

AGENDA

North Dakota Racing Commission
Telephone Conference
500 N 9th St, Bismarck, ND
Wednesday, September 3, 2003
1:00 p.m.

1. ND Harness Racing Association Date Application
2. Promotion, Purse, and Breeder's Fund Requests
3. Other Matters Which May Come Before the Commission

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If you plan to attend the meeting and will need special facilities or assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Racing Commission at 701-328-4633.

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North Dakota Racing Commission
Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2003
1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Chairman Howard W. Wrigley, Commissioners James Arthaud, James Boehm, and James Clement, Director of Racing Paul Bowlinger, Counsel Bill Peterson, Auditor Roger Thompson, and Administrative Assistant Kelly Boespflug

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wanda Belgarde
Janell Cole, The Fargo Forum
Ken Pawluk, ND Horse Park
Les Schmidt, Horse Race ND

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Wrigley. The roll call was taken by Executive Director Bowlinger.

Commissioner Boehm	-	Here
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Here
Commissioner Clement	-	Here
Chairman Wrigley	-	Here

AGENDA ITEM #1
ND Harness Racing Association Date Application

Executive Director Bowlinger stated the ND Harness Racing Association application was received on time. The application is appropriate from a legal standpoint. The live race dates requested are September 19-21, 2003.

Discussion held.

Commissioner Clement moved to grant live races dates at the Fargo Horse Park to Fair Circuit Horse Racing Association for harness racing on September 19-21, 2003. Commissioner Arthaud seconded the motion.

Discussion held.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #2
Promotion, Purse, and Breeders' Fund Requests**

Promotion Fund Request - \$61,770

Executive Director Bowlinger stated the ND Harness Racing Association requested \$42,000 from the purse fund, \$7,500 from the breeders' fund, and \$61,770 from the promotion fund. Mr. Pawluk stated that he believed there was some confusion regarding who was actually hosting the harness meet. Les Schmidt informed that he thought it was quite clear that the FCHRA was making application. Mr. Pawluk questioned various expenditures and wanted assurances that the promotion fund request would be adequate to cover the expenses, such as the tent and a previously voluntary workforce. Mr. Schmidt assured that all of these items had been included. (Discussion followed.)

Chairman Wrigley stated he went through the itemized revenues and expenses and suggested a cut of \$2,275. He stated it was inappropriate to request funding from the Commission for items such as taxes and breakage since these were items which would not be incurred without revenue. He suggested this request looked more like a profit and loss statement, and he would prefer to just see actual expenses. The other Commissioners agreed. Chairman Wrigley specifically questioned Mr. Pawluk if there was some problem with the Horse Park holding this harness meet. Mr. Pawluk responded that there was no problem at his end regarding the holding of the race meet.

Executive Director Bowlinger stated the grant from the promotion fund would be fronted by the Racing Commission. All expenses need to be itemized back to office. It is understood if there is any excess, that money will be held by FCHRA for either next year's racing or capital improvements.

Commissioner Clement moved to grant Fair Circuit Horse Racing \$59,495 from the promotion fund for the harness meet. Commissioner Boehm seconded the motion.

Discussion held.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

Purse Fund Request - \$42,000

Executive Director Bowlinger stated the purse request of \$42,000 assures individual race high bottoms, which will draw in more horses for a better competition.

Commissioner Arthaud moved to grant Fair Circuit Horse Racing \$42,000 from the purse fund for the harness meet. Commissioner Boehm seconded the motion.

Les Schmidt stated there is a potential of 85-100 horses from Manitoba and 35-40 horses from Minnesota. Purses will average \$2,000 per race.

Executive Director Bowlinger stated this purse amount will cover 21 of the 24 races for the three-day meet. A North Dakota bred race must be written for each day of racing.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

Breeders' Fund Request - \$7,500

Executive Director Bowlinger stated the breeders' fund request is for purses of accredited North Dakota bred races. The races must accept entries only from accredited North Dakota bred.

Commissioner Clement moved to grant Fair Circuit Horse Racing \$7,500 from the breeders' fund for the harness meet. Commissioner Arthaud seconded the motion.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held.

AGENDA ITEM #3 Other Matters Which May Come Before the Commission

a. North Dakota First Lady's Cup

Executive Director Bowlinger stated on the first day of racing on the seven race card, five races were won by female jockeys. There was a tremendous amount of coverage and the female attendance at the Fargo meet was phenomenal. Executive Director Bowlinger requested the Commission to grant a seven-furlong race consisting of thoroughbred fillies and mares ages three and up. The purse amount would be \$10,000. Executive Director Bowlinger stated he received approval for the name from First Lady Mikey Hoeven.

Commissioner Boehm moved to approve a race called the "North Dakota First Lady's Cup and grant \$10,000 from the purse fund. Commissioner Clement seconded the motion.

Wanda Belgarde asked what the determination was in deciding whether it would be a thoroughbred race or quarter horse race. Executive Director Bowlinger stated he wanted to draw more thoroughbreds out of Minnesota and Assiniboia. He would like to see the entire racetrack used.

More discussion held.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

b. International Simulcast Conference

Executive Director Bowlinger stated representatives of RSI's receiver requested him to attend the International Simulcast Conference in San Francisco. Executive Director Bowlinger requested permission from the Commission to attend the meeting in September with travel funds coming from the operating budget.

Commissioner Boehm moved to grant permission to Executive Director Bowlinger to attend the International Simulcast Conference in San Francisco with travel funds coming from the operating budget. Commissioner Clement seconded the motion.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

c. Budget Savings

Chairman Wrigley stated he wanted it on the record that the North Dakota Racing Commission was approximately \$30,000 or 10% under budget for the last biennium, and the Commission and staff should be proud of this accomplishment.

d. Profit/Loss Statement

Chairman Wrigley stated the 2004 live race date applications are due by October 3, and he would like to see the profit and loss statement from the Fargo Horse Park prior to that week.

Commissioner Clement moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Commissioner Boehm seconded the motion.

Executive Director Bowlinger called the roll as follows:

Commissioner Clement	-	Yes
Commissioner Boehm	-	Yes
Commissioner Arthaud	-	Yes
Chairman Wrigley	-	Yes

The motion carried unanimously.