

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
HORSE RACING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Constitution Hall
VanDeusen Conference Room
525 W Allegan St
Lansing, MI 48933**

and

**Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams
Dial: 1-248-509-0316, Conference ID 671 208 944#**

**MEETING MINUTES
October 26, 2023**

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Brian Nielsen, Chair, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Thomas Barrett, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Michael Carlo, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Sylvia Renteria, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

PRESENT REMOTELY:

William Frank, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Nielsen called the meeting of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Horse Racing Advisory Commission (MDARD HRAC) to order at 2:00 p.m. on October 26, 2023. Roll call was taken by each member introducing themselves.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO AMENDED THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE USE OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS TO THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY MR. CARLO. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA, AS AMEDNED, FOR OCTOBER 26, 2023. SECONDED BY MR. CARLO. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 24, 2023, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. BARRETT. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The currently next scheduled meeting is December 7, 2023, to be held at Constitution Hall, 525 W Allegan St, Lansing, MI at 2:00 p.m. Remote technology via Microsoft

Teams will also be offered. The commission discussed amending the schedule and decided to wait until the end of the meeting.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EXPANDED GAMING STUDY WITH CIVIC ECONOMICS:

Chairman Nielsen and Commissioner Barrett had a meeting with the Civic Economics Study on how historical racing would impact the economics of the state of Michigan. The discussion led to the study looking at the state of Kentucky, as their race parameters were similar to the state of Michigan. Commissioner Barrett explained the company was looking for parameters, and information for how the study will be conducted in the future, and felt it was moving forward.

LEGISLATION UPDATE:

Commissioner Carlo and Commissioner Barrett explained pending changes in the proposed Senate legislation. Commissioner Renteria explained the departments concerns with the introduced language and let the commission know the department would review the proposed changes.

Mike Krombeen, lobbyist for horse racing in the state of Michigan, explained legislation that was introduced in the House of Representatives the previous day that would not make exceptions in the Horse Racing Act. Commissioners expressed issues with the Horse Racing Act being exempt in this legislation.

FOWLerville HORSE SALE:

Commissioner Barrett explained the sale was a success. They had more yearlings than prior, but sales were down a bit from the past. However, the sale was well attended, with buyers from out of state. Commissioner Barrett discussed with the sale organizers about moving the location to the MSU pavilion, they showed interested, but worried about the schedule at the pavilion. Commissioner Barrett explained that two large breeding farms were going to be able to have yearlings for sale at the next sale and were excited for that increase next year.

BUDGET UPDATE

Commissioner Renteria explained it was year-end, and the department was conducting audits and end of year funding numbers were not yet available. She explained that \$125,000 was appropriated in current Fiscal Year. Ms. Renteria was confident she would have better numbers at the December Meeting.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN ITEMS

Crystal Terrell, representing the Michigan Harness Horseman Association (MHHA), explained the broadcasting was well received. There were more than 100 people turning in and reached worldwide. Broadcasting did run into technical issues with video, but corrections were being made to be corrected for future races. Ms. Terrell said they hoped to have more contact in the future of county fair racing. The chair asked if the association would request any major changes needed for the grant in the future. Ms. Terrell said more interviews or personal aspect would be helpful, but to increase the quality of the video would also be useful.

The Chair asked Ms. Terrell about the previous grant for the Michigan Horse Expo seminar. Ms. Terrell suggested the expo was very riding and recreational focused and expressed it wasn't the correct venue for promotion for the Horse Racing Commission.

USE OF PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

Commissioner Barrett expressed concerns about trainers' dramatic improvement or decreases in performance. Commissioner Barrett explained that EPO Epogen use has increased, and sent a letter to the Michigan Gaming Control, asking for additional testing. Mr. Barrett said EPO isn't a substance found the day of the race, and expressed the drug testing would happen before the horse started racing and this drug can be catastrophic for the horse.

Commissioner Frank expressed support in Commissioner Barrett's letter to the Michigan Gaming Commission, in Mr. Barrett's role in a Horsemen's organization. Mr. Frank expressed seeing if Mr. Barrett received any response from the Gaming Control Board before the Horse Racing Advisory Commission took a formal stance on the situation. All commissioners agreed to discuss this issue at the December meeting as Mr. Barrett wait to receive the Michigan Gaming Commission response.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR BARRETT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.