposition to Evangeline Downs' 50-day 2020 Thoroughbred Meet application due to having less 2020 thoroughbred race dates than Louisiana Downs and due to Evangeline Downs' proposed reopening start date causing overlap of race dates with Louisiana Downs' 64-day 2020 Thoroughbred Meet.

Commissioner Guilbeau states that a lot of time and effort has been put into negotiating Evangeline Downs' application between the association, the horsemen, and the Governor's Office.

Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA), informs that Louisiana Downs will host the only thoroughbred racing in Louisiana for the whole month of September and that the horsemen are ready to start racing. He states that the LaHBPA supports Evangeline Downs' application.

Mr. Chris Warren, Director of Racing for Evangeline Downs, states that Boyd Gaming, LLC worked with the LaHBPA and agreed to this application as submitted.

Ms. Kathryn Jenkins, General Manager of Louisiana Downs, states opposition to Evangeline Downs' application and says that Evangeline Downs should have to host the same amount of thoroughbred race dates as Louisiana Downs.

Commissioner Calvert motions to approve Item #1; Commissioner Wagner seconds; Poll Vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner III, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means to vote to approve the requests and Nay means to vote against approval; 6 - Yea, 5 - Nay; motion carries.

**C. HARRAH'S BOSSIER CITY INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC
d/b/a HARRAH'S LOUISIANA DOWNS**

2020 THOROUGHBRED MEET

1. **Approval** of Louisiana Downs' Post COVID-19 Re-Opening and Operations Plan.
2. **RACES**
 - a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2020 thoroughbred meet.
 - b. **Approval** of withdrawal of all designated races for the 2020 thoroughbred meet.
3. **STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**
 - a. **Approval** of officials for 2020 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Notice.
 - b. **Approval** of Roy Wood, Jr. to serve as State Steward for 2020 thoroughbred meet.
4. **WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)**
 - a. **Approval** for amendment to wagering format for 2020 thoroughbred race meet approved on August 19, 2019 as provided in Meeting Notice.

The Commission allows for comments from all horseracing industry participants and members of the public who wish to express their views on this request. No horseracing industry participants or members of the public identified themselves to speak and no public comments were offered about this request.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #1, #2, #3, and #4; Commissioner Shelton seconds; Poll Vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner III, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means to vote to approve the requests and Nay means to vote against approval; 9 - Yea, 0 - Nay; motion carries.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Reine motions to adjourn; Commissioner Guilbeau seconds; Chairman Wright adjourns the meeting.



Charles A. Gardiner III
Executive Director