

Horse Racing Advisory Commission

March 1, 2022

2 pm

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order – Nielsen
2. Official Welcome to Sylvia Renteria

Brian and commission members welcomed Sylvia Renteria to the role as the department's designee. She takes over for Joseph Rivet.

3. Public Input –Nielsen

Don Packard from the Michigan Horse Council shared information on upcoming events. The horse expo will be in two weeks (second weekend in March) at Michigan State University. In April there will be annual elections.

4. Meeting with MSU Vet School Dean – Nielsen & Krombeen

Brian Nielsen and Mike Krombeen met with Birgit Puschner who is the new dean for Michigan State University's veterinary school. There was good discussion and she is supportive of the commission. She would like to expose more students to the horse racing program as many students aren't aware of this portion of the field.

5. Legislative Update – Mike Krombeen

Mike Krombeen indicated that conversations were ongoing to figure out the senate gaming package. Movement is expected this spring out of committees. The summer fair racing schedule has gone out to fairs and horses are now being nominated. The schedules are to be finalized in April. Churchill hasn't committed to breeds or locations.

6. Economic Impact Study – Renteria and others

There are several consulting firms on contract with the state. Studies have been completed in the past by the Michigan Horse Council and the American Horse Council. The Michigan Horse Council study was about 5 years ago and cost approximately \$17,000. Additional research and development of the scope is needed.

7. Industry Update – All

Thomas Barrett – Starting March 11th races will go live at Northville Downs. He is concerned about the horse supply. There are 62 scheduled days this year. There have been difficulties getting veterinarians.

There was discussion on the procurement process for developing a promotional campaign and for holding seminars to the industry.

The commission approved a \$125,000 budget for fiscal year 2022 allocated as follows: \$50,000 economic impact study, \$25,000 gaming and horse ownership seminars, and \$50,000 promotional campaign. Mike Carlo provided a first motion and Thomas Barrett seconded.

8. Adjourn – Chair Nielsen

Attendees: Mike Carlo, Brian Nielsen, William Frank, Michael Hetherington, Thomas Barrett, Lucas Cairns, Mike Krombeen, Sylvia Renteria, Don Packard