

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES – April 22, 2014 Meeting
As transcribed by Janita L. Anderson, Certified Court Reporter

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jerry F. Meaux, *Chairman*
Bob F. Wright, *First Vice Chairman*
Dion Young, *Second Vice Chairman*
Thomas H. Grimstad, M.D.
Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr.
Kenneth "Kenu" Romero
Luke Turner
Judy W. Wagner

ABSENT

Keith W. Babb
Kevin S. Delahoussaye
Richard M. "Dick" Hollier, Jr.

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission was called to order by the Chairman on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 9:00 AM in the Queen Anne Ballroom of the Monteleone Hotel, 214 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Unidentified commissioner motions to approve the meeting minutes from the February 17, 2014 meeting; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS

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

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Chris Warren*. Mr. Warren informs Delta Downs 2013-2014 88-day Thoroughbred Meet ended on March 15, 2014 with the handle down 4%. He informs there were a few track issues that have been resolved and the new Trackman Supervisor is doing a good job. Mr. Warren informs Delta Downs 2014 46-day Quarter Horse Meet will begin on April 25, 2014 and have record purses. He states the early fields are full and it seems everyone is happy with the track. Mr. Warren informs Delta Downs recently purchased new air conditioners and will obtain new track harrows.

2014 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. **RACES**

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2014 quarter horse meet.
b. **Approval** of designated races for 2014 quarter horse meet:

4/25/14	Delta Dash
4/26/14	John Alleman Memorial RG-3
5/10/14	Mother's Day

5/16/14	The Old South Derby
5/17/14	The Old South Futurity
5/17/14	Delta 550 Championship
5/23/14	Lassie Futurity RG2
5/24/14	Laddie Futurity RG-2
5/24/14	Vinton RG-3
5/31/14	Develop a Plan Grade III
6/6/14	Virgil Bond
6/7/14	Vals Fortune RG-3
6/14/14	Louisiana Purchase (Non-winners of a Sweepstakes)
6/28/14	Alabama Futurity
6/28/14	Miss Polly Classic
7/3/14	Par-A-Dice Stake (Non-winners of a Sweepstakes)
7/4/14	Firecracker Futurity Grade II
7/5/14	Firecracker Derby
7/12/14	Delta Downs Derby RG-2
7/12/14	Lee Berwick Futurity RG-1
7/12/14	Louisiana Juvenile
7/12/14	Louisiana Starter
7/12/14	Live Oak
7/12/14	Flashy Hemp
7/12/14	Louisiana Classic RG-2
7/12/14	Flying Breed Stakes

Mr. Young motions to approve the first condition book and designated races as listed above; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Approval of officials for 2014 quarter horse meet (4/25/14 - 7 / 12/ 14):

- Chris Warren – Director of Racing
- John Simon – Racing Secretary
- Mohamed Ali Khan – Asst. Racing Secretary/Stakes Coordinator
- Steve Ruff and Galen Boutte – Association Stewards
- Duane Domingue – Paddock Judge/Alternate Association Steward
- Cindy Richards, Mark Gilbert & Jeff Jerman - alternate – Outriders
- Bob Beaubien – Trackman Supervisor
- Dennis Schmidt – Starter
- Jeff Jerman – Clerk of Scales
- Jason Grudzien – Head Clocker
- Susan Berard – Horse Identifier
- Cindy Eurich – Stall Superintendent
- Michael Bennett – Jocks Room Custodian/Assistant Clerk of Scales
- Steve Nick, Phillip Walker, Charles Sonnier & Rose Caster – Placing Judges/Racing Office Staff

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

b. Approval of Sam Lato to serve as state steward for 2014 quarter horse meet.

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

2014/2015 THOROUGHBRED MEET

4. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2014-2015 Thoroughbred race meet:

1. For 10 year license to own and operate a racetrack, per R.S. 1158

2. For 10 year license to own and operate OTB locations, per R.S. 4:211 et seq.
3. To serve as concessionaire

Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

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

a. Approval for 2014-2015 Thoroughbred meet:

1. Thoroughbred racing on the flat
2. 88 Thoroughbred race dates (10/15/14 through 3/14/15)
 - October 15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25,29,30,31
 - November 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,19,20,21,22,25,26,28,29
 - December 3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13,17,18,19,20,22,23,26,27,31
 - January 1,2,3,7,8,9,10,14,15,16,17,21,22,23,24,28,29,30,31
 - February 4,5,6,7,11,12,13,14,18,19,20,21,25,26,27,28
 - March 4,5,6,7,11,12,13,14
3. Hold minimum of 9 live Thoroughbred races daily Wednesday through Saturday with the exception of live racing on Tuesday, November 25, 2014, Monday, December 22, 2014 & Tuesday, December 23, 2014.
4. Dark ~ no live racing on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 2014 and on Christmas Eve & Day, Wednesday & Thursday, December 24 & 25, 2014.
5. Daily post time 5:45 PM except for Jackpot Day (Saturday, November 22, 2014), 1:15 PM post time.

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

a. Approval for wagering format for 2014-2015 Thoroughbred race meet:

1. \$1 WPS & exacta on all races
2. 50¢ Trifecta on all races with 5 or more entries
3. 10¢ Superfecta on all races with 6 or more entries
4. 50¢ Rolling Pick 3 on 2nd thru last race
5. 50¢ Pick 4 on first 4 & last 4 races
6. 50¢ Pick 5 on last 5 races
7. \$1 Rolling Daily Double on first through last races

Mr. Young motions to approve the racing dates, post times and wagering as listed above; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

B. OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Mr. Chris Warren*. Mr. Warren informs Evangeline Downs 2014 81-day Thoroughbred Meet began on April 9, 2014. He informs the total handle, after 8 days of racing is up 7%. He informs Legends Night has been moved to Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 24, 2014. He informs Marquee Day (Evangeline Turf Sprint) a \$300,000 race for turf horses will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Mr. Warren informs the paddock area has been enlarged and some of the flowerbeds were removed to provide a more spacious area. Changes have been made to the Winner's Circle so patrons can get a better view. He informs the OTB area (downstairs) has been rearranged and 15 new TVs, including a few 70-inch TVs have been added to the area. The improved setup will allow for patrons to see horse racing as they walk into the OTB area. Mr. Warren informs the Delta Downs Trackman Supervisor visited Evangeline Downs to inspect the surface and samples were shipped for analysis. He

informs Evangeline Downs is working on a solution to make the surface less compact and more horse friendly.

2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. RACES

a. Ratification of first condition book for 2014 Thoroughbred meet.

b. Ratification of designated races for 2014 Thoroughbred meet:

- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Sprint
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Mademoiselle
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Distaff
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Starter
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Classic
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Cheval
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Soiree
- 5/24/14 Louisiana Legends Turf
- 6/21/14 Evangeline Mile
- 6/21/14 Opelousas
- 6/21/14 Evangeline Downs Turf Sprint
- 7/5/14 D.S. "Shine" Young Futurity & Trials - Colts & Geldings
- 7/5/14 D.S. "Shine" Young Futurity & Trails - Fillies
- 8/30/14 Evangeline Downs Star
- 8/30/14 Evangeline Downs Starlet

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Ratification of officials for 2014 Thoroughbred meet:

- Chris Warren – Director of Racing Operations
- Corey Veazey – Assistant Racing Secretary/Stakes Coordinator
- *Frank Rudis – Association Steward
- * Jeffrey Williams – Association Steward
- Julie Gipson – Identifier
- TBA – Paddock Judge
- Ashley Simon –Placing Judge
- Herman K. Patin - Clerk of Scales
- Sandra Calais – Claims Clerk/Alternate Placing Judge
- Mariah Quebedeaux – Placing Judge
- Miranda Quebedeaux – Placing Judge
- Brett Poole – Clocker
- Russell Comeaux – Starter
- Scott Cole – Outrider
- Kenneth Gipson – Outrider
- Robert Bard – Stall Superintendent
- Garry Gallow – Track Superintendent
- *new association steward*

Mr. Young motions to approve the first condition book, designated races and officials as listed above; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

2014 QUARTER HORSE MEET

4. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2014 Quarter Horse meet:

- 1. For 10 year license to own and operate a racetrack, per R.S. 4:158

2. For 10 year license to own and operate OTB locations, per R.S. 4:211 et seq.
3. To serve as concessionaire
4. To operate as official training facility during off-season

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

a. Approval for 2014 Quarter Horse meet:

1. Quarter Horse racing on the flat
2. 46 Quarter Horse dates (10/1/14 through 12/20/14)
 - October 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,15,16,17,18,22,23,24,25,29,30,31
 - November 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,19,20,21,22,28,29
 - December 3,4,5,6,10,11,12,13,17,18,19,20
3. Hold minimum of 9 live Quarter Horse races daily (Wednesday through Saturday)
4. Daily post time 5:40 PM

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

a. Approval for wagering format for 2014 Quarter Horse meet:

1. WPS & Exacta on all races
2. Rolling Daily Double beginning with Race 1
3. Trifecta on all races complying with the *Rules of Racing* (§11115)
4. Rolling Pick 3's beginning with Race 2
5. Pick 4 on first 4 and last 4 races
6. Superfecta on all races complying with the *Rules of Racing* (§11701)

Mr. Young motions to approve the license, racing dates and wagering as listed above; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

C. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC

d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS

1. PROGRESS REPORT

- a. Request by LaIBPA for information regarding reduction of drainage pond size.

PROGRESS REPORT, by Mr. Tim Bryant. Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds 2013-2014 84-day Thoroughbred Meet ended on March 30, 2014 with the handle down 12.7%. He informs there were fewer races which resulted in a 7.4% decline in handle per race. He informs starters per race decreased from 8.2 last meet to 7.8 which is a 4% decline. Mr. Bryant informs of statistical information he obtained for 35 thoroughbred racetracks from November 22, 2014 through March 30, 2014 and states there is a decline in handle and horse population. He informs Fair Grounds has 275 races scheduled for the turf; 125 (45%) of those came off the turf. Mr. Bryant informs Starlight Racing was a success and Fair Grounds will continue with that program, but will discontinue exotic animal racing.

Mr. Bryant states he will report on the four areas the Racing Commission's Committee requested. Those areas are turf, marketing, service, and facilities. He states Churchill Downs is dedicated to the Fair Grounds and to the integrity of the horse racing industry. He acknowledges all four areas can be improved.

Mr. Bryant begins by stating an infield video board will be installed and fully functioning before the next live race meet.

Mr. Bryant addresses the following areas of concern:

TURF

Mr. Bryant states Fair Grounds is committed to making improvements of the turf course. He informs Fair Grounds will continue to work with Dr. Mick Peterson and architect and contractor Mr. John Stewart to improve both the drainage and condition of the turf course. Mr. Bryant informs Dr. Peterson came in January to inspect the turf after the first hard freeze. The turf was not thawed, so aerator equipment was used to solve the problem which turned out to be beneficial for the rest of the meet.

MARKETING

Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds will continue their non-traditional marketing strategy, however, he acknowledges Fair Grounds needs to do a better job when it comes to integrating the three businesses. He states they need to do a better job of promoting horse racing. Fair Grounds wants to attract a younger generation to racing and will continue with utilizing social media. He informs 95% of the handle is from Export or ADW online. He states there will be more of an emphasis on OTB and online marketing.

SERVICE

Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds has transitioned to a more technology-based service in racing. He informs that H. Withers, General Manager of Racing, has established a plan to better cross train employees as well as increasing the number of live tellers during the next live meet. Mr. Bryant acknowledges, based on feedback they have received, that they can do a better job with service. Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds will also do a better job of auditing the TVs and equipment in a timely manner. He informs 11 40-inch TVs have already been replaced at various OTBs. He is aware of complaints of malfunctioning equipment at the facilities. Mr. Bryant informs there are 151 self-service terminals throughout the 11 OTB locations and there has been an average of 8 service calls per week. He states most of the issues were resolved within 24-hours with the exception of 3 cases which took more than 24 hours to resolve. Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds is in the process of converting from analog to digital on all TVs and simulcast equipment.

FACILITIES

Mr. Bryant informs Fair Grounds has listened to concerns regarding their backside facilities. Mr. Withers noticed there was room for improvement and implemented a work order process. From January 4, 2014 to the end of the Fair Grounds Meet, there were 664 work orders; 484 were backside related. To date, there are only 12 outstanding work orders. Barn areas have been inspected and a checklist has been created to ensure all needed repairs are made. He informs the Racing Commission will see significant improvement on the Fair Grounds backside operation.

DRAINAGE DISCUSSION WITH JOHN STEWART, ARCHITECT & CONTRACTOR

Mr. Bryant introduces Mr. John Stewart, a registered architect and contractor. Mr. Stewart informs he was hired to inspect and provide an overall analysis of the drainage system at the Fair Grounds. He describes how the drainage system works and how the retention ponds are being used. Mr. Dion Young asks about the size of the pipe that runs through the middle of the track and asks who is responsible for maintaining it and whether it drains into the neighborhood. Mr. Stewart responds it is a 36-inch pipe and Fair Grounds is responsible for the maintenance. He states it drains to a portion of the

neighborhood; more specifically, part of the parking lot and street since there are no storm sewer inlets there. When the water gets to a certain level, it gets into the Fair Grounds drainage system and goes to the backside. He informs the city side of the storm sewage system has a 72-inch pipe which is discharging water from part of the property into the larger sewer. Mr. Stewart informs of piping issues, specifically on turns 3 & 4, where some of the piping is crushed and is partially or completely stopped up. He states completing the work that is needed will help the drainage in those areas.

Mr. Luke Turner asks if there is a French drain. Mr. Stewart responds no, it is a solid pipe and it has drains that are at the surface of the ground so it is able to catch some of the water also underground. He informs, due to the water table, they can not go that deep because it would just fill up the pipe. He states the current system is working pretty well.

Ms. Wagner asks when the analysis of the drainage system was done. Mr. Stewart responds within the last year.

Mr. Romero asks if pumps were considered to pump out the sitting water. Mr. Stewart responds it was considered and referred to the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans regarding capacity issues and it was concluded that when the water table goes up, it will flood the area. Mr. Stewart states the goal is to get the water off of the track and out of the infield quicker by correcting the piping issues in the turn areas. Mr. Romero and Mr. Stewart continue discussing piping and pumping issues.

Mr. Wright asks if there has been a change in the size of the retention ponds over the last few years. Mr. Stewart responds, it is his understanding that some portions of the retention ponds were filled in, but due to the water table in the area, filling in those ponds does not have a significant impact. He states eliminating the ponds and pipe directly to the storm sewer would have the same affect. Mr. Wright asks for the purpose of the ponds. Mr. Stewart replies they are used for irrigation purposes for the turf track.

Mr. Turner asks if a camera was used to inspect the 36-inch pipes that drain the ponds. Mr. Stewart responds cameras were used and some silt was discovered. He informs, as a result, a contractor cleans and vacuums the pipes on a regular basis. Mr. Turner asks if the described drainage improvements on the 3rd and 4th turns were in place for the 2013-2014 Thoroughbred Meet. Mr. Stewart responds yes. Mr. Turner asks if the prolonged periods of races being run off the turf were due to moisture issues on the 1st and 2nd turns. Mr. Bryant responds that Dr. Peterson periodically takes moisture levels at 12 different locations across the track and concluded that the work done on turns 3 and 4 worked, but there's opportunity to improve turns 1 and 2.

Mr. Young asks how much time and the total cost associated with the work done on turns 3 & 4. Mr. Stewart responds the work took two months to complete at a cost of \$200,000. Mr. Young asks what the cost would be to complete the rest of the track. Mr. Stewart responds \$690,000. He informs the Fair Grounds will start the next phase which will cost a couple of hundred thousand. Mr. Young asks if the ponds have enough water to continuously irrigate the track and if there is a start and completion date. Mr. Stewart responds the water table is high enough to have almost a continuous supply of water and the \$200,000 phase will start before the next meet after the engineering bids are in.

Mr. Bryant states Fair Grounds is committed to doing the work that Mr. Stewart described. He further states the Fair Grounds will work in combination with Dr. Peterson and Mr. Stewart and with their experience, it is the proper way of going about

correcting some of the issues with the turf track and improving it year in and year out.

Mr. Gardiner asks if the analysis of the drainage system by the clubhouse turn (near pond #2) has been completed. Mr. Stewart responds a study has been done for the entire area, although that particular area hasn't been deconstructed (digging down to find pipes). The assumption is the pipes are in poor condition. He informs a French drainage system will be installed.

Mr. Wright asks if a commitment has been made for the additional drainage work. Mr. Bryant responds it has been approved for their 2014 capital budget and states they could have done a better job of communicating that to the Racing Commission. Mr. Wright questions Mr. Bryant as to why he did not disclose this budget approval/commitment to the Racing Commission at previous meetings. Mr. Bryant replies it is a question he cannot answer.

Mr. Turner asks if the entire \$690,000 has been approved or just the initial \$200,000. Mr. Bryant responds \$200,000 has been approved and if the rest is needed Churchill Downs' board would have to approve it. Mr. Stewart informs he is confident that \$200,000 will take care of the areas in question.

Mr. Wright states the Racing Commission may have to defer approval of Fair Grounds requests today pending a commitment from Fair Grounds on their long-term drainage plan. Mr. Bryant states that would be the Racing Commission's decision, but Churchill Downs is fully committed to Fair Grounds capital projects. Mr. Bryant states Fair Grounds could have done a better job in communicating to the Racing Commission.

Dr. Grimstad states he is pleased with Churchill Downs sudden change of attitude regarding the turf course situation and asks Mr. Stewart if he is convinced the recommended changes will get the turf course back to where it was in the past. Mr. Stewart responds yes.

Mr. Stewart, Ms. Wagner, Mr. Wright and Mr. Bryant discuss Churchill Downs \$200,000 budget for repairs. Mr. Bryant states if additional work needs to be done, he will request additional funds.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. Bryant if the corporate office is backing him on marketing, service and maintenance adjustments. Mr. Bryant states Churchill Downs is committed to making these adjustments. Mr. Bryant acknowledges customer service has slipped and his team is capable and committed to making vast improvements. Mr. Wright asks Mr. Bryant if the cutback in service was intentional or neglectful. Mr. Bryant answers it is probably a combination. He states each year there is a plan made on how to approach marketing and Fair Grounds is now listening to the feedback of others and will improve the areas of deficiency.

Ms. Wagner states she visited the Elmwood OTB and TVs were removed and there was no live teller. Mr. Bryant states he is aware of this issue and they have a plan in place to install digital screens. Ms. Wagner states the Elmwood OTB no longer provides table service. Also, only video poker players receive free soft drinks. Horse players must pay for soft drinks. Ms. Wagner expresses her concern over the lack of proper staffing at the Fair Grounds. Mr. Bryant states Churchill Downs is committed to addressing customer service issues and they will re-evaluate adding more live tellers at the OTBs.

Mr. Austin Miller, Senior Vice President of Gaming Operations at Churchill Downs informs the concerns from the horsemen, legislators and others have all been heard. He states they are committed to addressing all of the issues. Mr. Miller reminds the Racing

Commission the \$690,000 figure was to remove everything and start over. He informs it would be prudent to approach it in stages in order to accomplish the goal. He states the turf course will be 100% better than it has been in the past.

Mr. Wright states Fair Grounds needs to make a better promotional effort and would like to see Fair Grounds encourage the public to see and support live racing. Mr. Miller informs there will be a campaign to integrate marketing ads among pari-mutuel players, slots players and video poker players. Mr. Miller states 95% of money wagered on Fair Grounds races come from off track means so there will be an advertising push to promote live horse racing.

Ms. Wagner asks if most tracks are similar to Fair Grounds with a high percentage of wagering made off track. Mr. Miller states the reason for referencing those numbers is to point out Churchill Downs commitment to replace the video board in the infield by the next thoroughbred meet. He states it may not make financial sense since only a small portion of their patrons view live racing, but it will enhance the experience of those who attend the races.

Mr. Meaux questions Churchill Downs commitment to the Racing Commission since nothing was done in the past and it took the state legislature to get their attention to act on these issues.

Mr. Strider states Churchill Downs presentation has been one-sided. He says the declining horse racing statistics Churchill Downs presented today have been based on a nationwide trend. He asks why Churchill Downs is not citing Louisiana statistics. He states other Louisiana tracks are citing positive handle percentages while Fair Grounds is down significantly. He states this could be a result of the product, not horse racing in general. Mr. Strider asks Mr. Miller who told Mr. Bryant not to relay the drainage plans to the Racing Commission. Mr. Miller informs a decision was made within the last 10 days to go through with the work whether it was warranted or not.

Mr. Stanley Seelig, President of the Louisiana IIBPA, informs an estimated \$8 million dollars was lost due to racing being taken off the turf course. He informs the fields get smaller when they are moved to the dirt course, which means less money is wagered. He estimates \$10-\$12 million dollars has been lost in pari-mutuel wagering at the Fair Grounds because of the multi-race bets. He states multi-race bets are reduced when horses are run off the turf course because it discourages the customer to place a bet. Mr. Seelig states races are being pulled off of the turf course for 6 to 7 days after a half-inch of rainfall.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. Seelig if he's satisfied with the commitments Churchill Downs has set forth to improve the drainage system. Mr. Seelig informs he reached out to Churchill Downs requesting that the IIBPA have access to the track to inspect the drainage at the expense of the IIBPA. He informs the request was not allowed and Churchill Downs will not share any data regarding the drainage matter. He informs it has been brought to IIBPA's attention that Churchill Downs has been aware of broken and clogged pipes for many years. This is not a new issue. He states the only reason Churchill Downs is motivated now is because of the actions of the Racing Commission and state legislature. Mr. Seelig informs the presented plan is new to him and states the cost does not matter; the drainage and track needs to be 100% properly fixed. Mr. Wright asks Mr. Seelig if the IIBPA would like Fair Grounds to commit to sharing all of the data and information and allowing IIBPA to inspect as previously requested. Mr. Seelig responds yes, it would give IIBPA a better understanding. Mr. Wright asks Mr. Seelig specifically what he would like for the Racing Commission to do for the industry.

Mr. Seelig states HBPA would like access to the data, elevation records and a new turf course (Fair Grounds turf course is over 30 years old). Mr. Wright responds to let us see what Churchill Downs does with the improvements and ongoing efforts on the drainage. Mr. Wright states we are not at a point to suggest or demand a new turf course. Mr. Seelig informs the drainage issues began occurring a few years ago after the Fair Grounds filled part of their drainage ponds.

Dr. Grimstad asks for a copy of the engineering study. Mr. Bryant states he will need to get that cleared by Churchill Downs' legal staff.

Mr. Harry Bruns, an owner working with Representative Patrick Connick on pending legislation addresses the Racing Commission. He states Fair Grounds is making a significant profit and it is all going back to Louisville. He informs Fair Grounds is the only track that runs 45% of races off the turf. He informs Churchill Downs top 4 executives made a combined \$26 million in 2013. He states Churchill Downs can easily afford to invest \$690,000 in order to properly fix the track. They spent \$12 million on a new screen at Churchill Downs and built a brand new headquarter building in Louisville. He informs the Louisiana House of Representatives recently passed pending legislation 94 to 0 saying it is time for Fair Grounds to execute their empty promises. Mr. Bruns and Mr. Wright further discuss pending legislation and reasons and possible options of deferring Fair Grounds licenses until a future date. Mr. Bruns offers his opinion, stating the Racing Commission has the authority to refuse to renew the license and tell them to keep their promises this year, and they are going to get a renewal next year.

Mr. Young motions to go into Executive Session for the purpose of prospective pending litigation; Mr. Wright seconds; motion carries.

Mr. Young motions to come out of Executive Session; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

Mr. Guilbeau informs at the last Racing Commission meeting on February 17, 2014, the Racing Commission expressed some concerns regarding the general conditions at Fair Grounds, the service provided to patrons at Fair Grounds, the conditions of the turf track, and conditions of the OTB parlors, and a concern regarding their future plans.

Mr. Guilbeau motions since these and other concerns remain, the Racing Commission is going to defer reviewing the applied for license request and set a special meeting for Thursday, May 1, 2014 to review such requests. The Commission further requests that Churchill Downs Louisiana Horse Racing Company, LLC, doing business as Fair Grounds Race Course and Slots provide short-term and long-term plans for the allocation of additional work/funds regarding the four areas addressed today. Specifically, the turf course, marketing, customer service and backside improvements by Friday, April 25, 2014. This information would be confidential to the Commission. Based upon discussion in Executive Session, Mr. Guilbeau makes that summary as a motion before the Commission. Mr. Wright seconds; motion carries.

2014 QUARTER HORSE MEET

2. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2014 Quarter Horse race meet:

1. 10 year license to own and operate a racetrack, per R.S. 4:158
2. 10 year license to own and operate OTB locations, per R.S. 4:211 et seq.
3. To serve as concessionaire

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

a. Approval for 2014 Quarter Horse race meet:

1. Quarter Horse racing on the flat
2. 10 Quarter Horse dates (8/15/14 through 8/30/14)

August 15,16,20,21,22,23,27,28,29,30

3. Hold up to 12 live Quarter Horse races daily.
4. Daily post time TBA

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

a. Approval for wagering format for 2014 Quarter Horse race meet:

1. WPS and Exactas on all races
2. Trifectas and Superfectas on all races that qualify
3. Rolling Pick 3 beginning on Race 1
4. Daily Double – on first 2 and last 2 races
5. Up to 2 Pick 4's
6. "Black Gold 5" on last 5 races

2014/2015 THOROUGHBRED MEET

5. LICENSE APPROVALS

a. Approval for 2014–2015 Thoroughbred race meet:

1. For 10 year license to own and operate a racetrack, per R.S. 4:158
2. For 10 year license to own and operate OTB locations, per R.S. 4:211 et seq.
3. To serve as concessionaire

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

a. Approval for 2014–2015 Thoroughbred race meet:

1. Thoroughbred racing on the flat
2. 80 Thoroughbred race dates (11/21/14 through 3/29/15)
November 21,22,24,27,28,29
December 1,4,5,6,8,11,12,13,15,18,19,20,22,26,27,28,29,31
January 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,17,18,19,22,23,24,25,26,29,30,31
February 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,17,19,20,21,22,26,27,28
March 1,5,6,7,8,12,13,14,15,19,20,21,22,26,27,28,29

3. Hold up to 13 live Thoroughbred races daily
4. Daily post time TBA

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

a. Approval for wagering format for 2014–2015 Thoroughbred race meet:

1. WPS and Exactas on all races
2. Trifectas and Superfectas on all races that qualify
3. Rolling Pick 3 beginning on Race 1
4. Rolling Daily Double beginning on Race 1

- 5. Up to 2 Pick 4's
- 6. Super High 5 on last race
- 7. Pick 6 – on last 6 races

**D. HARRAH'S BOSSIER CITY INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC
d/b/a HARRAH'S LOUISIANA DOWNS**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT**, by *Trent McIntosh*. Mr. McIntosh informs Louisiana Downs 2014 84-day Thoroughbred Meet will begin on May 2, 2014. He informs over 1,100 horses are currently stabled in the barn area and expect over 1,300 by the start of the meet. Mr. McIntosh informs changes were made to reduce a few of the stake races and compile and create 2 major stake race days throughout the season. This will result in a savings of overnight purse money so Louisiana Downs can continue to have a solid foundation of overnight races throughout the season. Mr. McIntosh informs 75% of Harrah's Club is full, which is seating for 550 people on the 3rd level. Also, all 15 of the 4th level suites and all 10 sports suites are sold out for the season as well. He informs for opening day, the top 100 players from Horseshoe Casino are formally invited to view racing in the skybox which will include a fine dining meal service. Also, the top 50 racing club customers are invited for a 2 night stay and will receive a similar service in the 4th level suites. Mr. McIntosh informs the construction on Barn 5 is complete. The test barn renovations were completed in January. He informs Louisiana Downs switched to United Tote and 250 new terminals were installed throughout the property. Mr. McIntosh informs the tote board was renovated with all new LEDs. He informs hot food will be brought back to the jockeys room and barn area starting May 10, 2014.

Mr. Wright asks Mr. McIntosh to explain the marketing plan for enticing their prime players. Mr. McIntosh responds the Sky Room is the prime location to view live racing and the top 100 players from Horseshoe Casino (sister property) are invited to experience racing at a VIP level. He informs they will be exposed to racing and there's an opportunity for them to make a positive impact to Louisiana Downs racing revenue. Mr. McIntosh informs the top 50 racing customers will be treated similarly to free hotel rooms and will have access to Suite 17 for the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby Day.

Mr. Turner commends Louisiana Downs for reopening the track kitchen and notes Louisiana Downs put a full page racing ad in the local paper for racing only with no mention of slots gaming. Mr. McIntosh states there are three radio ads running simultaneously leading up to the opening of the meet. Mr. Turner asks if the infield tote board will be ready for opening day. Mr. McIntosh states the tote board was completed in March. Mr. Turner asks if there is any truth to the rumor of Louisiana Downs closing in July. Mr. McIntosh informs that is a rumor.

2014 THOROUGHBRED MEET

2. RACES

- a. **Approval** of first condition book for 2014 Thoroughbred race meet.
- b. **Approval** of designated races for the 2014 Thoroughbred race meet:

Louisiana Cup Day

- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Juvenile
- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Juvenile Fillies
- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Filly & Mare Sprint
- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Sprint
- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Turf Classic
- 8/2/14 Louisiana Cup Distaff – Fillies & Mares

8/2/14 A.L. "Red" Erwin Sales Graduate
 8/2/14 Elge Raspberry Sales Graduate - Fillies
 8/2/14 Super Derby Prelude

Super Derby Day

9/6/14 LA Stallion Stakes - Fillies
 9/6/14 LA Stallion Stakes - Colts & Geldings
 9/6/14 Unbridled
 9/6/14 River Cities - Fillies & Mares
 9/6/14 Happy Ticket - Fillies
 9/6/14 Sunday Silence
 9/6/14 Super Derby (G2)

3. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

a. Approval of officials for 2014 Thoroughbred meet:

Trent McIntosh - Director of Operations
 David Heitzmann - Racing Secretary
 Russell Ramstad - Assistant Racing Secretary
 William Coleman - Association Steward
 Charles Magee - Association Steward
 Jimmy Cordell - Starter
 Braulio Baeza, Sr. - Clerk of Scales
 Richard Miguez - Custodian
 Ronald Ramstad - Placing Judge
 Koleen Karlin - Placing Judge
 Jennifer Sokol - Placing Judge
 Joseph Peluso - Paddock Judge
 Tammy Peck - Horse Identifier
 Lisa Lombardino - Program Coordinator/Claims
 Betty Fetters - Clocker
 Herbert Lambert - Clocker
 Laura Hollowo - Outrider
 Juan Roman - Outrider

Mr. Young motions to approve the first condition book, designated races and officials as listed above; Ms. Wagner seconds; motion carries.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MEDICATION COMMITTEE, by Committee Chairman Thomas H. Grimstad, M.D.

Dr. Grimstad announces the Racing Commission will begin discussion of national uniform medication rules, penalties, and laboratory accreditation standards that have been developed by RMTC. Dr. Grimstad informs he will be meeting with Dr. Barker regarding these issues and in upcoming meetings the Racing Commission will have open floor discussions regarding potential rule changes.

B. RULES COMMITTEE, by Committee Chairman Keith W. Babb

Mr. Babb was absent. No report.

C. LEGAL COMMITTEE, by Committee Chairman Bob F. Wright

No report.

D. SECURITY COMMITTEE, by Committee Chairman Kenneth "Ken" Romero

Mr. Romero has no report other than stating the State Police are doing a good job.

E. RACETRACK/HBPA LIAISON COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Kevin Delahoussaye*
Mr. Delahoussaye was absent. No report.

F. CURRENT AFFAIRS & CONCERNS OF RACING COMMITTEE, by *Committee Chairman Bob F. Wright*

No report.

III. OTHER

A. Training Tracks:

1. Review of applications for training track licenses pursuant to LAC 46: XLI.1903-1907.

Dr. Grimstad asks what are the benefits of being a licensed training track. Ms. Loney responds to have published workouts. Dr. Cooley adds that being an accredited training center, they also have the ability to transport their animals to the racetracks with the same rules.

a. Benton Training Center, represented by Mr. Tommy Nickson.

Ms. Loney informs the Benton Training Center's application is in order. Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

b. The Training Center at Copper Crowne, LLC, represented by Mr. David Tillson.

Ms. Loney informs the Training Center at Copper Crowne, LLC's application is in order. Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

c. Evangeline Enterprise, LLC, representation not present.

Ms. Loney informs Evangeline's application is in order. Mr. Young motions to approve; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

d. Folsom Training Center, represented by Mr. Merlin Marechal.

Ms. Loney informs the Folsom Training Center's application is in order. Mr. Young motions to approve; Commissioners' second; motion carries.

In accordance with Ms. Loney's request due to time constraints, Mr. Young motions to hear the equine positive cases first; Mr. Guilbeau seconds; motion carries.

IV. ADJUDICATIONS

A. VIOLATIONS OF LAC 35:1.1797 (Equine Positives & Possession of Drugs, Needles & Syringes)

1. Evigael Verdugo, Trainer (*Adjudications Referred/Appeal*)

Ms. Loney asks that the testimony for the 3 Evigael Verdugo cases be consolidated, but that the commissioners rule on each of the violations and rulings individually at the close of testimony.

a. Ruling#LD20509 of 3/3/14 – Mephentermine (ARCI Category I)

Stewards' ruling#LD20509 upheld; suspended 5 years effective 4-22-2014 through 4-21-2019; fined \$5,000.

b. Ruling#LD20510 of 3/3/14 – Mephentermine (ARCI Category I)

Stewards' ruling#LD20510 upheld; suspended 5 years effective from 4-22-2019 through 4-21-2024; fined \$5,000.

c. Ruling#LD20532 of 3/17/14 – *Possession of Injectibles & Syringes*

Stewards' ruling#LD20532 upheld; suspended 5 years effective from 4-22-2024 through 4-21-2029; fined \$5,000.

All suspensions to run consecutively; Denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC.

2. **Keith J. LeJeune, Assistant Starter/Pony Person.** (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#LD20533 of 3/17/14. *Possession of Methamphetamine.* Stewards' ruling upheld; suspended 6 months (with credit for serving 33 days) from 3/20/14 through 9/19/14; denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC.

B. CLAIMING IRREGULARITIES

1. **Brent C. Delahoussaye, Owner/Trainer.** (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#DD20513 of 3/8/14. Stewards' ruling upheld; suspended 6 months effective 4-27-2014 through 10-26-2014; fined \$2,500; denied access to all racetracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC.

2. **Troy L. Scott, Owner.** (*Adjudication Referred*)

Ruling#DD20537 of 3/18/14. Stewards' ruling upheld; fined \$1,000.

C. VIOLATION OF LAC 35:I.1791 (*Human Drug Testing*)

1. **Marshall A. Hebert, Jockey.** (*Adjudication Referred/Appeal*)

Ruling#DD20339 of 11/6/13 – *4th offense.* Stewards' ruling upheld; suspended 5 years from 4/22/14 through 4/21/19. May reapply to full Commission for license after 1 year suspension served, proof of continued drug rehabilitation and continued drug testing at his own expense at a LSRC approved laboratory. Denied access to all race tracks, off-track wagering facilities and recognized training tracks under the jurisdiction of the LSRC.

V. LICENSE APPROVAL

A. LICENSE APPROVAL

1. **Garland W. Godfrey, Groom.** Convicted felon.

Approved for a Groom's license upon providing documentation of continued after care rehabilitation post incarceration.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Unidentified commissioner motions to adjourn; Ms. Wagner seconds; Mr. Meaux adjourns the meeting.



Charles A. Gardiner III
Executive Director