

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION

MINUTES – May 13, 2025

As transcribed by Mary E. Lee, Certified Court Reporter

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Edward J. Koehl, Jr., Chairman
Earl A. "Boo" Landry, Jr., 1st Vice Chair
Vincent V. Tumminello, Jr., 2nd Vice Chair
Dr. Patrick Bernard
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.
Nathan C. Granger
Deano Thornton

ABSENT

Rock M. Bordelon
Leslie M. Bouie
Larry F. Findley, Sr., DVM
Travis K. Miller, DVM
Katherine L. Winters

APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting on

August 29, 2025

(Date)

AM

Executive Director

Louisiana State Racing Commission

The Meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) is called to order by the Chairman on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Room of the Louisiana State Racing Commission, 320 North Carrollton Avenue, Suite 2-B, New Orleans, Louisiana. Roll call is taken; a quorum is present.

I. ASSOCIATION REQUEST / REPORT

A. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC

d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

1. REQUEST BY THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON AUGUST 26, 2024 (R.S. 4:158A) PER AGREEMENT WITH LOUISIANA DOWNS AND LAHBPA AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA

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

B. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSE RACING COMPANY, LLC

d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS

1. PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Ozair Shariff, General Counsel for Churchill Downs. Mr. Shariff delivers a prepared statement on behalf of Churchill Downs. He briefly summarizes Churchill Downs' history with the Fair Grounds. He states that operating under the status quo is no longer an option, and that Fair Grounds is unable and unwilling to commit to the 2025-2026 thoroughbred race dates assigned at the April 29, 2025 Commission Meeting.¹

Mr. Louis Roussel, former owner of the Fair Grounds, addresses the Commission.²

¹ See Meeting Transcript for Churchill Downs' full statement.

² See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Roussel's full statement.

Chairman Koehl and Mr. Shariff discuss Fair Grounds rejection of the assigned race dates and their statutory requirements.³ Chairman Koehl announces that another Commission Meeting will be set for after the legislative session ends.

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

Chairman Koehl asks about the state of the paddock. Mr. Shariff replies that all capital projects are currently on hold. Chairman Koehl informs Mr. Shariff that repairing the paddock was part of their infrastructure requirements, per the state legislature. Chairman Koehl announces that the Commission will continue this matter to the next Commission Meeting.

Commissioners ask Fair Grounds' representatives a series of financial questions.⁴

II. OTHER

A. DISCUSSION OF THOROUGHBRED RACE MEET DATES ASSIGNED FOR FAIR GROUNDS 2025-2026 THOROUGHBRED MEET AND SCHEDULES ASSOCIATED THEREWITH⁵

Commissioner Tumminello motions to approve the move-in and race dates as submitted by the LaHBPA; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries. Mr. Shariff rejects the approved move-in and race dates.⁶

Chairman Koehl states that this matter will be continued to the next meeting. He informs Mr. Shariff that Fair Grounds is subject to a fine, and action against their license, for failing to submit their race dates in April and rejecting the race dates set by the Commission.

III. ADJUDICATION

A. REFUSAL TO ABIDE BY STEWARDS' ORDER

1. Churchill Downs Louisiana Horseracing Company, LLC d/b/a Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots

Mr. Brett Bonin, Assistant Attorney General, requests to continue this matter to the next Commission Meeting. Commissioner Landry motions to approve; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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



Stephen Landry
Executive Director

³ See Meeting Transcript for full discussion.

⁴ See Meeting Transcript for full discussion on Fair Grounds' finances.

⁵ This discussion occurs before Chairman Koehl asks about the paddock.

⁶ See Meeting Transcript for proposed move-in and race dates.