

# LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION

## MINUTES – April 29, 2025

*As transcribed by Julia D. Harper, Certified Court Reporter.*

### COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Edward J. Koehl, Jr., Chairman  
Earl A. "Boo" Landry, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman  
Vincent V. Tumminello, Jr., M.D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman  
Dr. Patrick Bernard  
Larry L. Findley, Sr., DVM  
Nathan C. Granger  
Travis K. Miller, DVM  
Deano Thornton  
Katherine L. Winters

### ABSENT

Rock M. Bordelon  
Leslie M. Bouie  
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein

# APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting of  
August 29, 2025  
(Date)

  
Executive Director  
Louisiana State Racing Commission

The Meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) is called to order by the Chairman on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Event Center Prefunction Room of Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino, 2235 Cresswell Lane Extension, Opelousas, Louisiana. Roll call is taken; a quorum is present.

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Commissioner Bernard requests a moment of silence for the passing of Dr. Matt Cooley

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Commissioner Findley motions to approve the February 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

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Mr. Brett Bonin, Assistant Attorney General, reminds the Commission that their Ethics Financial Disclosures are due on May 15, 2025.

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## I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS / REPORTS

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

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Mr. John Simon, Director of Racing Operations. Mr. Simon states that Delta Downs' thoroughbred meet ended on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and their handle was flat for the season. He says their handle was flat for the first weekend of their quarter horse meet, which began on April 25<sup>th</sup>, but entries for the first two weeks have been good. He mentions how the track was surveyed in February and met all AQHA requirements. He announces that the track will be closed on Sundays and Mondays for the rest of the quarter horse meet.

Commissioner Granger asks about the Monday track closures and Commissioner Findley asks if it would be possible to get more headers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Monday track closures and additional headers.

- a. **Update** on infrastructure, escrow, and questions from the Commission.

Mr. Steve Kuypers Vice President and General Manager of Delta Downs, announces that they are fully under way with building the dorm and two bathrooms. He says the project should be finished before the thoroughbred meet begins in October. He says he will have pictures of the dorm and bathrooms to present in August.

**2025 QUARTER HORSE MEET**

**2. RACES**

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Tumminello motions to approve Items 2a and 2b; Commissioner Findley seconds; motion carries.

**3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Approval** of amended officials for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

**2025-2026 ROUGHBRED MEET**

**4. LICENSE APPROVALS**

- a. **Approval** for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Thornton seconds; motion carries.

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

- a. **Approval** for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

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

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

**B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC**

**d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO**

- 1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, *by Tracey Coonce, Director of Racing*. Ms. Coonce states that Evangeline Downs' thoroughbred meet opened on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She announces that they have added two new turf stakes races to their stakes schedule, one named in honor of First Lady of Louisiana, Sharon Landry, and the other in honor of former trainer Don Stemmans.
  - a. **Update** on infrastructure, escrow, and questions from the Commission. Ms. Carol Core, Vice President and General Manager of Evangeline Downs, begins by discussing their

recent promotions.<sup>2</sup> She mentions that they are pleased with their new lighting and discusses their plans for a new tote board out front.<sup>3</sup> She says they have placed cameras in the test barns and have a water truck and turf vacuum on order.

Commissioner Granger asks to discuss bins for manure on the backside.<sup>4</sup>

**2025 THOROUGHBRED MEET**

**2. RACES**

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bernard motions to approve Items 2a and 2b; Commissioner Findley seconds; motion carries.

**3. STEWARDS. OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Approval** of amended officials for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

**2025 QUARTER HORSE MEET**

**4. LICENSE APPROVALS**

- a. **Approval** for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Thornton motions to approve; Commissioner Findley seconds; motion carries.

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

- a. **Approval** for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve Items 5 and 6; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

**C. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC  
d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS<sup>5</sup>**

**1. PROGRESS REPORT**

*\*Continued to next Commission Meeting.*

- a. **Update** on infrastructure dates, timing for paddock renovations, escrow, and questions from the Commission.

<sup>2</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Evangeline Downs' promotions.

<sup>3</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on tote board.

<sup>4</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on manure bins.

<sup>5</sup> No representatives from Churchill Downs Louisiana Horseracing Company, LLC (d/b/a Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots) attended this Commission Meeting.

*\*Continued to next Commission Meeting.*

**2025-2026 THOROUGHBRED MEET**

**2. LICENSE APPROVALS**

- a. **Approval** for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Chairman Koehl notes that Fair Grounds did not submit the required application for licensure, but since their 10-year license was approved last year, they still have a 9-year license.

**3. ASSIGNMENT OF RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A) AND POST TIMES**

- a. **Assignment** for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to amend the race meet on the Agenda and approve 76 thoroughbred race dates from November 20, 2025 through April 9, 2026; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

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Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of the LAHBPA, asks the Commission to note that the LAHBPA had an agreement with Fair Grounds that allows the horses to move in and begin training 60 days prior to the assigned start date, November 20<sup>th</sup>. He confirms with Chairman Koehl that the LAHBPA does not have an agreement with Fair Grounds for the 2025-2026 thoroughbred race dates.

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Chairman Koehl asks the Commission for an emergency meeting in the near future. He says the Commission will attempt to have Churchill Downs, d/b/a Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, present at this meeting so they can get the 2025-2026 thoroughbred dates schedules.

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Mr. Brett Bonin, Assistant Attorney General, asks Chairman Koehl to have the agreement between the LAHBPA and Fair Grounds entered into the official record of this meeting.

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

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.<sup>6</sup>

**2025 QUARTER HORSE MEET (TO BE HELD AT DELTA DOWNS)<sup>7</sup>**

**5. LICENSE APPROVALS**

- a. **Approval** for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

**6. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A) AND POST TIMES**

- a. **Approval** for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

<sup>6</sup> Wagering was not discussed at this Commission Meeting.

<sup>7</sup> The Commission granted Fair Grounds' 2025 quarter horse meet licenses in absentia, as they had no representatives present.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve Items 5, 6, and 7; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.<sup>8</sup>

**8. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

a. **Approval** of officials for 2025 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

b. **Approval** of Bobby Granger to serve as State Steward for 2025 quarter horse meet.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve Items 8a and 8b; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

**D. LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC**

**d/b/a LOUISIANA DOWNS CASINO & RACETRACK**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Roxanne Tanner, Director of Racing*. Ms. Tanner discusses their 2025 quarter horse meet, which consisted of 318 races and averaged 7.7 starters per race. She states that overall, their handle was a bit down, but she looks forward to next year's quarter horse meet. She wants to see if they can find a "happy medium" with the race dates that would encourage more handle. She announces that Louisiana Downs will be kicking off their 52<sup>nd</sup> thoroughbred season this weekend and that their stalls are steadily filling.

a. **Update** on infrastructure, escrow, and questions from the Commission.

Ms. Tanner states that they have started working on the roads that lead to the backside and have been looking into either fixing, or replacing, their tote board. Mr. Kevin Preston, President of Louisiana Downs, discusses how for the last year highway projects in Bossier City and Shreveport—in addition to a recently started seven-mile-long road project in front of Louisiana Downs—have impacted business. Ms. Tanner adds that there are promising signs that people will not be deterred by the current roadwork.

Commissioner Granger expresses concern about potential competition with the surrounding casinos and Louisiana Downs' viability. He asks if there is anything that can be done by the Commission or the legislature to improve their situation.<sup>9</sup>

Commissioner Findley requests that Louisiana Downs prioritize stalling quarter horses that want to run at next year's quarter horse meet, then rent whatever stalls are left over.<sup>10</sup>

**2025 THOROUGHBRED MEET**

2. **REQUEST BY LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON OCTOBER 17, 2024 (R.S. 4:158A) TO REMOVE 10 RACE DAYS TOTAL AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Thornton seconds; motion carries.

Commissioner Granger expresses concern about Louisiana Downs dropping down to 2 race days a week. Mr. Ed Fenasci responds that the schedule's layout came directly from the feedback of horsemen participating at Louisiana Downs. He says they are hopeful about the

<sup>8</sup> This motion took place after the Commission approved Delta Downs' 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet.

<sup>9</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Louisiana Downs' viability.

<sup>10</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Louisiana Downs quarter horse stalling.

situation improving and potentially asking to add some of the days back.<sup>11</sup>

**3. REQUEST BY LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC TO AMEND WAGERING APPROVED ON AUGUST 26, 2024 (R.S. 4:158A) AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA**

Commissioner Findley motions to approve; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.<sup>12</sup>

**4. RACES**

a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

b. **Approval** of designated races for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve Items 4a and 4b; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

**5. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

a. **Approval** of officials for 2025 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

b. **Approval** of David Wedlake to serve as State Steward for the 2025 thoroughbred meet.

Commissioner Landry motions to approve Items 5a and 5b; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

## **II. HBPA UPDATE**

**A. LOUISIANA HORSEMEN'S BENEVOLENT & PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION (LAHBPA)**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of the LaHBPA. Mr. Fenasci highlights the collaboration between the LaHBPA, Louisiana Downs, Delta Downs, and Evangeline Downs leading up to the Commission Meeting. He mentions that the LaHBPA has not heard anything from Fair Grounds about their thoroughbred meet.

Chairman Koehl asks Mr. Fenasci when the LaHBPA normally receives the race dates for Fair Grounds' thoroughbred meet. Mr. Fenasci replies that per their contract, all four tracks are required to submit their dates to the LaHBPA 30 days before the present Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Tumminello asks Mr. Fenasci if he can comment on any communication he has had with Fair Grounds in the last four weeks. Mr. Fenasci replies that Fair Grounds has not reached out. Commissioner Tumminello then asks Mr. Fenasci if he has reached out to Fair Grounds, to which Mr. Fenasci responds that he has not.

## **III. BREEDER UPDATES**

**A. LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LTBA)**

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<sup>11</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Louisiana Downs' amended 2025 thoroughbred race schedule.

<sup>12</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Louisiana Downs' wagering format.

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Roger Heitzmann, Executive Director of the LTBA. Mr. Heitzmann discusses how Louisiana breders are looked upon more favorably now. He introduces their new Assistant Director, Mr. Mike Whitler, and announces their upcoming events.<sup>13</sup>

Executive Director Landry asks Mr. Heitzmann if they have any preliminary numbers on this year's foal crop. Mr. Heitzmann replies that their foal crop has been somewhat stagnant the last few years, between 750 and 800, and emphasizes the importance of quality over quantity.

**B. LOUISIANA QUARTER HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LQHBA)**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by Bruce Salard, Executive Director of the LQHBA. Mr. Salard discusses the LQHBA's yearling sale, foal crop, and hair testing at Louisiana Downs and Delta Downs.<sup>14</sup>

**IV. RULES**

**A. DISCUSSION / NOTICE OF INTENT**

1. LAC 35:XI. Chapter 99 – Claiming Rule  
§9914. Voided and Voidable Claims [AMEND]<sup>15</sup>

Commissioner Findley motions to approve for Notice of Intent; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

**B. FORMAL ADOPTION**

1. LAC 46:XLI. Jockeys and Jockey Apprentices  
§725. Jockey Fee Schedule [AMEND]

Commissioner Tumminello motions to approve for Formal Adoption; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

**V. OTHER**

**A. ANNUAL RENEWAL OF TRAINING TRACK APPLICATIONS**

1. **Review** of applications for training track licenses pursuant for LAC 46:XLI. 1903-1907)
  - a. **The Training Center at Copper Crowne, LLC**
  - b. **Folsom Thoroughbred Training Center Owners Association, Inc.**
  - c. **Louisiana Downs Investment Company, LLC**

Commissioner Findley motions to approve Items 1a, 1b, and 1c; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

**VI. LICENSE APPROVAL**

**A. REQUEST FOR LICENSE APPROVAL (LA. R.S. 4:150(B))**

1. **Cecil Barrett**
  - a. Seeking approval of owner/trainer's license.

Commissioner Findley motions to approve licensure; Commissioner Tumminello

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<sup>13</sup> See Meeting Transcript for LTBA's full Progress Report.

<sup>14</sup> See Meeting Transcript for LQHBA's full Progress Report.

<sup>15</sup> See Meeting Transcript for discussion on Voided and Voidable Claims Rule.

seconds; motion carries.

## VII. ADJUDICATIONS

### A. REFUSAL TO ABIDE BY STEWARDS' ORDER

1. **Churchill Downs Louisiana Horseracing Company, LLC**  
d/b/a Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.  
*\*Continued to next Commission Meeting.*

### B. DISQUALIFICATION APPEAL

1. **Jonas Gibson, Owner / Trainer** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.<sup>16</sup>

The Commission votes unanimously to uphold the stewards' disqualification of #8 CHARCO in Race 3 of February 1, 2025 at Delta Downs.

### C. VIOLATIONS OF LAC § 35:I.1797 (Equine Positives)

1. **Keith Bourgeois, Trainer** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.<sup>17</sup>

Commissioner Landry motions to approve plea agreement; stewards' ruling upheld and amended; drug positive will go unclassified; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 6 months active probation, April 29, 2025 through October 28, 2025; any Category I, II, or III equine medication violation while on probation will result in a 6-month suspension in addition to the penalties for the violation; Commissioner Granger seconds; motion carries.

2. **Guillermo Martinez, Trainer** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Granger motions to approve plea agreement; stewards' ruling upheld and amended; fined \$1,000; 60 day suspended suspension; 14 months active probation, April 29, 2025 to June 28, 2026; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; any Category I, II, III, or more than 3 Category IV and/or V equine medication violation(s) while on probation will result in a 60-day suspension in addition to the penalties for the violation; Commissioner Findley seconds; motion carries.

### D. VIOLATION OF LA. R.S. § 35:I.9901 (Claiming a Horse)

1. **Areli Gutierrez, Owner** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Granger motions to approve plea agreement; stewards' ruling upheld and amended; 6 months suspension; additional 9 months active suspension to be retroactively applied from February 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025; 6 month suspended suspension and active probation from November 1, 2025 through May 1, 2026; any violation warranting referral to the Commission while on probation will result in the imposition of the suspended 6 month suspension in addition to the penalties for the violation; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

### E. VIOLATIONS OF LA. R.S. § 4:175 & LAC § 35:I.1705, *et seq.* (Electrical Device)

1. **Marlon Del-Cid, Jockey** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to distribute the purse as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Campisi (pay difference), 2<sup>nd</sup> Perfect Star (pay difference), 3<sup>rd</sup> The Thimble (pay difference), 4<sup>th</sup> Stomping Hotrod (pay

<sup>16</sup> See Meeting Transcript for examinations by Mr. Brett Bonin and Mr. John Duviehl.

<sup>17</sup> See Meeting Transcript for examinations by Mr. Brett Bonin and Mr. Edmond Guidry. 5 minute break taken before motion.



difference), 5<sup>th</sup> Double Trap (pay); all other matters continued to the next Commission Meeting; Mr. Del-Cid will remain suspended until he appears before the Commission; Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.<sup>18</sup>

2. **Martin Osuna, Jockey** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

*\*Continued to the next Commission Meeting.*

**F. VIOLATION OF LAC § 35:I.303 (Impermissible Conduct)**

1. **Bobby Ransom, Jockey** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

*\*Continued to the next Commission Meeting.*

**G. VIOLATION OF LAC § 35:II.2111 (Powers)**

1. **Jose Herbert, Jockey** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Findley motions to accept plea agreement; stewards' ruling upheld and amended; suspension for the remainder of the Louisiana Downs quarter horse meet, from March 15, 2025 through March 29, 2025; 60-day suspended suspension and active probation from May 19, 2025 through July 18, 2025; approved to run in designated races on May 17, 2025 in Texas during suspension; any violation warranting referral to the Commission while on probation will result in the imposition of the suspended 60-day suspension in addition to the penalties for the violation; Commissioner Landry seconds' motion carries.<sup>19</sup>

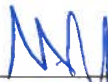
**H. VIOLATION OF LAC § 46:I.529 (Conditions of License)**

1. **Joseph M. Davis, Owner** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Thornton motions to approve; amended license application filed, with the understanding that Mr. Davis must submit a complete statement of all his violations each year that he applies to renew his license; Commissioner Findley seconds; motion carries.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioners motion to adjourn; Commissioners second; motion carries.



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Stephen Landry  
Executive Director

<sup>18</sup> This ruling is solely about the purse. The remainder of the case will be continued to a future Commission Meeting.

<sup>19</sup> Serving Jose Herbert was a joint effort between the LSRC, Texas Racing Commission officials, and Texas law enforcement.