

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES – February 17, 2014 Meeting
As transcribed by Mary E. Lee DiLeo, Certified Court Reporter

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jerry F. Meaux, *Chairman*
Bob F. Wright, *First Vice Chairman*
Dion Young, *Second Vice Chairman*
Keith W. Babb
Kevin S. Delahoussaye
Thomas H. Grimstad, M.D.
Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr.
Richard M. “Dick” Hollier, Jr.
Luke Turner
Judy W. Wagner

ABSENT

Kenneth “Kenu” Romero

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission was called to order by the Chairman on Monday, February 17, 2014 at 9:05 AM in the Queen Anne Ballroom of the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Mr. Babb motions to approve the meeting minutes from the August 19, 2013 meeting; Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

In accordance with Ms. Rhea Loney’s request due to time constraints, Mr. Young motions to move all adjudications to the front of the Agenda; Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

I. ADJUDICATIONS

A. VIOLATIONS OF LAC 35:I.1797 (Equine Positives)

1. Kevin W. Broussard, Trainer. (Adjudication Referred)

Ruling#ED20363 of 11/27/13 – *Flunixin (ARCI Category IV, Severity Level I)*
(3rd offense within a 12-month Period)

Counsel of Record – Donald G. Kelly, Esq.

Mr. Babb motions to uphold the stewards’ ruling; 6 months probation effective 2/17/14 through 8/16/14; fine an additional \$500 (total fine \$1,500); redistribute purse; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

2. Willie J. Simien, Jr. Trainer. (Adjudication Referred/Appeal)

a. Ruling#ED20389 of 12/18/13 – *Caffeine (ARCI Category II)*

b. Ruling#LD20440 of 1/18/14 – *Caffeine (ARCI Category II)*

c. Ruling#LD20441 of 1/18/14 – *Caffeine (ARCI Category II)*

Counsel of Record – Lester J. Gauthier, Jr., Esq.

Mr. Wright motions to consolidate the three rulings for the purpose of trial and

adjudication, and uphold the stewards' rulings; suspend 6 months per ruling, each to run concurrent, effective 2/25/14 thru 8/24/14; fine \$2,500 total for 3 violations; redistribute the purse in relation of each ruling. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC; Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

3. Brent H. Morris, Trainer. (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#LD20258 of 9/1/13 – *Dexamethasone (ARCI Category IV, Severity Level III)*

Mr. Guilbeau motions to uphold the stewards' ruling; redistribute purse (total fine \$1,000);

Mr. Young seconds; motion carries.

B. VIOLATION OF LAC 35:V.7903 (Striking Another)

1. Charles J. McMahon, Jockey. (*Appeal*)

Ruling#DD20346 of 11/13/13 – *Willful interference by striking another horse and rider.*

Counsel of Record – Lee W. Rand, Esq.

Dr. Grimstad motions to uphold the stewards' ruling; like suspension of 128 days (with credit for serving 5 days) from 2/23/14 through 6/25/14; Mr. Hollier and Ms. Wagner second; motion carries.

C. VIOLATIONS OF LAC 35:I.1791 (Human Drug Testing)

1. Eric P. LeBlanc, Assistant Trainer/Exercise Rider. (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#ED20381 of 12/7/13 – *Human Drug Testing (3rd offense).*

Mr. Guilbeau motions to uphold the stewards' ruling; suspend 5 years from 2/17/14 through 2/16/19. May reapply to the full Commission for license after 6 month suspension is served; proof of continued drug rehabilitation and continued negative drug testing at his own expense at a LSRC approved laboratory. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC; Mr. Delahoussaye seconds; motion carries.

2. Kevin L. Melancon, Jockey. (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#ED20256 of 8/31/13 – *Human Drug Testing (4th offense).*

Mr. Guilbeau motions to uphold the stewards' ruling; suspend 5 years from 2/17/14 through 2/16/19. May reapply to the full Commission for license after 1 year suspension is served; proof of continued drug rehabilitation and continued negative drug testing at his own expense at a LSRC approved laboratory. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC; Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

3. Marshall A Hebert, Jockey. (*Adjudication Referred/Appeal*)

Ruling#DD20339 of 11/6/13 – *Human Drug Testing (4th offense).*

Mr. Guilbeau motions to continue the case to the April 2014 Commission Meeting to allow Mr. Hebert to subpoena individuals from a 3rd party laboratory company to testify on his behalf before a decision is made by the LSRC. Mr. Guilbeau adds to his motion that Mr. Hebert must adhere to weekly drug tests administered at an LSRC track; Dr. Grimstad seconds.

Mr. Wright makes a substitute motion to continue the case to the April 2014 Commission Meeting for further evidence and decision by the LSRC and that the suspensive appeal be converted to a devolutive appeal. Denied access to all race tracks,

off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC; Mr. Guilbeau and Dr. Grimstad second; motion carries.

D. EJECTION [La.Rev.Stat. 4:191]

1. Arthur Joseph, Patron. (*Fair Grounds/Gretna O.T.B. Ejection*)

Counsel of Record – Mr. David F. Waguespack, Esq. representing Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots.

Mr. Joseph was not present for the hearing. Mr. Guilbeau motions to uphold the ejection; Mr. Turner and Dr. Grimstad second; motion carries.

Mr. Laverne Perry, former Executive Director of the LQHBA addresses the Commission regarding his recent retirement and the announcement of the LQHBA's new Executive Director Tony Patterson. (See Association Announcement, Pages 10-11.)

Note: all Association Progress Reports were moved (in track order) to the end of the Agenda. They followed a 20-minute break after the passage of Rule LAC 35: I.1797 "Penalty Guidelines".

II. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS

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

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT,** *by Mr. Chris Warren.* Mr. Warren informs Delta Downs 2013-2014 88-day Thoroughbred Meet began on October 11, 2013. He informs the live handle is down 6%. He informs the Jackpot race, held on November 23, 2013, broke records, with over \$5 million dollars in handle. Mr. Warren informs there were some lighting (generator) issues at Delta Downs, which have been resolved. He states the track has been proactive with obtaining a better backup generator (and also have another backup to that generator) with a new fuel pump. Mr. Warren informs their new Trackman Supervisor, Mr. Bob Beaubien, has done a good job for them.

Mr. Steve Kyupers, Vice President/General Manager of Delta Downs, apologizes and explains further about the recent generator problems. He informs there is a generator on the east and west sides of the track. He informs Delta Downs purchases new generators on a regular basis. Mr. Kyupers informs that faulty rental equipment and faulty installation by their contractor contributed to the problems. He states the problems have been resolved and new equipment has been ordered which will arrive in April.

Mr. Babb asks Mr. Kyupers what type of fuel the generators use and Mr. Kyupers replies it is diesel fuel.

Mr. John Beech, Regional Manager of the Jockey's Guild, informs the jockeys are concerned about dark areas on the track also and the safety railings at Delta Downs. Mr. Kyupers replies he will personally walk with some of the jockeys and horsemen around the track to inspect and correct the areas of concern. Mr. Kyupers states he is unaware of the safety rail concerns, but will speak with his maintenance crew and make the proper recommended changes.

Mr. Stanley Seelig, President of the HBPA, states Delta Downs is addressing the issues very well.

2013-2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Ratification of officials for 2013-2014 thoroughbred race meet.

Chris Warren - Director of Racing
 John Simon - Racing Secretary
 Mohamed Alikhan - Asst. Racing Secretary/Stakes Coordinator
 Steve Ruff and Galen Boutte - Association Stewards
 Duane Domingue - Paddock Judge/Alternate Steward
 Jackie Blanscet, Cindy Richards and Mark Gilbert - Outriders
 *Robert Beaubien - Trackman Supervisor
 Dennis Schmidt - Starter
 *Jeff Jerman - Clerk of Scales
 Jason Grudzien - Head Clocker
 Susan Berard - Horse Identifier
 *Cindy Eurich - Stall Superintendent
 Michael Bennett - Jocks Room Custodian/Assistant Clerk of Scales
 Steve Nick, Phillip Walker, Charles Sonnier and Rose Caster –
 Placing Judges/Racing office staff
 *new official

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Babb seconds; motion carries.

b. Ratification of *Thomas H. Davis to serve as state steward for 2013-2014 thoroughbred race meet (from 12/4/13 through 3/15/14.)

*new official

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Turner seconds; motion carries.

B. OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT**, by Mr. Chris Warren. Mr. Warren informs Evangeline Downs' 46-day 2013 Quarter Horse Meet ended on December 19, 2013. He informs filling the races has been difficult. He also informs the handle was up 4% mainly due to a few sites in Illinois and a couple of other places. Mr. Warren informs the fields were smaller with fewer races being run throughout the meet. He states Evangeline Downs' goal is to recruit more in the off season in order to make next season better. He informs the 2014 Thoroughbred Meet will begin on April 9, 2014 and the stakes schedule will be submitted to the Commission very soon. He also informs the schedule will be revamped to include a \$300,000 turf sprint race on Saturday June 21, 2014 with a 2:15 pm post time. Legends Night will be moved (from 4th of July weekend) to the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. The D.S. Shine Young races are scheduled for 4th of July weekend.

Mr. Meaux asks about the difficulties of filling the quarter horse races. Mr. Warren states Evangeline Downs' purses are lower than some of the other quarter horse tracks. He further states, with such an abundance of quarter horse racing, it is causing the horsemen to choose to race their horses at other facilities which may be closer to their home and have better purses.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. Warren what he thinks the solution is to filling Evangeline Downs' quarter horse races. Mr. Warren responds there are several scenarios, but beyond reducing the number of races and significantly raising purses, the only solution

is to find more horsemen who are willing and able to run quarter horses.

Mr. Seelig thanks Evangeline Downs for working and communicating with them on the marquis race. He informs Evangeline Downs will be spending an extra \$150,000 this year promoting horse racing at Evangeline Downs.

2013 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. RACES

a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2013 quarter horse meet.

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. **Approval** of Brook Hawkins to serve as state steward for 2014 thoroughbred meet.

Dr. Grimstad motions to approve; Mr. Hollier seconds; motion carries.

C. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Tim Bryant*. Mr. Bryant introduces their new General Manager of Racing, H. Withers, and Fair Grounds Track Consultant/Expert, Dr. Mick Peterson. Mr. Bryant informs the 2013-2014 84-day Thoroughbred Meet began on November 22, 2013. He informs Fair Grounds had a slow start with three less racing days in December. He informs the handle is down 10.5% through 54 days of racing in all sources. He states the live handle is down 14.5%-15%. He informs the starters dropped slightly to 8.2 per race compared to 8.0 per race last year. He states there has been a 3% decrease in races this meet. He notes, if you averaged their handle per the number of actual races, they are only down 9% instead of 10.5%, because they had less races. Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds has moved their post time to capture more of the simulcasting market. He states the purse structures will be re-evaluated. He informs gaming revenue in the City of New Orleans is down 16%. Mr. Bryant informs 50% of the races have been run off of the turf course, which is the same as last year. He adds Fair Grounds has a mutual interest with the horsemen to increase the percentage of turf races at the Fair Grounds. He further adds Fair Grounds is working on improving the turf course with the assistance of Dr. Peterson.

Dr. Peterson, professor from University of Maine and Executive Director of Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, informs he was brought to the Fair Grounds in June 2013 to evaluate their track surfaces. He says the main problem areas are issues on the west end of the track and with drainage at the west turn. He states Fair Grounds clearly had some issues and has since begun addressing them by executing several different measures, such as a French drain was installed and tied into the lake; moisture measurements are taken on a systematic, daily basis; the grass was changed to a Celebration Bermuda and then there was a concentrated effort to continue looking at drying abnormalities after rain storms. He states his team will continue to address, improve and manage the problems until they are no longer issues. He informs he has been assisted by the LSU Agriculture Extension and other local consultants with grass and drainage experience. He informs the Fair Grounds track superintendent is documenting everything through a daily report, including all materials purchased, maintenance, aeration, top dressing, etc. Dr. Peterson informs of them using weather

underground information used in precision farming. He states this is where you actually estimate both the loss of water off the leaves and loss of water out of the soil.

Mr. Delahoussaye asks Dr. Peterson for his opinion regarding the retention ponds and how they affect the drainage. Dr. Peterson states the drains on the west turn have been replaced and the difference is noticeable, which is good.

Dr. Grimstad states he has been a supporter and patron of the Fair Grounds for over 30 years. He states he is concerned that Fair Grounds racing is deteriorating. He states there is a shortage in fields, in the number of races, in the handle and in the amount of purse money. He states the on-track and off-track facilities appear to have fewer employees and less services being offered as well as an obvious deteriorating of facilities and equipment. Dr. Grimstad asks what is Churchill's strategic plan for the next 4, 5, or 6 years and if Fair Grounds plays an integral role in that strategic plan. He states that Fair Grounds should layout a 5-year plan to all Louisiana racing organizations.

Ms. Wagner comments it has been quite a while since she has seen a strong marketing effort from the Fair Grounds. Ms. Wagner states the Starlight Racing events, although popular, detract from horse racing. She states she agrees with Dr. Grimstad and the Fair Grounds should offer a 5-year plan to the Commission.

Mr. Bryant informs he is not prepared to comment and present a 5-year plan at this time. He informs the Starlight races have drawn large crowds, but has not increased the normal Friday handle. He informs there has been a steady decline in racing nationally.

Mr. Bryant and Ms. Wagner continue to discuss Starlight racing.

Dr. Grimstad states he is concerned that trainers will quit bringing their horses to Fair Grounds if the turf course issues are not corrected. Dr. Grimstad, Mr. Bryant, Ms. Wagner, Dr. Peterson and Mr. Seelig continue to discuss turf course concerns and issues. Mr. Seelig states the matters discussed today are strictly money issues and he believes Fair Grounds does not want to spend the money. He informs HBPA offered to Churchill Downs, via Mr. Austin Miller, to have outside professionals inspect the track at HBPA's expense. Mr. Seelig informs Mr. Miller declined their request. Mr. Seelig further informs HBPA sent a letter to Mr. William Carstanjen, President and Chief Operating Officer of Churchill Downs with the same request and received no response.

Mr. Keith Gee, Executive Director of HBPA, provides statistical information regarding the Fair Grounds handle. He estimates Fair Grounds had \$122 million dollars of racing related revenue of which about \$25 million dollars was profit before taxes and depreciation. He states Fair Grounds has the right to stage different events but, staff is being cut and the track needs capital improvements. He states the poor track conditions are not due solely to rain fall as Fair Grounds management claims. He informs the handle is down 17%-20% on the Friday's of the Starlight racing. He states the turf course races are proven to earn significantly greater handle so it's imperative for Fair Grounds to improve the turf course so more races can be run on the turf.

Mr. David Waguespack, Fair Grounds attorney states Fair Grounds was prepared to give a progress report only and not the other issues being addressed today, specifically the statistics and facts by HBPA. Mr. Meaux states Fair Grounds can address the issues at the April meeting.

2013-2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. RACES

a. Ratification of first condition book for 2013-2014 thoroughbred race meet.

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Turner seconds; motion carries.

b. Ratification of designated races for the 2013-2014 thoroughbred meet:

11/28/13	Thanksgiving Handicap
12/14/13	Quarter Horse Juvenile
12/14/13	Quarter Horse Derby
12/14/13	Quarter Horse Classic
12/14/13	Starter
12/14/13	Juvenile
12/14/13	Lassie
12/14/13	Sprint
12/14/13	Ladies Sprint
12/14/13	Turf
12/14/13	Ladies
12/14/13	Classic
12/21/13	Bonapaw Stakes
12/21/13	Tenacious Handicap
12/21/13	Blushing K.D. Handicap
12/21/13	Buddy Diliberto Memorial Handicap
12/31/13	Louisiana Futurity (Colts & Geldings)
12/31/13	Louisiana Futurity (Fillies)
1/18/14	Marie G. Krantz Memorial Handicap
1/18/14	Louisiana Handicap
1/18/14	Col. E.R. Bradley Handicap (Gr. III)
1/18/14	Silverbulletday Stakes
1/18/14	Lecomte Stakes (Gr. III)
1/25/14	Van Berg Stakes
1/25/14	F.W. Gaudin Memorial Stakes
2/1/14	Battle of New Orleans
2/1/14	Happy Ticket Stakes
2/8/14	Tiffany Lass Stakes
2/22/14	Bayou Handicap (Listed)
2/22/14	Fair Grounds Handicap (Gr. III)
2/22/14	Mineshaft Handicap (Gr. III)
2/22/14	Rachael Alexander Stakes (Gr. III)
2/22/14	Risen Star Stakes (Gr. II)
3/1/14	Star Guitar Stakes
3/1/14	Allen Lacombe Memorial Stakes
3/1/14	Black Gold Stakes
3/8/14	New Orleans Ladies Stakes (Listed)
3/8/14	Duncan F. Kenner Stakes (Listed)
3/29/14	Dixie Poker Ace Stakes
3/29/14	Crescent City Oaks
3/29/14	Crescent City Derby
3/29/14	Fair Grounds Oaks (Gr. II)
3/29/14	Mervin H. Muniz Jr. Memorial Handicap (Gr. II)
3/29/14	New Orleans Handicap (Gr. II)
3/29/14	\$1,000,000 Guaranteed Louisiana Derby (Gr. II)

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Turner seconds; motion carries.

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Ratification of racing officials for the 2013-2014 thoroughbred meet:

Jason Boulet - Racing Secretary
 David Wedlake and David Hooper - Association Stewards
 Harvey Lourd, III – Assistant Racing Secretary
 Frank Comberrel, Jr. - Starter
 Glen Miller – Starter (*replaced Frank Comberrel, Jr., January 3, 2014*)
 Scott Jones - Stakes Coordinator

Barbara Comberrel – Program Director
Ramon Muniz - Paddock Judge
Gary Palmisano, Sr. – Paddock Judge/Clocker
Joe Peluso, Amber Fontenot, George Graham, and *Meagan Davis – Placing
Judge/Entry Clerk
Kerry Dubuc, Mike Diliberto, Billy Pettingill - Clockers
Nelson Menard - Clerk of Scales
Larry Fontenot - Horse Identifier
Mario Torres - Stall Superintendent
Craig Daligian - Jockey Room Custodian
Timothy Hanisch – Claims Clerk/Entry Clerk
Robert Mayer, Darren Cain and Alan Love, Jr., Scott Cole (Alternate) – Outriders
Sean Worsley – Silks Coordinator
**new official*

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Babb seconds; motion carries.

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

- 1. PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Trent McIntosh and Mr. Mike Rich*. Mr. McIntosh informs Louisiana Downs is 22 days into their 46-day 2014 quarter horse meet which began on January 11, 2014. He informs 6.6 horses per field has been the average so far and the number of races have been reduced. He informs the handle is down 15%. He informs 650 horses are currently stabled in the barn area. Mr. McIntosh states there will be an influx of horses coming to Louisiana Downs at the beginning of March to finish the final month of the quarter horse meet.

Mr. Meaux asks Mr. McIntosh to explain the closing of the track kitchen and jockeys kitchen. Mr. McIntosh informs it was purely a financial move.

Mr. Mike Rich, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Louisiana Downs, states a decision was made to change the way food is being offered by introducing a new format of using vending machines rather than a track kitchen as it was previously. He informs the change was made due to the current market structure in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. He states with new competition and a very competitive, over-saturated market, this decision was made in order to continue offering a food service as a kitchen and making operations financially work.

Mr. Meaux asks Mr. Rich if the kitchens are losing that much money for them to be the only track in the United States not to offer those services (track and jockey kitchen). Mr. Rich states he eats the same food as the other employees and the food is very good and also states nutritional information is now provided on each package of food.

Mr. Turner informs he met with some individuals on the backside and all he heard were complaints regarding the food service changes. Mr. Rich states the decision made was financial.

Mr. Delahoussaye asks Mr. Rich about Louisiana Downs contract with the Louisiana HBPA.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. Rich for a dollar amount or ball park figure of how much is being saved to close the kitchen facilities. Mr. Rich responds that it is a significant amount, but does not want to disclose specifics until after the meeting.

Mr. Seelig states Louisiana Downs is in violation of the contract it has with the Horsemen. Furthermore, he informs of the importance of the backside kitchen. He states the workers are not paid overly well and many do not have transportation, so they do not have access to decent meals. He informs the HBPA is trying to make sure backside workers have a decent quality of life. Mr. Seelig provides Webster's Dictionary definition of a kitchen: "No. 1, A place as a room with cooking facilities and the second definition is the personnel that prepares, cooks and serves food." Mr. Seelig states neither is being done and feels Louisiana Downs is in violation of the contract.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. Seelig if he thinks the contractual issue that is being raised today is the commission's responsibility or is it more of a civil obligation. Mr. Seelig states the Commission has the authority to resolve the issue.

Mr. Wright states he would like to know the monetary costs. Mr. Rich states Louisiana Downs is currently struggling with regards to finances. He does not provide a monetary figure to the Commission.

Mr. Meaux states in the past the Commission has assisted Louisiana Downs with numerous issues. Mr. Rich requests that everyone give the new food program a chance before it is dismissed. Mr. Wright asks when the change was made. Mr. Rich responds about a month ago (January 7, 2014). Mr. Rich reiterates the nutritional value and quality of the new food program. Mr. Meaux states the horsemen are not worried about nutrition; they want to be served a quality hot meal. He states the matter will not be resolved today, but suggests Louisiana Downs reconsider going back to providing full kitchen services.

Mr. John Beech, Regional Manager, Jockey's Guild, Inc. agrees with Mr. Seelig. He describes the types of vending machines which are currently provided at Louisiana Downs. He briefly mentions the systems of providing food to the jockeys at the other three tracks. He states the jockeys were unaware of the change until a couple of days before the meet began and now are asking for some relief regarding this matter.

2014 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. RACES

a. Ratification of first condition book for 2014 Quarter Horse meet.

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

b. Ratification of designated races for 2014 Quarter Horse meet:

1/11/14	Harrah's Dash
1/11/14	Marathon
1/18/14	Billy Montgomery
2/1/14	Swift
2/1/14	Party Girl
2/8/14	Magnolia
2/8/14	Louisiana Downs Maiden Stakes
3/1/14	Mr. Jess Perry
3/15/14	Mardi Gras Futurity
3/15/14	Mardi Gras Derby
3/22/14	Streakin La Jolla
3/22/14	Harrah's Futurity

TRIAL DATES

1/18/14	Louisiana Downs Maiden Stakes Trials
2/22/14	Mardi Gras Futurity Trials
2/25/14	Mardi Gras Derby Trials
3/1/14	Harrah's Futurity Trials

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Ratification of officials for 2014 Quarter Horse meet:

Trent McIntosh – Director of Operations
David Heitzmann - Racing Secretary
Tammy Peck – Assistant Racing Secretary/Paddock Judge
Charles Magee – Association Steward
William Coleman – Association Steward
Kerry Ruff – Placing Judge
Koleen Karlin – Placing Judge
Jennifer Sokol – Placing Judge
Lee Lorick – Identifier
Lisa Lombardino – Program Coordinator/Claims
Jimmy Cordell – Starter
Jeffrey Williams – Clerk of Scales
Richard Miguez - Custodian
Betty Fetters – Clocker
Herbert Lambert – Clocker
Laura Hollowo – Outrider
Juan Roman – Outrider

Mr. Hollier motions to approve; Mr. Turner seconds; motion carries.

4. RACES

a. Ratification of daily live races (from a minimum of 9 to 8) for the remainder of the 2014 Quarter Horse meet, effective February 1, 2014.

Mr. Delahoussaye motions to approve; Mr. Babb seconds; motion carries.

2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

5. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Approval of Roy Wood, Jr. to serve as state steward for 2014 thoroughbred meet.

Dr. Grimstad motions to approve; Mr. Delahoussaye seconds; motion carries.

III. OTHER

A. Association Announcement:

1. LQHBA announces James Anthony “Tony” Patterson as new Executive Director, effective 1/1/14.

Mr. Laverne Perry, former Executive Director of the LQHBA, reads a letter dated 1997 from Mr. Harold Delahoussaye to Mr. Perry. The letter congratulates Mr. Perry on the passage of slots legislation which would allow for greater opportunities in racing. Mr. Perry mentions the increase in futurity purses and the increase in quarter horse breeding since he has been Director of the LQHBA. Mr. Perry informs he has retired and introduces Mr. Tony Patterson as the new Executive Director of the LQHBA. Mr. Patterson addresses the Commission and informs he will continue to move the organization forward in a prosperous direction. Mr. Wright speaks for all commissioners and thanks Mr. Perry for his service. Mr. Babb informs the 2013 quarter horse purse money was \$23 million dollars and Breeder Awards totaled \$4.6 million.

Mr. Babb informs the LQHBA awarded \$297,000 in scholarships due to Mr. Perry's initiative.

B. For Discussion:

1. HBPA discussion of kitchen facilities on the backside of Louisiana Downs. (See Louisiana Downs Progress Report, pages 8-9.)
2. Jockey's Guild discussion of operating a full service kitchen in the jock's room as well as the backside at Louisiana Downs. (See Louisiana Downs Progress Report, pages 8-9.)

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MEDICATION COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Thomas H. Grimstad, M.D.*

Dr. Grimstad defers his report to Mr. Gardiner. Mr. Gardiner informs the Medication Committee recommends for the immediate suspension of the current piroplasmosis blood test that has been required in the past. He informs Dr. Cooley consulted with the Department of Agriculture and has received their approval. Significant money will be saved for the horsemen. Ms. Loney informs a directive has been drafted that would suspend LAC 35:I.1304(B), piroplasmosis testing. Dr. Cooley states he would like to suspend the tests immediately. Mr. Hollier motions to approve the directive; Mr. Turner seconds; motion carries.

B. RULES COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Keith W. Babb*

No report.

C. LEGAL COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Bob F. Wright*

No report.

D. SECURITY COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Kenneth "Kenu" Romero*

Mr. Romero was absent. No report.

E. RACETRACK/HBPA LIAISON COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Kevin Delahoussaye*

Mr. Delahoussaye states the information that he has will be addressed during the race track associations' progress reports.

V. RULES

A. Formal Adoption:

1. LAC 35: I. Chapter 17 – Corrupt and Prohibited Practices
§1797. Penalty Guidelines – rule allowing stewards to redistribute purse for:
 - a) violations of ARCI Category IV/V at Severity Level III; and
 - b) 3rd violations of ARCI Category IV/V at any Severity Level within a 12-month period.

Mr. Gardiner informs the rule is ready for formal passage and he briefly summarizes the amendments made to the rule.

Ms. Loney states no comments were made to the Commission in writing or otherwise from any individual or organization regarding this particular rule since it was originally voted on as a Notice of Intent.

Mr. Wright motions to formally adopt LAC 35:I.1797; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

A 20-minute recess was taken.

The Commission proceeds with the track progress reports. (See Association Requests, pages 3-6 and pages 8-9.)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Wagner motions to adjourn; Dr. Grimstad seconds; Mr. Meaux adjourns the meeting.

Charles A. Gardiner III
Executive Director