



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
HARNES RACING COMMISSION

2320 SOUTH DUPONT HWY
DOVER, DE 19901

agriculture.delaware.gov

TELEPHONE (302) 698-4599
FAX (302) 697-6287

Minutes of the
Delaware Harness Racing Commission Special Meeting
PUBLIC SESSION

March 31, 2020 at 2:00 PM
Delaware Department of Agriculture - Conference Room

Commission Members Present

Beth Steele	Chairman
Patt Wagner	Vice Chairman
George Staats	Commissioner
Stephanie Liguori	Commissioner
Mark Davis	Executive Director
Andrew Kerber	DAG

Others Present

Department of Agriculture Secretary Michael Scuse, Dover Downs Director of Racing John Hensley, Harrington Raceway Facilities Manager Karen Craft, DSOA Executive Director Sal DiMario.

Minutes: Mark Davis

Call To Order:

At 2:05 PM Chairman Steele called this special meeting of the DHRC to order. The meeting was conducted via a conference call. ED Davis, welcomed participants and briefly describe the purpose of the meeting which was to review a strategy developed by John Hensley and Sal DiMario to distribute funds left in the Dover Downs purse account to horseman. As a result of the coronavirus shutdown on March 17, 2020, racing was interrupted and halted early at Dover Downs; 11 days of racing were missed.

John Hensley and Sal DiMario described the strategy to distribute \$1.2 million in purse account funds to horseman who had actively participated at Dover Downs. The Commissioners reviewed a spreadsheet drafted by Mr. Hensley and Mr. DiMario. The spreadsheet depicted the amount of funds to be distributed to owners, trainers and drivers participating at Dover Downs. John explained that using a review period of February 1 to March 16, 2020, an owner needed at least two starts to be considered as a regular participant and qualify for the payment. Frequency of participation and level of investment were factors considered in the strategy. Trainers and Drivers were also a part of the strategy with similar qualifiers. Mr. Hensley further explained that disbursement of funds would be in two payments of approximately \$600,000 for a grand total of \$1.2 million released to the licensed and participating horseman.

Andrew Kerber described the legal mechanism which allowed the Commission to approve this strategy. After a brief conversation concerning payments to out of state participants, Mr. Kerber advised that the concerns raised in the Commissioner's discussion that the purse payments be provided to licensed horsemen who had been participating in the race meet at Dover Downs had been favorably resolved.

Secretary Scuse suggested a motion: "Distribute purse funds from Dover Downs to owners, trainers and drivers as outlined by the formula and on the spreadsheets developed by Dover Downs and the Delaware Standardbred Owners Association." Commission Staats made the motion, Commissioner Wagner seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Chair Steele called for a motion to adjourn; Commission Staats so moved, Commissioners Liguori seconded and motion passed.

Special Meeting of the DHRC Adjourned