

**LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES – February 25, 2013 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*  
Kevin S. Delahoussaye  
Thomas H. Grimstad, M.D.  
Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr.  
Kenneth "Kenu" Romero  
Judy W. Wagner

**ABSENT**

Keith W. Babb  
Richard M. "Dick" Hollier, Jr.

**APPROVED**

At the Commission Meeting of

4-22-13

(Date)

*Charles A. Gaudin*  
Executive Director  
Louisiana State Racing Commission

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission was called to order by the Chairman on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 9:10 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. Romero motions to approve the meeting minutes from the November 27, 2012 meeting; Mr. Young seconds; motion carries.

**I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS**

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

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Chris Warren*. Mr. Warren informs that Delta Downs 2012-2013 Thoroughbred Meet opened on October 19, 2012. He informs the handle started flat at the beginning of the meet and then increased during Jackpot week. He informs the Jackpot handle was slightly down from the previous year. He informs the overall live handle is up 3%; the bet-in handle is up 17% and the on-track simulcast handle is up 6%. He informs racing on January 9, 2013 was cancelled due to bad weather and March 20, 2013 was selected as the make-up day. He states since Boyd Gaming has purchased Evangeline Downs, personnel from both properties have been meeting for overall improvement purposes. He informs Delta Downs will introduce, at the next meeting, a new wager based on the Pick 5 Wager which will have a 100% carryover pool similar to California's format.

**2013 QUARTER HORSE MEET**

**2. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Approval** of Sam Lato to serve as state steward for 2013 quarter horse meet.

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

**B. EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Mr. Steve Darbonne. Mr. Darbonne informs Evangeline Downs is currently dark. The 84-day 2013 Thoroughbred Meet will begin on April 17, 2013. He informs the backside repairs, including the barns and apartments are finished. He informs Evangeline Downs is currently bringing in silt and clay for the track surface and the proper mixture was provided by Dr. Peterson through his consultation. He informs Evangeline Downs is bringing in a piece of equipment from Delta Downs which filters the track surface by picking up loose rocks and hard clay debris. He informs Evangeline Downs will hold a two-year-old training sale on March 17, 2013. He states the barns will be ready soon after the sale for the thoroughbreds to start moving in.

**2013 THOROUGHBRED MEET****2. RACES**

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2013 Thoroughbred meet.

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

- b. **Approval** of designated races for 2013 Thoroughbred meet:

7/27/13 D.S. "Shine" Young Memorial Futurity – Fillies (*Trials to be run July 3, 2013*)  
7/27/13 D.S. "Shine" Young Memorial Futurity – Colts (*Trials to be run July 4, 2013*)  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Mile - Fillies  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Classic  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Distaff  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Sprint  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Starter Stakes  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Turf  
7/6/13 Louisiana Legends Mile - C&G  
8/10/13 Evangeline Mile

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

**3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Approval** of officials for 2013 Thoroughbred meet:

Steve Darbonne – Director of Racing  
Coleman Lloyd – Racing Secretary  
Corey Veazey – Assistant Racing Secretary/Stakes Coordinator  
Ricky Sackett – Association Steward  
Charles Magee – Association Steward  
Gerald Thomas – Assistant Racing Secretary/Placing Judge  
\*Miranda Quebedeaux – Placing Judge  
Julie Gipson – Entry Clerk/Paddock Judge  
Ashley Simon – Entry Clerk/Placing Judge  
\*Herman K. Patin – Clerk of Scales  
Frank Rudis – Identifier  
Brett Poole – Clocker  
A.J. Paretto – Clocker  
Russell Comeaux – Starter  
Kyle Clinton – Outrider  
Kenneth Gipson – Outrider  
Sandra Calais – Claims Clerk  
JoAnn Comeaux – Program Coordinator  
Jacque Bohannon – Colors Coordinator

Robert Bard – Stall Superintendent  
Garry Gallow – Track Superintendent  
\*Jonathan Comeaux – Jockey Room Custodian  
\**new official*

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Wright seconds; motion carries.

**b. Approval** of Brook Hawkins to serve as state steward for 2013 Thoroughbred meet.

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Romero seconds; motion carries.

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

**1. PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Eric Halstrom*. Mr. Halstrom informs the Fair Grounds is three-quarters through the 2012-2013 Thoroughbred Meet. He informs it has been a difficult meet due to weather conditions causing an oversaturated turf course and the loss of turf races. He informs the handle is slightly below last year, but March should be a very good month. He informs the on-track handle is up significantly. He informs on Risen Star Day, the Fair Grounds had a horse win with odds at 135 to 1. The handle for that day was over \$7 million which was up from last year. He informs the Louisiana Derby is getting close and it will be Fair Grounds first year of having an infield festival. He informs there will be music and food trucks. He informs their Marketing Department has been doing a great job and the Fair Grounds is expecting between 5,000 to 10,000 people in the infield crowd. He informs the Louisiana Derby will be on national TV and will be broadcast on the NBC Sports Network.

**2. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A)**

**a. Withdrawal** of previously approved racing dates for Friday, November 15, 2013 and Saturday, November 16, 2013 – Fair Grounds informs their bid for hosting the 2013 AQHA Challenge Championship was not accepted by AQHA.

Mr. Halstrom informs the Fair Grounds is rescinding their request since Los Alamitos Race Course was awarded the races for the AQHA Challenge Championship. Mr. Young motions to approve the withdrawal of the two race days (November 15, 2013 and November 16, 2013) approved at the November 27, 2012 Commission Meeting; Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

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Dr. Grimstad asks Mr. Halstrom if there are any drainage issues with the turf course at the Fair Grounds. Mr. Halstrom informs after every Jazz Festival an outside company inspects the drainage as part of a maintenance schedule. He informs last year they found an old cracked drainage pipe on the backside of the turf course. He informs it was fixed before the 2012-2013 thoroughbred meet began and there were no other drainage issues. He informs the Fair Grounds also cleaned out the interceptors for sand. He states there has been a greater amount of rainfall this year and the course has not completely dried out, but they are currently at a point where the turf is in good shape. Mr. Romero asks Mr. Halstrom if the composition below the turf surface is the same as the dirt track. Mr. Halstrom informs that it is not exactly the same, but they are planning to improve the consistency of dirt, sand and turf for next season.

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Mr. Meaux asks Mr. Halstrom to address calls he has received regarding a 50% reduction of TVs at the Elmwood OTB facility. Mr. Halstrom informs there has been a

reduction in the amount of TVs to improve the layout, but it is much less than 50%. He states he will look further into the matter. Overall, he states the facility is managed very well and the business has been good.

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

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Mr. Trent McIntosh. Mr. McIntosh informs Louisiana Downs is 25 days into the 2013 Quarter Horse Meet. He informs the live handle is up 3%, but the simulcast handle is down 8%. He informs Louisiana Downs quarter horse feature race, the Mardi Gras Futurity, with a \$250,000 purse, will be held in 3 weeks. He informs Louisiana Downs is preparing for the 84-day 2013 Thoroughbred Meet which begins on May 3, 2013. He informs customer relations and marketing efforts are targeting Louisiana Downs top 50 race players since 30% of the in-house handle is from those players. He informs the 3<sup>rd</sup> level club area has four new racing suites. He states they also opened three suites to create one large suite and are selling it as part of a racing weekend sports package. He informs Louisiana Downs is also continuing to focus on mail-outs and commercials as avenues to increase racing revenue.

He informs the contained animal feeding operation on the backside (EPA-regulated) is costing Louisiana Downs \$1.2 million dollars and will be completed on April 15, 2013. This operation includes laying new and redirecting drainage lines and cleaning the waste water. He informs of a \$140,000 dollar project to gut and rebuild the interior of Barn C5 is scheduled to begin on March 15, 2013. Mr. Romero asks Mr. McIntosh if the barn will be ready for the upcoming thoroughbred meet. Mr. McIntosh says it should be ready sometime during the first month of the meet.

**2013 QUARTER HORSE MEET**

2. **RACES**

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2013 Quarter Horse meet.

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

- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2013 Quarter Horse meet:

1/12/13	Harrah's Dash
1/12/13	Marathon
1/19/13	Billy Montgomery
2/2/13	Swift
2/2/13	Party Girl
2/9/13	Magnolia
2/9/13	Louisiana Downs Maiden Stake
3/2/13	Mr. Jess Perry
3/16/13	Mardi Gras Futurity
3/16/13	Mardi Gras Derby
3/23/13	Streakin La Jolla
3/23/13	Harrah's Futurity

**TRIAL DATES**

1/19/13	Louisiana Downs Maiden Stakes Trials
2/25/13	Mardi Gras Futurity Trials
2/26/13	Mardi Gras Derby Trials
3/2/13	Harrah's Futurity Trials

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

**3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

**a. Ratification of officials for 2013 Quarter Horse meet:**

- Trent McIntosh – Director of Operations
- David Heitzmann - Racing Secretary
- Matthew Crawford – Assistant Racing Secretary/Paddock Judge
- David Wedlake – Association Steward
- William Coleman – Association Steward
- Charles Magee – Placing Judge
- Koleen Karlin – Placing Judge
- \*Jennifer Sokol – Placing Judge
- Tammy Peck – Identifier
- \*Lisa Lombardino – Program Coordinator/Claims
- Jeffrey Williams – Clerk of Scales
- Richard Miquez – Jockey Room Custodian
- Jimmy Cordell – Starter
- Betty Fetters – Clocker
- Herbert Lambert – Clocker
- Laura Hollowo – Outrider
- Juan Roman – Outrider
- \*new official*

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

**2013 THOROUGHBRED MEET**

**4. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

**a. Approval of Roy Wood to serve as state steward for 2013 Thoroughbred meet.**

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Romero seconds; motion carries.

**II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

No report.

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

Mr. Babb was absent. No report.

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

No report. Mr. Wright asks to have an executive session before the end of the commission meeting to discuss potential litigation. Mr. Delahoussaye motions for an executive session; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

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

No report.

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

No report.

### III. OTHER

1. **Presentation by** Dr. Cindy D'Atrio regarding the Thoroughbred Retirement Network of Louisiana.

Mr. Gardiner informs Dr. D'Atrio was unable to attend the commission meeting and she will try to reschedule her presentation for the April meeting.

### IV. ADJUDICATIONS

(In order presented)

#### A. APPEALS (La. R. S. 4:154)

1. **Jesse J. Chavis, Jockey.** Ruling#ED19823 of 12/13/12 – *Careless riding.* (Appeal Withdrawn). Not present for hearing. Motion to uphold the Stewards' ruling; suspend 7 calendar days from 3/9/13 through 3/15/13. If jockey participates in a designated race day not subject to suspension; he shall be required to make up the suspension day on the first following race day after the designated day of racing.

2. **Stevie D. Gillum, Jockey.** Ruling#ED19806 of 12/5/12 – *Careless riding.* (Appeal Withdrawn). Not present for hearing. Motion to uphold the Stewards' ruling; suspend 7 calendar days from 3/9/13 through 3/15/13. If jockey participates in a designated race day not subject to suspension; he shall be required to make up the suspension day on the first following race day after the designated day of racing.

One motion was made for the cases of Jesse J. Chavis and Stevie D. Gillum. Mr. Delahoussaye motions; Mr. Young seconds; motion carries.

3. **Joseph W. Patin, Jr., Jockey.** Ruling#DD19792 of 11/24/12 – *Careless riding.* (Appeal Withdrawn). Not present for hearing. Mr. Delahoussaye motions to uphold the Stewards' ruling; suspend 7 calendar days from 2/26/13 through 3/4/13. If jockey participates in a designated race day not subject to suspension; he shall be required to make up the suspension day on the first following race day after the designated day of racing. Mr. Young seconds; motion carries.

4. **Otto Flores, Jockey.** Ruling#DD19889 of 1/9/13 – *Careless riding.* Represented by Attorney, Samara Sabin. (Appeal withdrawn at meeting.) Mr. Wright motions to uphold the Stewards' ruling; suspend 7 calendar days from 2/26/13 through 3/4/13. If jockey participates in a designated race day not subject to suspension; he shall be required to make up the suspension day on the first following race day after the designated day of racing. Mr. Delahoussaye and Mr. Young second; motion carries.

#### B. ADJUDICATION REFERRED (La. R. S. 4:172)

1. **Javier N. Contreras, Trainer.** Ruling#LD19948 of 2/9/13 – *Phenylbutazone and Flunixin (ARCI Category IV, Severity Level I) (3<sup>rd</sup> offense within a 12-month period)*

Ms. Wagner motions to uphold the Stewards' ruling; suspend 60 calendar days; fine an additional \$1,000 (total fine \$2,000); purse redistributed. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries. Ms. Wagner

motions to suspend Mr. Contreras 60 calendar days effective 3/5/13 through 5/3/13. Dr. Grimstad seconds; motion carries.

**C. APPEAL/REFERRED (La. R. S. 4:154, 4:172)**

1. **Jarrold A. Deschamp, Jockey.** Ruling#ED19831 of 12/14/12 – *Obnoxious Behavior*. Ms. Wagner motions to uphold the Stewards’ ruling and suspend Mr. Deschamp indefinitely. Mr. Wright makes a substitute motion to uphold the Stewards’ ruling; suspend for 5 years effective 2/25/13 through 2/24/18. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

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A recess was taken.

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**D. APPEAL (La. R. S. 4:154)**

1. **Ron A. Faucheux, Trainer.** Ruling#DD19894 of 1/10/13 – *Methylprednisolone (ARCI Category IV, Severity Level I)* Represented by Attorney, Louie J. Roussel, III.

Mr. Wright motions to uphold the Stewards’ ruling of \$500 fine; Mr. Young seconds; motion carries.

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Mr. Young motions to go into executive session; Mr. Wright seconds; motion carries. (The commission goes into executive session then comes out of executive session).

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**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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



Charles A. Gardiner III  
Executive Director