

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES – January 31, 2023 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*
Thomas B. Calvert
Lane T. Cortez
Eddie J. Delahoussaye
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.
Mike R. McHalfey
Ravi K. Sangisetty
Deano Thornton

ABSENT

Leslie M. Bouie
Donald "Don" Cravins
Roy Griggs

APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting of

4/17/2023

(Date)



Executive Director
Louisiana State Racing Commission

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) was called to order by the Chairman on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Event Center Prefunction Room at Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino, 2235 Creswell Lane Extension, Opelousas, LA. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve the meeting minutes from the October 26, 2022 meeting; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

Commissioner Reine motions to reduce the LSRC's approved expenditure from \$100,000 to \$50,000 in support of Delta Downs' 2023 quarter horse hair testing pilot program; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

I. ADJUDICATIONS

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

1. **Timothy D. Thornton, Jockey.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#DD25073 of 10/13/22 – *Careless Riding.*

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Thornton not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to suspend Mr. Thornton for 7 calendar days from February 5, 2023 through February 11, 2023; if Mr. Thornton 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.

2. **Kevin Roman, Jockey.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#DD25117 of 11/18/22 – *Careless Riding.*

Appeal Withdrawn. Mr. Roman not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to suspend Mr. Roman for 7 calendar days starting on the first race day of the Delta Downs 2023-2024 Thoroughbred Meet; if Mr. Roman 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. VIOLATION OF LAC 35:I.1791 (Testing for Dangerous Substance Abuse)

1. **Victor M. Urieta, Jr., Jockey.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#DD24986 of 07/28/22 – *Human Drug Testing (1st offense)*
Case Continued to next Commission Meeting.

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

1. **Luis D. Garcia-Gallegos, Trainer.** (*Adjudications Referred*)
2 Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Delahoussaye motions to uphold the stewards ruling; motion does not carry.

Commissioner Reine makes a substitute motion to uphold Stewards' Rulings DD24987 and DD24988; amend Mr. Garcia-Gallegos' suspension from 6 months for each ruling to a 6-month suspension (with credit for time served beginning July 18, 2022), effective July 18, 2022 through January 17, 2023; followed by 6 months on probation effective January 18, 2023 through July 17, 2023; and redistribute the purses. Mr. Garcia-Gallegos will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission; Commissioners Cortez and Bernard second; motion carries.

2. **Veronica Davis, Trainer.** (*Adjudications Referred*)
2 Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Calvert motions to uphold Stewards' Rulings ED25009 and ED25010; amend Ms. Davis' suspension from 6 months for each ruling to a 1-year suspension (with credit for time served beginning August 15, 2022), effective August 15, 2022 through August 14, 2023; fine her \$2,500; and redistribute the purses. Ms. Davis 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 Cortez seconds; motion carries.

3. **Kenneth L. Roberts, Sr., Trainer.** (*Adjudications Appealed*)
3 Rulings as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner McHalfey motions to uphold Stewards' Rulings DD24991, DD24992, and DD24993; all related fines, totaling \$3,000, are rescinded and shall be refunded; and redistribute the purses; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries with sole opposition from Commissioner Calvert.

4. **Levi Mays, Trainer.** (*Adjudication Referred*)
Ruling#DD24858 of 05/11/22 – *Zilpaterol (ARCI Category II)*

Continued from October 26, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Reine motions to uphold stewards' ruling; uphold 6-month suspension (with credit for time served beginning May 6, 2022) effective May 6, 2022 through November 5, 2022; and redistribute the purses; Mr. Mays 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.

5. **Joy I. Marlin, Trainer.** (*Adjudication Appealed*)
Ruling#LD25040 of 09/03/22 – *Theophylline (ARCI Category III)*
Attorney - Vanessa Motta, Esq.
Case Continued to next Commission Meeting.
6. **Orlando Orozco, Trainer.** (*Adjudications Referred & Appealed*)
Ruling#DD24940 of 06/29/22 – *Zilpaterol (ARCI Category II)*
Attorney – Edmond L. Guidry, III, Esq.
Commissioner Calvert motions to make a finding specifically on whether or not Mr. Orozco has proved mitigating circumstances, motion does not carry.

Commissioner Reine makes a substitute motion to uphold stewards' ruling; amend Mr. Orozco's suspension from 6 months to a 3-month suspension, effective February 5, 2023 through May 4, 2023; followed by 3 months on probation effective May 5, 2023 through August 4, 2023; and redistribute the purse. Mr. Orozco 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 carries with sole opposition from Commissioner Calvert.
7. **Rosendo Valdez, Jr., Trainer.** (*Adjudication Referred*)
Ruling#DD24848 of 05/04/22 – *Zilpaterol (ARCI Category II)*
Mr. Valdez not present for hearing. Commissioner Reine motions to uphold stewards' ruling; amend Mr. Valdez's suspension from 6 months to a 1-year suspension, effective March 17, 2030 through March 16, 2031; fine him \$1,500; and redistribute the purse. Mr. Valdez will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission; Commissioners Cortez and Delahoussaye second; motion carries.
8. **Charles D. Shults, Trainer.** (*Adjudication Referred*)
Ruling#DD24999 of 08/03/22 – *Albuterol (ARCI Category III)*
Attorney – Edmond L. Guidry, III, Esq.
The Chairman motions to accept plea deal pursuant to a stipulation by all parties; uphold stewards' ruling; uphold 90-day suspension (with credit for time served beginning September 26, 2022) effective September 26, 2022 through December 25, 2022; and redistribute the purse. Mr. Shults will be denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana State Racing Commission; waiver of any right to Appeal; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries with sole opposition from Commissioner Calvert.
9. **Dwayne A. Jackson, Trainer.** (*Adjudication Referred*)
Ruling#ED25019 of 08/17/22 – *Phenylbutazone & Flunixin (ARCI Category IV)*
Commissioner Reine motions to uphold stewards' ruling and \$1,000 fine; and redistribute the purse; Commissioner Bernard seconds; motion carries.

D. VIOLATION OF LA. REV. STAT. 4:175(E) (Unnatural Stimulation of Horses) & LAC 35:I.1743 (Possession of Drugs, Syringes or Needles)

- 1. **Mardonio Flores, Jr., Trainer.** *(Adjudication Referred)*
 Ruling#ED25017 of 08/17/22 – *Possession of prohibited drugs, hypodermic needles & syringes*

Commissioner Reine motions to uphold stewards’ ruling; uphold 6-month suspension (with credit for time served beginning August 20, 2022) effective August 20, 2022 through February 19, 2023; Mr. Flores 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 carries.

II. LICENSE APPROVAL

A. REQUEST FOR LICENSE APPROVAL (LA. REV. STAT. 4:150(B))

- 1. **Logan H. Cormier, Jockey.** Convicted felon.

Mr. Cormier will need to provide a physical exam from a primary care physician and an audiology evaluation to certify his physical ability to be a jockey. He will also need to provide verification of prior participation in substance abuse rehabilitation programs. If these are provided, the Commission will consider Mr. Cormier’s request for License Approval at the April 2023 Commission Meeting.

B. REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF SENTENCE/REINSTATEMENT

- 1. **Joseph M. Davis, Owner/Trainer.** Seeking reinstatement of license.

Attorney – Edmond L. Guidry, III, Esq.

Commissioner Bernard motions to grant Mr. Davis Reinstatement of License as Trainer and Owner; Commissioner McHalfey 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; 3 – Yea, 6 – Nay; motion does not carry.

A 15-minute recess is taken.

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’ 84-day 2022-2023 Thoroughbred Meet started on October 5, 2022. He states that live handle is up 7%, bet-in from other sources is up 9%, simulcasting on-property is down 8%, and total handle is up 9%. He says that they have had trouble filling races. He states that Premier Night will be on February 4, 2023 featuring a card of 12 races with the \$150,000 Louisiana Premier Night Championship. He says that they are promoting Premier Night by hosting an on-track handicapping contest with a \$2,500 prize, a Pick 4 promotion with FanDuel TV, a Pick 5 promotion with Twinspires, and a free wagering money promotion with Daily Racing Form.

The Chairman asks about Delta Downs lighting. Mr. Warren responds that they had a few minor issues that were corrected the next day. Commissioner Reine asks about Delta Downs' plans for off-track betting and Historical Horse Racing (HHR). Mr. Warren responds that he will get more information from corporate and let him know.

a. Discussion of Uncoupling Same Owner Entries in All Races (LAC 35:V.6335 "Owner's Entry of More Than One Horse")

Mr. Warren informs that every jurisdiction around Louisiana offers uncoupled same owner entries and the Louisiana racing associations agree that this should be allowed in-state. Mr. Benard Chatters, President of the Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA), states that LaHBPA agrees with this proposal.

Commissioner Delahoussaye motions the Administrative Office to draft rule language for further consideration of approval; Commissioners Cortez and Bernard second; 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' 44-day 2022 Quarter Horse Meet ended December 20, 2022. He states that they cancelled two race days during the meet, one due to technical issue and the other due to bad weather. He says that handle was down 19%. He informs that Evangeline Downs' 84-day 2023 Thoroughbred Meet will start on April 5, 2023. He says that their new consultant, Mr. Michael Depew, stated that Evangeline Downs' dirt course is comparable with the best racing surfaces found on the east coast, so they will keep it up per their normal routine. He states that Mr. DePew advised them to overfertilize Bermuda grass for the turf course and use the turf more sparingly in the beginning of the meet, which should allow it to be ready for the entire meet.

Commissioner Reine asks about the lumber staged on their backside. Mr. Warren responds that it is part of their renovation of their barns to be ready for April. Commissioner Reine commends Delta Downs.

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 recognizes that Mr. Gary Palmisano, Director of Racing for Churchill Downs Incorporated, is in attendance along with staff from Fair Grounds: Mr. David Waguespack, Counsel, Ms. Bridget Harmon, Finance Director, and Mr. Scott Jones, Racing Secretary. He informs that handle is down 23% for Fair Grounds' 80-day 2022-2023 Thoroughbred Meet, primarily due to their turf course not being usable and also a national downward trend for various race courses in November and December. He says that average field size is 7, down from 7.7 last year, and that overlap of race dates is a part of the issue. He states that on-track handle is up 12% with crowds showing up and that they sold over 9,800 tickets for their race day that featured exotic races.

Mr. Boulet informs that the corporate and local teams have been working to resolve the turf course issues and Fair Grounds started offering turf races again on December 26, 2022 on a limited portion of the course while trying to fix the rest. Commissioner Reine asks how many turf races are running each day. Mr. Boulet responds that they have

done at least one race every day, with up to three on major race days. Commissioner Calvert asks if sports wagering has impacted Fair Grounds handle. Mr. Boulet responds that he will look into an answer.

2. ADMISSION FEE

a. Discussion of Fair Grounds' Position on Admission Fees.

Commissioner Reine asks if licensed owners and trainers were the only ones not charged fees on the specified race days. Mr. Boulet responds that any licensee that shows their LSRC badge are not charged the \$10 fee on those days. He says that the mutuel department also gave free admission patrons who come to the Fair Grounds frequently. Commissioner Cortez states that the admission was priced appropriately to help cover the cost of the exotic racing event, with no complaints from those who were charged. Mr. Chatters says that the entrance fee is too high and reduces revenue since it takes away money from the betting public that could be used for wagering to enhance handle and pool money.

3. 2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET

a. Discussion of Current Status of Fair Grounds' 2023 Quarter Horse Meet.

The Chairman requests that the principal parties discuss their position on moving the Fair Grounds' 2023 Quarter Horse Meet to Delta Downs. Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director of Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association (LQHBA) responds that his group supports moving the meet to the same time period as last year. Mr. Chatters says that LaHBPA is supportive of the move but they are concerned with Delta Downs getting its necessary infrastructure repairs done and not postponed by the transferred meet. Mr. Boulet responds that Fair Grounds is in favor of the move due to the time needed to complete Phase 2 of their compliance projects for the Environmental Protection Agency and for compliance with LSRC's infrastructure requirements. Mr. Steve Kuypers, General Manager of Delta Downs, responds that they are planning a total of nine weeks to have horses on the backside for the Fair Grounds transferred meet, which would delay most of their work for LSRC-required infrastructure projects to Fall of 2024.

The Chairman motions to approve the move the Fair Grounds' 2023 Quarter Horse Meet to Delta Downs with the understanding that Delta Downs' compliance with their infrastructure plan is pushed back to 2024 with the expectation that they complete necessary emergency repairs this year; 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 the off-track handle is down, the live handle is up, and entries have been better than the previous three years for Louisiana Downs' 46-day 2023 Quarter Horse Meet. He states that they have a good number of nominations for the futurities in March. He recognizes fellow Louisiana Downs staffers in attendance: Ms. Andrea Butler, Director of Marketing, and Mr. Greg Hinton, Chief Financial Officer. He says that stall applications are due March 15, 2023 and that Louisiana Downs will implement a Gmax Race System for their new timing system. He states that they are working on the backside roads.

The Chairman asks if Louisiana Downs is in support of the uncoupled owners change discussed earlier. Mr. Crawford responds that they do support it. Commissioner McHaffey asks what has helped this meet's on-track handle. Ms. Butler responds that they have directed marketing focus on awareness in the community, including two new outlets, airing a new commercial, and media days to interact with local media.

2023 QUARTER HORSE MEET

- 2. **REQUEST BY LOUISIANA DOWNS INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC TO AMEND POST TIME & WAGERING APPROVED ON AUGUST 23, 2022 (R.S. 4:158A) AS PROVIDED IN MEETING AGENDA.**

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

- 3. **STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Ratification** of officials for 2023 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

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

The Chairman motions to direct LSRC staff to draft language for the uncoupled owner entries rule changes for possible emergency adoption and notice of intent in the near future based on the Racing Associations and LaHBPA urgently supporting the change due to decreasing handle and field sizes; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

IV. BREEDER UPDATES

A. LOUISIANA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LTBA)

- 1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. John Duvieilh, Breeder and LaHBPA Counsel*. Mr. Duvieilh informs that they are looking forward to and supporting Premier Night at Delta Downs. He states that they are concerned with pari-mutuel wagering being down significantly, especially at Fair Grounds OTBs. He says that Fair Grounds' renovations and transitions to HHR Terminals in its OTBs has kept some of those locations from taking pari-mutuel wagers, which has reduced the breeder's awards money. Commissioner Reine asks if wagers on HHR generate money for breeder's awards. Mr. Duvieilh says that there are currently no funds designated from HHR for breeder's awards.

B. LOUISIANA QUARTER HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LQHBA)

- 1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director*. Mr. Salard informs that the Fair Grounds worked with Boyd Gaming to move three Champion's Day stakes races to Evangeline Downs on the same night as the Louisiana LQHBA Million Futurity on December 17, 2022, and they had the largest crowd in attendance for quarter horse races in over three years. He states that 85% of the audience was out of state viewers watching the televised broadcast. He says that they interviewed two breeders for the event, they hosted drawings for over \$800,000 in college scholarships to Louisiana students that night, and that the Louisiana Million race ended in a dead heat, including the horse San Lorenzo Jet which ended up being the third leading money earner in the United States. He informs that they have a record 129 horses

eligible for the Louisiana Downs Futurity trials and a record 216 horses eligible for the Mardi Gras Futurity trials. He states that the Mardi Gras Futurity will be eligible to move up from a restricted Grade 2 race to a Grade 1 race, which will be decided by the American Quarter Horse Association.

Commissioner Reine asks if there has been any progress in getting more stakes races for fillies and mares. Mr. Salard responds that they were able to expand by dividing one stakes into Delta Downs Derby and Delta Downs Oaks races and were able to get debutante and juvenile consolation races added for the LQHBA Sale Futurity.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MEDICATION COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chair Patrick Bernard*

No Report.

B. RULES COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chair Lane T. Cortez*

No Report.

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

No Report.

D. SECURITY COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chair Louis Reine*

No Report.

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*

Commissioner McHalfey informs that the committee will be setting up a meeting with all of the associations soon.

H. INFRASTRUCTURE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chair Louis Reine*

Commissioner Reine defers discussion to the INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS item on the Agenda under Section VI. OTHER.

VI. OTHER

A. INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

1. **Discussion** of New Barn Construction at Delta Downs and Evangeline Downs per The Training Center at Copper Crowne's request.

Mr. Harold Forman, President of the Training Center at Copper Crowne, says that Evangeline Downs built 150 additional stalls in 2017, which led to the Evangeline Training Center closing in 2018 and more empty stalls at Copper Crowne. He states that there are fewer horses in the state, as reflected in low horse fields and entries. He requests to form a committee of horsemen to discuss how to increase incentives for owners and trainers that would get them to enter their horses to compete in Louisiana races.

Commissioner Reine informs that the construction of additional Evangeline Downs stalls in 2017 was by agreement between the association and the LaHBPA and that Evangeline Downs is not objecting to building more new barns. Mr. Forman states that additional barns at Evangeline Downs would put his training center out of business after he made major investments over the years to host a state-of-the-art facility. He says that building more stalls at the track is not the answer to the declining field sizes in races. Commissioner Reine says that having a stall furnished for horses on-track is an incentive and that horses who ship in to the tracks for races are at a disadvantage compared to horses that are stalled on the track.

The Chairman requests that Mr. Forman, the LaHBPA, and the associations attend the next Infrastructure Compliance Committee Meeting to comment and reopen the discussion of additional stalls if needed.

2. Consideration/Approval of Associations Responses to Commission-approved Infrastructure Plans as provided in Agenda.

The Chairman motions to clarify that, regarding Louisiana Revised Statute 4:164(C)(2) and (E)(1), each association's facility and maintenance and improvement fund balance shall not exceed \$3,000,000 and that the required fund balance will be reassessed at each regularly scheduled Commission Meeting to determine whether the same shall be reduced and/or released based upon infrastructure implementation, progress and compliance; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

Commissioner Reine motions to extend the due date for the Commission to approve and/or specify deficiencies in each association's infrastructure plan responses per Revised Statute 4:164(D)(1)(c) from February 1, 2023 to May 1, 2023; Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

B. JOCKEY APPRENTICE EXTENSION

- 1. Ratification of Approval of Extension of Apprentice Allowance for Jockey Brianne Culp (Ceased Riding 8/30/22 for higher education; Returned to riding 11/18/22) Amend expiration of apprenticeship by 11 weeks from 12/17/22 to 3/5/23.**

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

C. LAHBPA REQUESTS

- 1. Discussion of Purse Clearances per LaHBPA's request.**

Ms. Michele Rodriguez, LaHBPA Board Member, informs that clearances from the LSU Equine Medication Surveillance Laboratory (EMSL) were not getting out in a timely manner during the holiday season, sometimes taking up to four weeks. She says that clearances should be done within five or six days. She requests to be included in LSRC's contract renewal discussion and for the Commission to tighten the clearance deadlines.

Dr. Levent Dirikolu, Director of LSU EMSL, responds that the lab is bound by the LSU holiday schedule. He states that he got employees to work a day and a half during the holiday weeks to catch up with workload. He says that, going forward, they will implement a time limit of 5 business days on extension requests, with only up to 2 extension requests for each suspect sample for a total up to 20 business days after receiving the sample, after which they will call a positive or clear the test.

2. **Discussion** of potential legislation to reduce thoroughbred race days per meet at each track to 76 days per LaHBPA's request.

Mr. Duvieilh informs that Evangeline Downs' and Louisiana Downs' current purses will not sustain horsemen for the summer thoroughbred meets. He states that the LaHBPA Board approved a reduction to 76 thoroughbred race dates for each racetrack if it can be done through the Legislature and is in the best interest of horsemen. He says that the reduction would only cover Evangeline Downs' and Louisiana Downs' shortfall due to overpayment of purses from last year due to the bad purse structure then. He states that a purse transfer of \$3,000,000 from Delta Downs to Evangeline Downs along with the dates reduction would make Evangeline Downs' purse structure fair and reasonable for this year. He informs that Louisiana Downs are in agreement with reduction of race days but will only agree to the purse transfer if their projections can work in the best interest of both summer thoroughbred meets.

Mr. Duvieilh requests the Commission to pre-approve the \$3,000,000 purse transfer from Delta Downs to Evangeline Downs contingent upon the Legislature reducing the required number of race dates per thoroughbred meet in the best interest of all race tracks. The Chairman asks for Louisiana Downs' position. Mr. Crawford responds that Louisiana Downs is in favor of reducing race dates to increase the purses but does not want the purse transfer to cause Evangeline Downs to have a higher purse structure than Louisiana Downs. Mr. Chris Richard, LSRC-Licensed Trainer, comments that reducing race dates and transferring purse money will only benefit a select group of horsemen and not all of the horsemen under LaHBPA.

Commissioner Reine motions to defer this issue; Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

3. **Discussion** of Purse Transfer from Delta Downs to Evangeline Downs per LaHBPA's request.
See discussion above (Item #2).

D. HHR TAKEOUT

1. **Discussion** of HHR Wagering Takeout.

Commissioner Reine motions to set the license fee for Administration per Louisiana Revised Statute 4:218.1 at 1% of the total amount wagered on HHR at each offtrack wagering facility to be reviewed annually to look at the cost versus the money raised by the fee; Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

E. STATE STEWARDS

1. **Discussion** of State Steward Salary.

Commissioner Cortez informs that other jurisdictions and the Horseracing Integrity & Safety Authority's pay for stewards is higher than LSRC's state steward's pay.

Commissioner Cortez motions that the LSRC Administrative Office include availability in the budget for higher pay for state stewards based on their level accreditation in order to be competitive with other markets; Commissioner McHalfey seconds; motion carries.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners motion to adjourn; Commissioners second; motion carries.



Charles A. Gardiner III
Executive Director