

Horse Racing Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

Present: Chair Nielsen, Thomas Barrett, Michael Carlo, William Frank, Joseph Rivet

Also Present: Mike Krombeen, Sylvia Renteria, Michael Hetherington, Lucas Cairns

Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order and roll was taken – all member present

Chair Nielsen thanked Northville Downs and Mike Carlo for receiving his students on a recent visit to Northville.

There was no public input.

Thomas Barrett requested any procedures, protocols and rules now on file with MDARD pertaining to horse racing activity.

Michael Hetherington was introduced as a new finance officer at MDARD, he will be responsible for Horse Racing financial activity at the Department

Sylvia Renteria outlined approved FY 2022 budget including the \$3.2 million one-time appropriation to pre-fund annual race activity. She indicated an appropriation line item was necessary in the supplemental to spend the approximately \$7.2 million. There was also no \$125,000 appropriation for the HRAC – which also must be in a supplemental

A discussion took place on the excessive rain postponements that occurred in the summer. A discussion on planning for future similar circumstances took place. Plans are being considered by the Harness Horsemen's Association the Department will review. Suggested improvements will be brought to the HRAC.

Three additional fair racing applications expected for next year.

A legislative update on a horse racing package up for Consideration in the Michigan Legislature took place. Timetables and impacts were discussed.

A discussion on the need to develop experiences racing regulatory staff took place. The current situation put more burden on veterinarians.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2021.

Chair Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.