

MINUTES
WV RACING COMMISSION
Tuesday, December 17, 2024
WV Racing Commission Conference Room

The WV Racing Commission met on Tuesday, December 17, to conduct business and consider administrative matters. Roll call was taken, and present was Interim Chairman Tony Figaretti, Commissioner Chip Urling, and Commissioner Paul Espinosa.

Agenda Item #1 – Approval of November 19th meeting minutes

The minutes will be approved.

*Motion made by
Chairman Figaretti to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #2 – Executive Director's Report

Mr. Moore updated the commission will be my intention at your January meeting to provide you with the wagering details through the first half of the fiscal year, as well as your administrative accounts through the first half of the fiscal year. We are still currently working on the advance deposit wagering fund to distribute it as statutorily approved since we now have the budget to do so. The new administration-elect is making their rounds through all state agencies.

Mr. Moore has a meeting to gain more information on their operations. Mr. Moore has a meeting tomorrow with Doug Buffington and some of the other parties of the transition thing. I'll follow up with you all Thursday morning and let you know any of the details regarding that meeting. Commissioner Figaretti asked if he could also attend the meeting. Mr. Moore stated that would be up to the transition team.

*Commissioner Espinosa Moved that the Directors report be accepted. Seconded by Chairman Figaretti
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #3 – Legal Update

Mr. Eates was not able to attend no items to update at this time

Agenda Item #4 – Mountaineer Park Requests Approval to Operate Casino on Christmas Day w/o Simulcasting

Mr. Moore presents a request for Mountaineer Park for approval to operate the casino on Christmas Day without simulcasting. Mr. Moore stated that in the November meeting, we took up this agenda item for Delaware North Property and I believe Charles Town. This is Mountaineer's request to do the same. There are no tracks running on Christmas Day in 2024. Therefore, they're requesting permission to continue the operation of the casino without a live racing product. Commissioner Urling thinks that's a reasonable request.

*Motion made by Commissioner Urling
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #5 – Mountaineer Park Requests Approval of 2025 Import/Export sites

Mountaineer Park request approval of the 2025 input-export site. Again, this is an annual approval for Mountaineer to be able to send their signal to other jurisdictions and be able to receive their signal from other racetracks. In the air brake code, unlike in the Greyhound code, you'll recall we dealt with Mardi Gras and Wheeling last month, the code stipulates that the track has to have the approval of their local HPPA for their simulcast and export sites prior to submitting those to the Racing Commission for approval. We have received that approval from the Mountaineer Park HBPA, and Mr. Moore recommends Mountaineer's request for approval.

*Motion made by Commissioner Espinosa
Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #6 – HCCTR Requests Approval of Reduction in Live Race Days

This item is an agreed upon reduction from those 220 to 160 live race days. This comes not only from Charles Town races, but also with the approval of the Charles Town HBPA and their local tellers union as required by statute. Mr. Moore gave a little background on the number of race days. They're requesting 160 for 2025. The commission approved 158 for 2024 and they ran 158.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Second, by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #7 – HCCTR Requests Approval of 2025 Import/Export sites

Charles Town raises approval requests for the 2025 import-export sites. Mr. Moore gives the commission, again, a little background to this request. Mr. Moore placed this on the agenda as a placeholder in hopes we would get the information in time for distribution to the commissioners' review and the meeting. As of the end of last week, we had not received the approved sites because the president of the HBPA has been out of the country for some time and unable to physically just approve their side of that. We now have the approvals emailed as required by statutes. Mr. Moore's intention was to delay this item, but considering the fact that we've got the approvals, the item was on the agenda, it's not an insertion, Maria Catignani is prepared to speak to the situation should the commissioners have any questions. Mr. Moore would go ahead and recommend we take the item up for approval today.

*Motion made by Commissioner Espinosa
Seconded by Chairman Figaretti
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #8 – AmWest Entertainment LLC Request Approval of 2025 ADW Renewal Application

Mr. Moore informs the commission that AmWest is in good standing with the Racing Commission, has submitted all the required documentation and their licensing fee. Mr. Moore would recommend this item for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #9 - Premier Turf Club LLC Request Approval of 2025 ADW Renewal Application

Mr. Moore informs the commission that Premier Turf Club, are in good standing. They just went through an ownership change to Fanatics. They have submitted all the required licensing information and paid their fee. Mr. Moore would recommend this item for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #10 – ODS Technologies (TVG) Request Approval of 2025 ADW Renewal Application

ODS Technologies, which operates as CVG, requests approval of their 2025 renewal application. CVG has been in good standing and is in good standing with the Racing Commission. They've submitted all the renewal requirements and paid their fee, and Mr. Moore would recommend it for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #11 –Public Comments

Mr. Moore would like to re-implement a policy the commission did years ago in the submission of our agenda items. Not strictly related to Charles Town's item. I know there's emergencies that will take place. But I think to benefit the commissioners and myself and those looking at the agenda, we should require that items to be submitted for an agenda are received no later than the last day of the prior month with an understanding that our commission meetings will typically be the third or fourth week of a month, depending on how the dates fall. So I'll speak to that individually and we'll take anything that pops up as we can. But for the most part, I'd like to get back to that submission policy.

Mr. Moore ask Maria, you had a comment? Yes, I do, please. Thank you, Commissioners, for letting me take just a couple of seconds of time here. I just wanted to announce that while Charles Town and the HBPA have worked and collaborated to add an additional two days to our schedule for 2025. We also agreed to a 5% purse increase. That purse increase is not in the book, but it will be effective January 2nd. So thanks to Charlie and his team and the HBPA team, we were able to collaborate to make two very positive things happen this year.

Agenda Item #12 –Adjournment

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*