

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION

MINUTES – November 17, 2025

As transcribed by Julia D. Harper, Certified Court Reporter

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Edward J. Koehl, Jr., *Chairman*
Earl A. "Boo" Landry, *1st Vice Chair*
Vincent V. Tumminello, Jr., M.D., *2nd Vice Chair*
Dr. Patrick Bernard
Leslie M. Bouie
Nathan C. Granger
Travis K. Miller, DVM
Deano Thornton
Katherine L. Winters

ABSENT

Rock M. Bordelon
Larry L. Findley, Sr., DVM
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.

APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting of

February 23, 2026

(Date)



Executive Director

Louisiana State Racing Commission

The Meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) is called to order by the Chairman on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Black Gold Room of Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots, 1751 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. Roll Call is taken; a quorum is present.

Commissioner Landry motions to approve the August 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.¹

I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS / REPORTS

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

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING TRACK MATTERS

Mr. John Simon, Racing Secretary and Director of Racing at Delta Downs, states that Delta sent track samples to Mr. Peterson and installed new Musco lighting for their photo finish line in-between the quarter horse and thoroughbred meets. He announces that, so far, Delta's thoroughbred meet has averaged 8.63 starters per race and their handle is flat compared to last year.²

2025 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Approval of new officials and their resumes as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC

d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING TRACK MATTERS

¹ The Minutes are approved after Delta Downs' approvals.

² See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Simon's full progress report.

Ms. Tracey Coonce, Director of Racing at Evangeline Downs, announces that Evangeline is 24 days into their quarter horse meet. She states that field size is up compared to last year. Although handle is flat, they are expecting an uptick in handle with the EvD Futurity and Louisiana Million Futurity trials. She states that Racing Services Laboratories was on site September 9th to conduct testing. She mentions how Evangeline is continuing to follow their turf consultant's recommendations, and that he will be back in March if any Commissioners would like to come and address their concerns with him. She informs the Commission of their recent additions—two new tractors, a new water truck—and that their tote board is now up.³

2025 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. RACES

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

Commissioner Bernard motions to approve Items 2a & 2b; Commissioner Granger seconds; motion carries.

C. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC

d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING TRACK MATTERS

Mr. Jason Boulet, Senior Director of Racing at Fair Grounds, states that their thoroughbred meet will begin on November 20th. He notes that they have already entered for the first 3 race days, have strong fields so far, and are expecting a big crowd for Thanksgiving Day. He announces that Fair Grounds has over \$8 million in purse money going toward their stakes schedule. He states that Mick Peterson's staff was on site last week for soil testing. He mentions that stall allotment was very productive this year and discusses some of Fair Grounds' promotions for this meet.⁴

Chairman Koehl requests a Commission vote to rescind the conditional fine, pending completion of the paddock, issued to Fair Grounds at the June 24, 2025 Commission Meeting.

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

2025-2026 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. LICENSE APPROVALS

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

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

3. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158a) AND POST TIMES

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

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

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

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

³ See Meeting Transcript for Ms. Coonce's full progress report.

⁴ See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Boulet's full progress report.

- b. **Approval** of new Pick 6 wagering format for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.⁵

Commissioner Granger motions to approve Items 4a & 4b; Commissioner Bouie seconds; motion carries.

5. RACES

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet.
- b. **Approval** of designated races for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Landry motions to approve Items 5a & 5b; Commissioner Granger seconds; motion carries.

6. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. **Approval** of officials for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.
- Commissioner Bouie motions to approve; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

- b. **Approval** of Charles Ashy to serve as State Steward for 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet.
- Commissioner Tumminello motions to approve; Commissioner Bouie seconds; motion carries.

- c. **Approval** of Charles Gardiner, III to serve as an Alternate Steward for the 2025-2026 thoroughbred meet on dates provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

D. LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC

d/b/a LOUISIANA DOWNS CASINO & RACETRACK

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING TRACK MATTERS

Ms. Roxanne Tanner, Racing Director of Louisiana Downs, announces that their thoroughbred meet ended on September 23rd and their handle was the highest it has been since 2020. She notes that the track was closed for about a week for renovations and that they are preparing for the arrival of the quarter horses on December 10th.

Track President, Kevin Preston, announces that the highways will reopen at the end of December and anticipates an increase in revenue once they reopen. He also mentions that they are working with a developer on the 30 acres of undeveloped land on the backside.⁶

2026 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. REQUEST BY LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC TO AMEND RACING DATES APPROVED ON AUGUST 29, 2025 (R.S. 4:158A) TO REMOVE 7 RACE DAYS TOTAL

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

Commissioner Bouie motions to approve; Commissioner Miller seconds; motion carries.

⁵ Mr. Palmisano Jr. explains the new Pick 6 wagering format prior to Commission action on Items 2-6. See Meeting transcript for Mr. Palmisano Jr.'s explanation.

⁶ See Meeting Transcript for Ms. Tanner and Mr. Preston's full progress report.

3. RACES

- a. Approval** of designated races for 2026 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

4. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. Approval** of officials for 2026 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

- b. Approval** of Frank Rudis, Jr. to serve as State Steward for 2026 quarter horse meet.

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

II. HBPA UPDATE

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

1. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Bernard Chatters, President of the LAHBPA, states that the LAHBPA is happy with how things are proceeding, for the most part, but they do have some concerns with Louisiana Downs.

Commissioner Granger asks Mr. Chatters to address the jocks room issue at Delta Downs. Mr. Chatters states that he spoke to management about the jocks room, and he is satisfied with their attention and commitment to the matter.⁷

III. BREEDER UPDATES

A. LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LTBA)

1. PROGRESS REPORT

Roger Heitzmann, Executive Director of the LTBA, states that Louisiana was the only state to show an increase in the Jockey Club's Report on Mares Bred. He notes that the smallest stake purse at Fair Grounds this year is \$100,000, which has never happened before. He thanks Fair Grounds and Churchill Downs for helping the LTBA improve the Louisiana program and racing in the state. He announces that Louisiana Champions Day will be held at Fair Grounds on December 13th and the LTBA will be awarding 5 college scholarships that day.⁸

B. LOUISIANA QUARTER HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LQHBA)

1. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director of the LQHBA, announces that December 20th will be Stakes Night at Evangeline Downs, which will include the Louisiana Million. He mentions that the LQHBA will be awarding \$25,000 in scholarships that night and by the end of the year they will have awarded \$1 million in scholarships.⁹

⁷ See Meeting Transcript for full jocks room discussion.

⁸ See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Heitzmann's full progress report.

⁹ See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Salard's full progress report.

IV. RULE

A. FORMAL ADOPTION – PENDING COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATIVE AND GUBERNATORIAL OVERSIGHT REVIEW:

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

V. LICENSE APPROVAL

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

1. **Joseph Raffeo, Jr.**

Seeking reinstatement of Owner license.

Commissioner Bouie motions to approve reinstatement of license; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

VI. ADJUDICATIONS

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

1. **Ricardo Hernandez, Jr., Jockey** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

**Case continued to the next Commission Meeting.*

Case continued to the next Commission meeting at the request of Mr. Hernandez's attorney, Mr. Barry Sallinger. Mr. Hernandez shall not ride until he appears before the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

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

**Case continued to the next Commission Meeting.*

Case continued to the next Commission meeting. Mr. Osuna shall not ride until he appears before the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

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

1. **Francisco J. Bernal, Trainer** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; no fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 9-month active suspension, September 14, 2025 through June 13, 2026. Mr. Bernal has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

2. **Patrick L. Clemons, Trainer** – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; \$1,000 fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 60-day suspended suspension; 1-year active probation, November 17, 2025 through November 16, 2026. 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. Mr. Clemons has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.¹⁰

¹⁰ See Meeting Transcript for discussion on case and plea agreement.

3. Lazaro P. Cribeiro, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Granger motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; \$500 fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 6-month suspension, November 23, 2025 through May 22, 2026. Mr. Cribeiro has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Bouie seconds; motion carries.¹¹

4. Rafael C. Gomez, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Tumminello motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; \$1,000 fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 1-year suspended suspension; 1-year active probation, November 17, 2025 through November 16, 2026. Any Category I, II, III or 2 Category IV and/or V equine medication violation(s) while on probation will result in a 1-year suspension. Mr. Gomez has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Bouie seconds; motion carries.

5. Ernesto Gonzalez, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; \$1,000; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 60-day active suspension, November 23, 2025 through January 21, 2026. Mr. Gonzalez has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

6. Lanny D. Keith, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Case continued to the next Commission meeting at the request of Mr. Keith's attorney, Mr. Eddie Guidry. Mr. Keith shall not enter any horses into races until he appears before the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

7. Ray C. Mayo, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept the plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; no fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 1-year active suspension, August 31, 2025 through August 30, 2026; 3-year suspended suspension with probation, August 31, 2026 through August 30, 2029. Any Category I, II, or III equine medication violation(s) while on probation will result in a 3-year suspension. Mr. Mayo has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

8. Martin Rubalcava, Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Tumminello motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; no fine; horse disqualified, purse redistributed; 9-month active suspension, June 29, 2025 through March 9, 2026; 1-year active probation, March 10, 2026 through March 9, 2027. Any Category I, II, or III equine medication violation(s) while on probation will result in a 6-month suspension in addition to the penalties for the violation. Mr. Rubalcava has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Bernard seconds; motions carries.

¹¹ See Meeting Transcript for Mr. Brett Bonin's examination of Mr. Cribeiro, Ms. Katie White, Mr. Bruce Salard, as well as questions from the Commission. Commissioner Bernard opposes the plea agreement offered to Mr. Cribeiro.

9. Xavier Scott, Trainer – Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Granger motions to extend suspension. Mr. Scott shall not run any horses until he appears before the Commission. Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.¹²

10. Donald R. Watson, Jr., Trainer – Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Granger motions to retroactively include Rulings #DD26023 of 06/28/25 and #DD26024 of 06/28/25 in Mr. Watson's 5-year in globo active suspension, May 29, 2025 through May 28, 2030, approved at the August 29, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

C. VIOLATIONS OF LAC § 35:I.303 (Impermissible Conduct)

1. Jocelyn Edison, Jockey – Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.¹³

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' rulings upheld and amended; suspended for the first 7 racing days at the next Evangeline Downs Thoroughbred Race Meet. Ms. Edison is required to notify the Louisiana State Racing Commission of the final disposition of the criminal charges that have been filed against her regarding Ruling #DD26188 of 10/31/25. Ms. Edison must appear before the Commission at their first meeting after the final disposition of said criminal charges so that the Commission can take any further action, if needed. Ms. Edison has waived any and all rights she may have to seek further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Landry seconds; motion carries.

2. Charles J. McMahon, Jockey¹⁴ – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Appeal dropped. Commissioner Granger motions to suspend for 7 race days, to be served at the beginning of the next Evangeline Downs Thoroughbred Meet. Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.¹⁵

3. John H. Prather, Jr., Trainer – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Bouie motions to accept plea agreement. Stewards' ruling upheld and amended; \$500 fine; 1-year active probation, November 17, 2025 through November 16, 2026. Any impermissible conduct violation will result in a 60-day suspension in addition to any penalties, if any, handed down by the Stewards. Mr. Prather has waived any and all rights he may have to seek any further relief or redress of this matter by the Louisiana State Racing Commission and in any court. Commissioner Tumminello seconds; motion carries.

4. Martin Osuna, Jockey – Ruling as provided in Meeting Agenda.¹⁶

Case continued to the next Commission meeting. Mr. Osuna shall not ride until he appears before the Louisiana State Racing Commission.

5. Brison J. Thibodeaux, Exercise Person – Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

**Case continued to the next Commission Meeting.*

¹² The Commission was not able to serve Mr. Scott via regular and certified mail.

¹³ See Meeting Transcript for discussion on the plea agreement, pending criminal charges, and racing days suspended.

¹⁴ The Commission skips Item C2 and adjudicates C3 as they try to get ahold of Mr. Charles J. McMahon. Mr. Brett Bonin notes for the record that he made contact with Mr. McMahon via text message the morning of the Commission Meeting.

¹⁵ Charles J. McMahon is not present at the meeting and is assigned his suspension days in absentia.

¹⁶ See Item A2.

VII. OTHER

A. SPECIAL COUNSEL

1. **Approval** to designate Paul A. Bonin as Special Counsel to LSRC and enter a Legal Services Contract.¹⁷

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

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Landry asks for clarification regarding suspensions. Commissioner Granger informs the Commission that he has asked Brett Bonin, Assistant Attorney General, to research the Commission's ability to assist with delinquent payments to service providers.

Executive Director Landry adjourns the meeting at 11:54 AM.



Stephen Landry
Executive Director

¹⁷ Mr. Paul Bonin shall serve, on an as-needed basis, as Special Counsel for cases in which Mr. Brett Bonin has a conflict.