LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION

MINUTES - August 23, 2022 Meeting

As transcribed by Mary E. Lee DiLeo, 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. McHalffey
Deano Thornton

ABSENT

Leslie M. Bouie Thomas B. Calvert Roy Griggs Peter J. Hamilton III

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) was called to order by the Chairman on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 10:00 AM in Mojo's Sports Bar at Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino, 2235 Creswell Lane Extension, Opelousas, LA. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Commissioner Bernard motions to approve the meeting minutes from the April 26, 2022 and June 13, 2022 meetings; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

I. ADJUDICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: THE SECTION I ADJUDICATION MATTERS AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA ARE CONTINUED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION DUE TO THE COMMISSION ATTORNEY'S REQUIRED ATTENDANCE AT AN EMERGENCY INJUNCTION HEARING IN EAST BATON ROUGE THAT WAS REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSION, THE LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD, AND THE HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION TO PROTECT RACING INTERESTS - ALL SUBPOENAES ARE CONTINUED AND THOSE SUBPOENAED ARE ORDERED TO APPEAR AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION.

Commissioner Reine motions to defer all adjudications to the next Commission Meeting; Commissioner McHalffey seconds; motion carries.

II. LICENSE APPROVALS

A. REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF SENTENCE/REINSTATEMENT

1. Kalee A. Mancha, Specimen Collector.

Seeking reinstatement of license.

Commissioner Cravins motions to approve Reinstatement of License as LSRC Employee for Ms. Mancha; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion does not carry.

Commissioner Reine makes a substitute motion to grant Reinstatement of License as LSRC Employee for Ms. Mancha, subject to drug testing for six months to be done randomly at her expense; Commissioners Cravins seconds; Poll Vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means approve Reinstatement of License as stipulated and Nay means deny the Reinstatement of License; 4 – Yea, 4 – Nay; motion does not carry.

III. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Chris Warren, Director of Racing. Mr. Warren informs that Delta Downs' 61-day 2022 Quarter Horse Meet finished its non-transferred race dates on July 16, 2022 with flat overall handle. He states that they added races to make up some previously cancelled races, and they had no issues with lighting during the meet. He says that quarter horse race dates transferred from Fair Grounds are running at Delta Downs from July 28, 2022 through September 3, 2022, and that the handle numbers are flat with the rest of Delta Downs' meet. He states that the \$525,000 Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association (LQHBA) Sale Futurity runs on September 3, 2022. He informs that Delta Downs' 84-day 2022-2023 Thoroughbred Meet starts October 5, 2022. He says that they will let those horses start moving in on after September 3, 2022, and the track superintendent plans to renovate the track.

Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director of LQHBA, requests that additional competition testing be done under the LSRC's custody and control for the LQHBA Sale Futurity solely for forensic analysis without associated penalties.

Commissioner Reine motions to authorize LSRC's veterinarians to pull samples from LQHBA Sale Futurity participants and send to the Equine Medication Surveillance Laboratory (EMSL) per Mr. Salard's request; Commissioner Cravins seconds; motion carries.

Mr. Benard Chatters, President of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA), requests that there be a minimum of 8.5 races per day from Wednesday through Saturday during Delta Downs' 2022 and 2023 Quarter Horse Meets and Evangeline Downs' 2023 Thoroughbred Meet. Mr. Warren states that both associations will agree.

2022 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. RACES

a. Ratification of designated races for Transferred Fair Grounds 2022 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to amend the listed minimum races per day to 8.5 and to approve with that amendment; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

2022-2023 THOROUGHBRED MEET

RACES

- a. Approval of first condition book for 2022-2023 thoroughbred meet.
- b. Approval of designated races for 2022-2023 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

4. STEWARD

a. Approval of Tom Davis to serve as state steward for 2022-2023 thoroughbred meet.

Commissioner Cortez asks if the listed stakes races are black-type. Mr. Chatters states that the LaHBPA Board unanimously requests that all stakes races meet the minimum criteria to be black-types stakes. Mr. Roger Heitzmann, Executive Director of Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association (LTBA), informs that there are rules and regulations listed and updated by the Jockeys' Club to determine if a stakes race is black-type. Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of LaHBPA, clarifies that the LaHBPA Board wants stakes races to meet the minimum purse standards of black-type stakes.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #3 & #4, with the stipulation that the association meets the black-type requirements for its stakes races to the best of its ability; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET

5. LICENSE APPROVALS

- a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- 6. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES
 - a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- 7. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)
 - a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet wagering as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to amend the listed minimum races per day to 8.5 and to approve Items #5, #6, & #7 with that amendment; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC

d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Chris Warren, Director of Racing. Mr. Warren informs that Evangeline Downs' 84-day 2022 Thoroughbred Meet is running from April 6, 2022 through August 27, 2022. He states that handle is down 14% and that they have had more race days without turf races due to the weather.

2. TURF TRACK

a. Discussion of the long-term plans to update the turf track for consistent use throughout the 2023 Thoroughbred Meet.

Mr. Warren informs that Evangeline Downs purchased a \$40,000 mower that has greatly helped turf track maintenance. He states that they plan to aerate, verticut, fertilize, remove weeds earlier, and top dress the turf with sand in order to make sure the turf course is ready to use at the start of the 2023 Thoroughbred Meet.

Commissioner Reine motions to mandate that the turf track be ready to use on opening day of Evangeline Downs' 2023 Thoroughbred Meet, subject to a daily fine to be determined at a later meeting based on the circumstances of the issue; Commissioner Cravins seconds; motion carries.

3. THOROUGHBRED RACE DATES OVERLAP

a. Discussion of the Racing Days Committee proposal regarding overlap of thoroughbred race dates between Evangeline Downs and Louisiana Downs.

Commissioner McHalffey informs that the Racing Days Committee is proposing to keep the same number of total races and same timeframe for the two meets, but to change the race days of each week to Saturdays through Tuesdays for Louisiana Downs to reduce date overlaps and to require a minimum of 8.5 averages races per day for each week at Evangeline Downs and 8 races per day at Louisiana Downs. He says that they are looking to further address the overlap problem through reducing required total race days but increase races to ensure horsemen opportunities.

Mr. Warren informs that Evangeline Downs agrees with the recommendations. Mr. Matt Crawford, Racing Secretary at Louisiana Downs, states that they agree with the recommendations. Mr. Chatters states that LaHBPA agrees with the recommendations. Mr. Arthur Morrell, horse owner, breeder, and former state representative, states that he does not want to see the total race dates reduced because that would hurt the Louisiana horse racing industry.

2022 THOROUGHBRED MEET

4. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Ratification of additional officials for 2022 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

2022 OUARTER HORSE MEET

5. STEWARD

a. Approval of Charles Ashy, Jr. to serve as state steward for 2022 quarter horse meet.

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

2023 THOROUGHBRED MEET

6. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet wagering as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to amend the listed minimum races per day to 8.5 and to approve Items #6, #7, & #8 with that amendment; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Jason Boulet, Senior Director of Racing. Mr. Boulet informs that preparations are underway for Fair Grounds' 151st Racing Season, including dirt and turf course renovations. He says that they'll send a soil sample to Dr. Mick Peterson, Executive Director of the Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory, for

evaluation of the dirt course. He states that Phase 1 of their EPA Compliance Project will be completed in time for horses to arrive on the property. He says that they are doing capital projects, including asphalt work on the backside, painting and weatherizing several backside barns and the test barn, getting new TVs, and renovating the track kitchen and the jockeys' room. He states that they will start processing stall application in the next two weeks, with applications due by October 10, 2022.

The Chairman asks what the purse structure for maiden weights are projected to be. Mr. Boulet responds that it is still under evaluation with the finance department but that they are looking to release that information with the condition book in the middle of September. The Chairman thanks Mr. Boulet and Fair Grounds for their work on the Louisiana-bred program. Mr. Boulet informs that Fair Grounds' 80-day 2022-2023 Thoroughbred Meet will start on November 18, 2022. He says that they're improving the full customer experience and recognizes Mr. Craig Dennison, Director of Food and Beverage at Fair Grounds, who retired after 32 years.

The Chairman asks if there has been agreement around the three quarter horse races on Champion's Day being moved to Evangeline Downs' quarter horse meet. Mr. Boulet responds that they have a consensus with LQHBA and LaHBPA to move those races. Commissioner Cortez asks if Fair Grounds' stakes races meet the black-type standards. Mr. Boulet responds that they do meet the black-type standards. Commissioner Reine requests that Fair Grounds includes the topic of promoting racing at Jazz Fest in their contract negotiations and report back to the Commission about that possibility. Mr. Boulet agrees.

The Chairman motions to approve the transfer of the three quarter horse races traditionally run on Champion's Day at Fair Grounds to Evangeline Downs' quarter horse meet for 2022, with a request to all involved parties to present the logistics and confirmation to the Commission in writing; Commissioner McHalffey seconds; motion carries.

2022-2023 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. STEWARD

a. Approval of Roy Wood, Jr. and Charles Ashy, Jr. to serve as state stewards for 2022-2023 thoroughbred meet.

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

D. LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC d/b/a LOUISIANA DOWNS CASINO & RACETRACK

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Matt Crawford, Racing Secretary. Mr. Crawford informs that they had to cancel races on August 22 & 23, 2022 and that they'll discuss with LaHBPA about what to do with those purses. He states that they've remodeled the test barn and jockey kitchen since the new company took over in November 2021, and that they will take the LaHBPA's recommendations for future infrastructure projects into consideration.

Commissioner Cortez asks about Louisiana Downs' advertising plan. Ms. Andrea Butler, Director of Marketing at Louisiana Downs, states that they have spent over \$115,000 in 2022 advertising, which includes customer rewards and ads on TV, radio,

and both local and national publications. She informs that they grew their customer database on the casino side by 40%, which will help purses. She says that they have prize drawings each week from non-winning wagers, family days, corn hole tournament, wiener dog races, unicorn races, and jockey stick races for charity. Commissioner Cravins asks if there has been an uptick in attendance with change in ownership. Ms. Butler responds that attendance has basically been flat, but that they are looking into ways to bring more people to the racetrack.

Commissioner Thornton asks if Super Derby is coming back. Mr. Crawford responds that they are planning to bring it back next season with black-type standards. Commissioner McHalffey asks the difference in numbers between racetrack and casino mail-outs and requests that Louisiana Downs puts "Racetrack" in front of "Casino" in its official name. Ms. Butler responds that 5,000 race mailers go out and 15,000 casino mailers go out. She says that she will advise the company about the name change request.

2. PURSE ISSUE

a. Update of Purse Issue between LaHBPA and Harrah's Bossier City Investment Company, LLC.

Purse issue is currently under investigation, so no comments or updates at this meeting.

3. OTB CONSIDERATION

a. Consideration/Approval to open 17 Louisiana Downs OTBs per submitted applications as provided in Meeting Agenda.

The Chairman informs that there will be no action on the OTBs since counsel has advised that there is still more work to be done on the submissions.

Commissioner Reine motions to defer Items #2 & #3 to the next Commission Meeting; Commissioner Thornton seconds; motion carries.

2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET

4. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

a. Approval for 2023 quarter horse meet wagering as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to amend the listed minimum races per day to 7 in January and February and 8 in March through the end of the meet and to approve Items #4, #5, & #6 with that amendment; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

7. STEWARD

a. Approval of Roy Wood, Jr. to serve as state steward for 2023 quarter horse meet.

Commissioner Bernard motions to approve; Commissioner McHalffey seconds; motion carries.

2023 THOROUGHBRED MEET

- 8. LICENSE APPROVALS
 - a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- 9. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A), RACES AND POST TIMES
 - a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- 10. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)
 - a. Approval for 2023 thoroughbred meet wagering as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to amend the listed minimum races per day to 8, to amend the application race dates to Saturdays through Tuesdays from May 7, 2022 through September 27, 2022, and to approve Items #8, #9, & #10 with those amendments; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

IV. BREEDER UPDATES

A. LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LTBA)

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Roger Heitzmann, Executive Director. Mr. Heitzmann informs that Louisiana Downs recently held Louisiana Cup Day, for which LTBA added \$102,000 to their purse funds so that each race had a \$67,000 purse. He states that they will hold their yearling sale on October 1, 2022 and will be followed by a mixed sale with LQHBA. He says that he is working collaboratively on a license plate to feature horse racing enthusiasts as a member of the Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board under the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. He thanks Fair Grounds and Delta Downs for their work on scheduling and offering higher purses for Louisiana-bred stakes races.

Commissioner Delahoussaye asks for foal crop numbers. Mr. Heitzmann responds that they don't have the numbers for 2022 yet, but 2021 had just over 800 accredited foals, which is the lowest since the early 1990's. He states that Historical Horse Racing will help improve the industry and bring more horses as they supplement purse money. Commissioner Reine asks if there is a revenue source to increase the Breeders' Awards. Mr. Heitzmann responds that there isn't at this time but they are investigating some new funding sources for that.

B. LOUISIANA QUARTER HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LQHBA)

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director. Mr. Salard informs that they cataloged 573 horses for its yearling sale this year, down from 580 last year. He says that they made gross sales of \$8,200,000, which is a 19% increase from last year. He states that average price per yearling was \$19,100, and median price was \$13,500, both 13% increases from last year. He informs that they started hair testing for Delta Downs stakes races, which included testing of 103 out of 116 participating horses with 7% tests coming back positive that disqualified those 8 horses, and thanks Delta Downs staff. He states that their goal for 2023 is to institute hair testing prior to entry for a meet at a cost of \$250 per test that would last for that entire meet, to continue hair testing futurity qualifiers, and to institute random hair testing throughout the meet.

The Chairman requests that LQHBA reports on the consensus of its membership regarding these hair testing goals at the October Commission Meeting. Mr. Salard agrees. Commissioner Reine asks about the progress of more stakes races for fillies and mares. Mr. Salard responds that they have worked out an additional stakes race added for fillies at Delta Downs, Evangeline Downs, and Louisiana Downs. Commissioner

Bernard asks if, after a positive hair test, a horse would need a negative test before racing again. Mr. Salard responds that the positive test only applies to denying entry to that stakes race but does not prohibit the horse from running other races.

A 15-minute recess is taken.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. MEDICATION COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Patrick Bernard
 No Report.
- B. RULES COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Lane T. Cortez

 Commissioner Cortez informs that rules are up for formal adoption later on the agenda.
- C. LEGAL COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Thomas B. Calvert No Report.
- D. SECURITY COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Louis Reine

Commissioner Reine informs that they are discussing the LSRC furnishing a monthly list to each racetrack of individuals who are suspended and denied access to the racetracks, including the end dates of those suspensions and possibly with their pictures on file. Mr. Gardiner states that the Organization of Racing Investigators has invited the State Police to become a member and that LSRC would pay their dues to access training.

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

Commissioner Cravins informs that they have had many conversations with LaHBPA, particularly regarding proposed date changes, and that a lot of issues raised by LaHBPA can be addressed by the Committee recommending actions per Acts 525 and 530.

- F. FINANCE COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Leslie Bouie
 No Report.
- G. RACING DAYS COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Mike R. McHalffey No Report.
- H. SB272 & HB1055 AD HOC COMMITTEE, by Committee Chair Louis Reine

Commissioner Reine informs that they held a public meeting last week, during which they established a timeline to satisfy the Legislature's mandates. He says that they will ask to postpone action on the rule to establish infrastructure fund requirements until they clarify the language. He states that they have estimates of future payments to those association infrastructure funds and that the associations gave presentations about their proposed infrastructure maintenance and improvements, which are available on the LSRC website. He encourages racing industry stakeholders to submit their input so that the committee can make informed recommendations to the full Commission for Infrastructure plans and rules.

VI. OTHER

A. LAHBPA REQUESTS

1. Discussion of LaHBPA's request for Racing Associations' track surface experts to work cooperatively to ensure proper track maintenance and repairs continued from June 13, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Mr. Fenasci proposes to get the current racetrack superintendent personnel from each racetrack to work together rather than hiring an outside expert. The Chairman requests that LaHBPA put together a more detailed proposal to present at the October Commission Meeting.

2. Discussion of LaHBPA's request for additional stalls at Delta Downs, Evangeline Downs, and Fair Grounds continued from June 13, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Reine informs that the ad hoc committee has requested each racetrack to submit their position on total number of stalls and how many stall applications they receive. He invites any other information that can help determine how many stalls are needed at each racetrack to recommend to the full Commission.

3. Discussion of Arsenic Levels in Quarter Horses per LaHBPA's request.

Dr. Levent Dirikolu, Director of EMSL at Louisiana State University, informs that 5% of horses tested for arsenic had tested positive, with levels ranging from 0.39 to 1.79 micrograms per milliliter. He states that 0.3 micrograms per milliliter with no applicable withdrawal time is the threshold set by both the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority. The Chairman asks if there are therapeutic uses of arsenic and if there is a possibility of environmental contamination. Dr. Dirikolu responds that there are no approved uses of arsenic from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He states that horses can test positive if they suffer from cribbing or wood chewing and that it is impossible to determine whether arsenic came from the environment or was administered.

Mr. Salard states that LQHBA has not been as concerned with arsenic, especially at low levels, versus a newer synthetic drug. Mr. Chatters says that the threshold level should be raised to not penalize horsemen from what might be environmental contamination. Mr. Kenneth Roberts, LSRC-licensed Trainer, informs that three out of eight of his horses in the trials tested positive for arsenic at different levels, but that he treats them the same way, so he doesn't know how they had arsenic in their system.

The Chairman requests that the Medication Committee research this issue and advise if any rule change is needed.

4. Discussion of Test Clearances per LaHBPA's request.

Ms. Michelle Rodriguez, Owner, Breeder, and Board Member of the both LaHBPA and LTBA, informs that the time frame for testing and sample clearances from EMSL is much longer than other racing jurisdictions. She states that EMSL is required by contract terms to return test results within ten business days, whereas Texas and Oklahoma give test results within seven days and Kentucky within three days. She says that EMSL can also request extensions, which are usually granted by LSRC with no time limit. She says that this holds up purse winnings from horsemen and causes

drawn-out concern about whether they will be penalized for a test while they are waiting for results. She requests that the LSRC amend the contract for a more timely processing in line with other jurisdictions or that LSRC clears the purse money distributions in a more timely manner whether EMSL is still testing or not.

Commissioner Reine asks what amount of time is typically required by EMSL on extensions. Dr. Dirikolu responds that extensions on testing an individual sample usually take up to 17 additional business days. Commissioner Reine requests that EMSL look into finding the most expedient way to deal with staffing and testing issues to ensure quicker turnaround of sample results.

VII. RULES

A. FORMAL ADOPTIONS:

1. LAC 35:VII Chapter 89 - "Whips" as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Delahoussaye motions to approve for Formal Adoption, with an effective enforcement start date of October 1, 2022; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

2. LAC 35:XI Chapter 99 - "Claiming Rule" as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Delahoussaye motions to approve for Formal Adoption, with an effective enforcement start date of October 1, 2022; Commissioners Bernard and Thornton second; motion carries.

3. LAC 46:XLI Chapter 3 - "Trainer" as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Delahoussaye motions to approve for Formal Adoption, with an effective enforcement start date of October 1, 2022; Commissioner Thornton seconds; motion carries.

B. DISCUSSION/NOTICE OF INTENT/EMERGENCY ADOPTION:

 LAC 35:III Chapter 57 – "Associations' Duties and Obligations" as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to defer action on these Rules until the Ad Hoc Committee gets more clarification on the language to ensure it matches the intent of the Legislative Bills; Commissioner Cortez seconds; motion carries.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners motion to adjourn; Commissioners second; motion carries.

Charles A. Gardiner III

Executive Director