

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION

MINUTES – August 28, 2023 Meeting

As transcribed by Julia D. Harper, Certified Court Reporter

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr., *Chairman*

Louis Reine, *First Vice Chair*

Dr. Patrick Bernard, *Second Vice Chair*

Lane T. Cortez

Donald "Don" Cravins

Eddie J. Delahoussaye

K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.

Mike R. McHalfey

ABSENT

Leslie M. Bouie

Thomas B. Calvert

Roy Griggs

Ravi K. Sangisetty

Deano Thornton

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) was called to order by the Chairman on Monday, August 28, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Event Center of Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino, Event Prefunction Room., 2235 Creswell Lane Extension, Opelousas, Louisiana, 70570. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Chairman Guilbeau makes a motion to approve the April 17th, 2023 Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Reine motions to approve, Commissioner Bernard seconds. The motion carries.

I. ADJUDICATIONS

A. VIOLATIONS OF LAC 35:V.7901 (Careless Riding)

1. **Angel Suarez, Jockey.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#LD25317 of 05/20/23 - Careless Riding

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Suarez not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to suspend Mr. Suarez for 7 calendar days from August 30th, 2023 through September 5th, 2023. 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 race day after the designated day of racing; Commissioner McHalfey seconds, which then carries.

2. **Jose L. Rodriguez, Jockey.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#ED25335 of 06/01/23 - Careless Riding

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Rodriguez not present for hearing. Commissioner Cortez motions to suspend Mr. Rodriguez for 7 calendar days from September 9th, 2023 through September 15th, 2023. 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 race day after the designated day of racing. Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; motion carries.

- 3. Arturo Alvarez, Jockey.** *(Adjudication Appealed)*
Ruling#DD25345 of 06/14/23 - Careless Riding

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Alvarez not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to suspend Mr. Alvarez for 7 calendar days from September 29th, 2023 through October 5th, 2023. 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 race day after the designated day of racing; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

- 4. Rolando Cabrera, Jockey.** *(Adjudications Appealed)*
Ruling#DD25344 of 06/14/23 - Careless Riding
Ruling#DD25358 of 06/28/23 - Careless Riding

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Cabrera not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to suspend Mr. Cabrera for 14 calendar days from September 29th, 2023 through October 12th, 2023. 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 race day after the designated day of racing; Commissioner Bernard seconds, motion carries.

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

- 1. Joy I. Marlin, Trainer.** *(Adjudication Appealed)*
Ruling#LD25040 of 09/03/22 - *Theophylline (ARCI Category III)*

Attorney - Vanessa Motta, Esq.

Continued to Next Commission Meeting.

- 2. Homar Garza, Trainer.** *(Adjudications Referred)*
Ruling#ED25063 of 10/06/22 - *Zilpaterol (ARCI Category II)*
& Arsenic (ARCI Category III)
Ruling#ED25064 of 10/06/22 - *Zilpaterol (ARCI Category II)*

Continued from April 17th, 2023 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Reine motions to uphold Stewards' Rulings ED25063 and ED25064; fine Mr. Garza \$2,000 total; amend his suspension from 6 months for each ruling to a 1-year suspension (with credit for time served beginning October 9th, 2022), effective October 9th, 2022 through October 8th, 2023; followed by one year on probation effective October 9th, 2023 through October 8th, 2024; and redistribute all purses. Mr. Garza will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion passes.

3. **Juan R. Cano, Trainer.** *(Adjudication Appealed)*
 Ruling#FG25265 of 03/18/23 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*
(Adjudication Appealed & Referred)
 Ruling#FG25266 of 03/18/23 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*

Continued from April 17th, 2023 Commission Meeting

Attorney – Mr. Eddie Guidry, Esq.

Commissioner Reine moves to uphold Stewards' Rulings FG25265 and FG25266 upheld; amend Mr. Cano's suspension from 6 months and 120 days total to a 7 months and 17 days suspension (with credit for time served beginning January 12th, 2023), effective January 12th, 2023 through August 28th, 2023; and redistribute all purses. Mr. Cano will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

4. **Kenneth L. Roberts, Sr., Trainer.** *(Adjudication Referred)*
 Ruling#LD25274 of 03/28/23 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*
 Ruling#LD25276 of 03/28/23 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*
 Ruling#LD25277 of 03/28/23 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*

Attorney – John L. Duvielh, Esq.

Continued from April 17th, 2023 Commission Meeting

Continued until October 30th, 2023 Commission Meeting

5. **Xavier C. Scott, Trainer.** *(Adjudications Appealed)*
 Ruling #DD25330 of 06/01/23 – *Albuterol (Category III)*
 Ruling #DD25334 of 06/01/23 – *Albuterol (Category III)*

Appeal withdrawn. Stewards' Rulings DD25330 and DD25334 upheld; term of suspension to be determined by the Delta Downs' Board of Stewards; fined \$1,000; all purses redistributed. Mr. Scott will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

6. **Eduardo L. Morales, Trainer** *(Adjudication Referred)*
 Ruling#DD25313 of 05/19/23 – *Modafinil (ARCI Category II)*

Commissioner Cortez motions uphold the Stewards' ruling; fine Mr. Morales \$1,000; amend his suspension from 6 months to a 6 month suspension (with credit for time served beginning May 17th, 2023), effective May 17th, 2023 through November 16th, 2023; followed by 6 months on probation, effective November 17th, 2023 through May 16th, 2024; and redistribute all purses. Mr. Morales will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion passes.

C. REQUEST FOR REFUND OF FINE**1. Donald J. Rubin, Trainer**

Ruling#LD24830 of 04/06/22 – *Request for Refund of Fine Paid for an Arsenic Positive*

Commissioner Cortez motions to uphold the Stewards' ruling; and rescind the \$1,000 fine, which shall be refunded. Commissioner Cravins seconds; motion carries.

II. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS**A. BOYD RACING, LLC d/b/a DELTA DOWNS RACETRACK, CASINO & HOTEL****1. PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Steve Kuypers, Vice President and General Manager of Delta Downs, informs that Mr. Chris Warren, Director of Racing at Delta Downs and Evangeline Downs, has tendered his resignation from Boyd Gaming and will be leaving around Thanksgiving. He pledges to keep the Commission up to speed on how the transition away from Mr. Warren goes. Commissioner Reine and Chairman Guilbeau both thank Mr. Warren.

Mr. Warren states that Delta Downs' 46-day 2023 Quarter Horse Meet ended July 15th and handle was up 7% from the 2022 meet. He says that Fair Grounds' 15-day 2023 Quarter Horse Meet is being run at Delta and the closing date will be September 2nd. He informs that races were cancelled due to equipment failure on August 12th, but those races will be made up on August 30th. He states that the Fair Grounds meet is up 9% from last year.

Mr. Warren continues that Delta Downs' 84-day 2023-2024 Thoroughbred Meet starts on October 6th and will be reduced to 76 days, pending Commission approval. He states that their track consultant, Mr. DePew will try to implement any recommendations from the Commission. Chairman Guilbeau asks what the live racing days schedule will be, to which Mr. Warren replies Wednesday through Saturday, but that later in the meet it goes to Thursday through Saturday.

2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET**2. RACING DATE ADDITION**

- a. **Ratification** of Amendment to 2023 quarter horse meet to add race date on August 30, 2023 to make up for the races cancelled due to equipment issue on August 12, 2023 race date.

3. RACES

- a. **Ratification** of designated races for Transferred Fair Grounds 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

2023-2024 THOROUGHBRED MEET

4. **REQUEST BY BOYD RACING, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON April 17, 2023 (R.S. 4:158A) TO REMOVE 10 RACE DAYS, ADD TWO RACE DAYS, AND CHANGE POST TIME AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA.**

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #2, #3, and #4; Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; motion carries.

5. RACES

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2023-2024 thoroughbred meet.
- b. **Approval** of designated races for 2023-2024 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

6. STEWARD

- a. **Approval** of Tom Davis to serve as state steward for 2023-2024 thoroughbred meet.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #5 and #6, Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

2024 QUARTER HORSE MEET

7. LICENSE APPROVALS

- a. **Approval** for 2024 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

8. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES

- a. **Approval** for 2024 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

9. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)

- a. **Approval** for 2024 quarter horse meet wagering as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #7, #8, and #9; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC

d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

1. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Warren informs that the Commission approved Evangeline Downs to run a 61-day Thoroughbred Meet this year. He states that the handle was up 59% over an identical timeframe and on-track handle was up 27%. He says that last year's thoroughbred meet was 84 days, and that handle was \$80 million whereas this year's 61-day meet did over \$100 million dollars. He informs that the field sizes were over 8 horses versus 6.8 last year. He states that purses, field size, and the 61-day season all made for the larger handle. He says that post times that do not compete with other major tracks affects the handle positively as well. Mr. Warren informs that there were only three horses euthanized for the entire meet. He states that they were on the turf more this year due to the lack of rain. He says that Evangeline Downs' 46-day 2023 Quarter Horse Meet starts September 29th.

Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA), requests, on behalf of LaHBPA, that about \$250,000 of purse money remaining from the Fair Grounds quarter horse meet be transferred to the Evangeline quarter horse meet, in order to enhance it. Commissioner Reine motions to authorize about \$250,000 in remaining purse funds be transferred from Fair Grounds quarter horse meet to Evangeline Downs quarter horse meet; Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

2023 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. RACES

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2023 thoroughbred meet.
- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2023 thoroughbred meet:

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. **Ratification** of additional officials for 2023 thoroughbred meet:

2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET

4. RACES

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2023 quarter horse meet.
- b. **Approval** of designated races for 2023 quarter horse meet:

5. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. **Ratification** of officials for 2023 quarter horse meet.
 - a. **Approval** of Charles Ashy, Jr. to serve as state steward for 2023 quarter horse meet.
- Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #2, #3, #4 & #5; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

6. RACING DAYS COMMITTEE PROPOSED TB DATES

- a. **Discussion** of Evangeline Downs and Louisiana Downs 2024 Thoroughbred race dates as proposed by the Racing Days Committee.

Commissioner McHalfey informs that thoroughbred meets must be a minimum of 76 days per updated statute and that the committee-proposed calendar was constructed with as little overlap as possible between the tracks. He states that the overlap will be seven days, with Louisiana Downs starting on May 3rd and Evangeline Downs starting on April 3rd. He says that Louisiana Downs is able to run on Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks day.

Mr. Fenasci states that LaHBPA agrees with the proposed calendar. Mr. Matt Crawford, Director of Racing at Louisiana Downs, states Louisiana Downs agrees with the proposed calendar. Mr. Kuypers states that Evangeline Downs agrees with the proposed calendar.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve the Racing Days Committee's calendar with updates per Commissioner McHalfey, with minimum 8.5 races per day, per track; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion passes.

2024 THOROUGHBRED MEET

7. LICENSE APPROVALS

- a. **Approval** for 2024 thoroughbred meet:

8. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES

- a. **Approval** for 2024 thoroughbred meet:

9. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)

- a. **Approval** for 2024 thoroughbred meet wagering:

Commissioner Reine moves to approve Items #7, #8 with the Racing Days Committee's amendments, and #9; Commissioner Bernard seconds; the motion carries.

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Jason Boulet, Senior Director of Racing for the Fair Grounds, mentions that the new stakes schedule will have \$9.7 million in total stakes, including 73 total stakes with 29 of those being Louisiana-bred. He states that opening weekend will have six Louisiana bred-stakes and that the Claiming Crown is coming to the Fair Grounds on December 2nd. He says that the Fair Grounds installed some new grass after Jazz Fest and that the grass has benefitted from the heat. He informs that Churchill Downs

invested \$250,000 in turf, irrigation improvements, and drains. He states that two replacement barns began being erected immediately after Jazz Fest, with the goal for them to be finished by the early part of November. He says that those barns will have 24 new sleeping quarters attached and will be the first barns built at the Fair Grounds in about 50-60 years. He states that horses will begin arriving October 15th, and there is a bid process for barn preference with a deadline of October 9th. He says that condition books will come out in the next couple of weeks, and the purse structure will be \$289,000 and \$300,000 per day.

Ms. Jaime Garrett, Director of Marketing for Fair Grounds, makes a presentation for the upcoming thoroughbred meet. Mr. Boulet mentions that night racing will return to the Fair Grounds in early 2024.

Commissioner Reine asks if Churchill has considered working with StrideSAFE and encourages a joint venture between the two parties and the Commission.

2023-2024 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. **REQUEST BY CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON April 17, 2023 (R.S. 4:158A) TO REMOVE 4 RACE DAYS AND ADD EXCEPTIONS TO POST TIME AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA.**

3. **STEWARD**

- a. **Approval** of Charles Ashy, Jr. to serve as state steward for 2023-2024 thoroughbred meet.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #2 and #3, Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion passes.

D. LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC

d/b/a LOUISIANA DOWNS CASINO & RACETRACK

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Crawford informs that the handle has been up to \$200,000 a day since the post times were changed to 3:30PM and 4:05PM. He states that field size is eight horses per race, which is up from 1.5 last year and that they have run 62 fewer races, but 26 more horses have been run. He says that their slot machines trended up 17% in June and 15% in July.

Commissioner Cortez asks about the purse distribution. Mr. Crawford says that the difficulty exists with lesser horses competing in the races. Mr. Ed Fenasci states that there has been an overpayment of \$500,000, which can be recouped at the start of next year, according to statute. Commissioner Reine asks if there is a way to avoid this becoming an ongoing problem, and Mr. Crawford answers that they will have to be more conservative in their purse structure for race cards. Mr. Fenasci says that LaHBPA will work with its quarter horse members at Louisiana Downs and Mr. Crawford to come up with an agreement on what to do going forward for when the commission meets again.

2024 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. **LICENSE APPROVALS**
 - a. Approval for 2024 quarter horse meet:
3. **RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES**
 - a. Approval for 2024 quarter horse meet:
4. **WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)**
 - a. Approval for 2024 quarter horse meet wagering:

2024 THOROUGHBRED MEET

5. **LICENSE APPROVALS**
 - a. Approval for 2024 thoroughbred meet:
6. **RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES**
 - a. Approval for 2024 thoroughbred meet:
7. **WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)**
 - a. Approval for 2024 thoroughbred meet wagering:

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 with the Racing Days Committee's amendments, and #7; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

III. BREEDER UPDATES**A. LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LTBA)****1. PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Roger Heitmann, Executive Director of Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association, announces that there is an upcoming yearling sale on September 28th and there will be 258 horses in it. He says that they were able to raise their breeders' awards by providing foals from in-state stallions and mares, which allowed the races beginning October 1st to be raised from 20% to 25%. He expects another influx of horses and people from around the country to invest in Louisiana.

B. LOUISIANA QUARTER HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LQHBA)**1. PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director of Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association, states that the yearling sale sold over \$7.7 million at this year's sale, which is 435 of the 567 horses catalogued. He states that the upcoming week is the last week of the Fair Grounds meet at Delta Downs and that there will be a \$434,000 sale futurity for horses that passed through the yearling sale, as well as some other stakes races that evening. Mr. Salard presents handouts that cover the 2022 Mardi Gras Futurity at Louisiana Downs, which he says had an unusual number of positive tests. He informs that, subsequent to that, hair tests were used on the finalists, which then evolved into testing horses that wanted to run in the finals of the futurity, the derby, or overnight stakes races. He states that 172 horses were actually hair tested for the stakes races, and 16 were positive, which was less than 10%. He says that, for the sales futurity, there was a total of 55 two-year-olds that came to the test barn, and of those, only one horse had a positive hair test. He informs that, with this information, along with help from the LSRC, the test barn, and Boyd Gaming, LQHBA was able to issue a set of rules at the beginning of the meet for random hair testing at Delta Downs. He clarifies that random hair testing was defined as any horse that won a race, or was randomly selected by a steward from that evening. He states that, when the Delta Downs meet ended on July

15th, 350 hair tests were conducted, and 78 of those were positive for a steroid substance. He says that, when a horse had a positive hair test, they were put on the steward's list, and not allowed to run until they had a clean hair test. He requests continuing these tests at Evangline Downs and have horses that test positive be denied entry to the track, with the number of tests performed to be contingent on the funding that is available.

Commissioner Reine motions to give \$25,000 in funding from LSRC for random horse hair testing at Evangeline Downs, with State Vets pulling the hair; Chairman Guilbeau seconds; motion passes.

Mr. Salard concludes by saying quarter horses will be microchipped by the beginning of 2024.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MEDICATION COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Patrick Bernard

No report.

B. RULES COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Lane T. Cortex

Please see Notice of Intent discussion below.

C. LEGAL COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Thomas B. Calvert

No report.

D. SECURITY COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Louis Reine

Commissioner Reine reiterates his concern from the Infrastructure Committee meeting that there be an accurate list of who is banned from the track, and more importantly how to electronically regulate who enters the track. The Chairman requests the associations and the LSRC administrative office to research implementation of a scanning system at the tracks and to report back at the October 30th LSRC Meeting.

E. RACETRACK/HBPA LIAISON COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Donald "Don" Cravins

No report.

F. FINANCE COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Leslie Bouie

No report.

G. RACING DAYS COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Mike R. McHalfey

No report.

H. INFRASTRUCTURE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Louis Reine

Commissioner Reine reports that the committee met publicly with the association and LaHBPA representatives yesterday. He says that they were clear about their progress and timetables, which shows the infrastructure plans are moving in the right direction.

V. OTHER

A. PRESENTATION ON HORSE SENSOR TECHNOLOGY

1. **Presentation** by Mr. Greg Pachman, General Manager of StrideSAFE, LLC regarding equine sensor technology.

Greg Pachman, General Manager of StrideSAFE, presented and conveyed the importance of equine safety, both for the animals and rider, and how safety can be improved through the use of horse sensors. He discussed the following key points: (1) Purpose of Horse Sensors: the primary goal of these sensors is to monitor the well-being of horses and ensure the safety of riders. This includes detecting health issues in horses and alerting riders and/or trainers. (2) Health Monitoring: Pachman discussed the types of sensors required for health monitoring, such as heart rate sensors, temperature sensors, and gait analysis sensors. These can provide real-time data on a horse's condition. (3) Impact on Training: The data collected by sensors could significantly impact training regimes. It can help trainers make adjustments to prevent injuries or overexertion. (4) Rider Safety: Sensors can contribute to rider safety by detecting falls and alerting emergency services if necessary. (5) Data Management: Data security and privacy need to be addressed, concerning who would have access to the collected information. (6) Cost and Accessibility: The cost of implementation was discussed, with emphasis on the need for affordable options. These technologies need to be made accessible to a wide range of equestrians. (7) Research and Development: Further research and development are necessary to refine these sensors and make them more accurate and reliable. (8) Regulations: Potential regulations and standards may need to be developed to ensure the safety and welfare of horses and riders. Mr. Pachman informs that, while there are challenges, the development of horse sensor technology holds great promise for enhancing the well-being of horses and the safety of those involved in equestrian activities.

Regarding StrideSAFE and what it has to offer, Pachman conveyed the following: (1) Safety Mission: StrideSAFE is dedicated to improving safety in equestrian activities. They have a mission to provide innovative solutions for horse and rider safety. (2) Sensor Development: StrideSAFE is actively involved in the development of horse sensors. They are working on creating a variety of sensors to monitor both horse and rider well-being. (3) Product Range: Pachman discussed StrideSAFE's product range, which includes sensors for monitoring vital signs of horses, such as heart rate and temperature, and sensors that can detect rider falls. (4) Alert Systems: He emphasized the importance of real-time alert systems. Their sensors can notify riders or trainers when irregularities are detected in a horse's health or if a rider experiences a fall. (5) User-Friendly Interface: Their sensors come with a user-friendly interface, making it easy for equestrians to access and understand the data collected. (6) Data Security: Pachman assured the Commission that StrideSAFE has taken measures to safeguard sensitive information. (7) Pilot Programs: StrideSAFE is actively engaged in pilot programs to test their sensors' effectiveness and gather user feedback. (8) Future Developments: Pachman expressed StrideSAFE's commitment to continued research and development, with an aim to refine and expand their product line to further enhance equestrian safety. Pachman highlighted StrideSAFE's dedication to safety in equestrian sports through the development and deployment of advanced sensor technology, which they would like to deploy in Louisiana as a part of a pilot program.

Commissioner Bernard motions to go into Executive Session; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

B. 2023 LEGISLATIVE BILLS

1. **Discussion/Review** of Acts 103, 258, & 261 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session.

No discussion or questions asked.

C. SPECIAL COUNSEL

1. **Approval** to enter into a Legal Services Contract with/and to designate Paul A. Bonin as Special Counsel in place of AAG Brett Bonin in the LGCB v. Lafourche matter in the 19th JDC and any other matter that may concern the constitutionality of HHR within the Contract period.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve, Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

VI. RULES

A. DISCUSSION/NOTICE OF INTENT:

1. LAC 35:XI.Chapter 99 – Claiming Rule
§9905. Claiming Procedures [amend]

The Chairman motions to suspend §9905 for the December 2nd, 2023 Claiming Crown at Fair Grounds and substitute the language submitted by Fair Grounds for that event; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

Commissioner Cortez motions to approve §9905 for Notice of Intent; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bernard motions to adjourn; Commissioner Cravins seconds; motion carries.