

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 25, 2025

A public business meeting of The State Horse Racing Commission was held at the following date, place and time: In-Person PDA Lobby Conference room and Via Telephonic Conference Call on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairperson Redding, Darryl Breniser, Corinne Sweeney, Ed Rogers, Dennis Hoffman, Russell Jones and Tom Ellis, Commissioners joining via Teams were, Robert Lark, and Sal DeBunda. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto, Thoroughbred Bureau Director Thomas Chuckas Jr., and Standardbred Bureau Director Anthony Salerno.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A quorum of the Commission being present, Chairperson Redding called the meeting to order. Chairperson Redding noted that the meeting was properly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law. By way of notice, the Commission conducted an executive session to engage in quasi-judicial deliberation to be adjudicated at the public meeting and engaged in attorney client privilege communication.

Chairperson Redding welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) APPROVAL OF THE October 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser
Second By: Commissioner Ellis
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT – presented by Thomas Chuckas.

Mr. Chuckas briefed the Commissioners on the status of the recently passed budget. The Sunset provision was extended to June 30, 2028. This included retroactive language that allowed bills to be paid going back to July 1, 2025. The Spending Authority was set at \$14.9 million and the transfer from the RHDTF was set at \$15.3 million. You'll notice many negative numbers in the statements due to no funds being transferred over the last 5 months from the RHDTF, so it will take a couple months to catch up.

The Racing Fund beginning cash balance was negative \$833,383. Revenue for the month was \$ 480,577. Expenditures were \$1.5 million, leaving an ending cash balance of negative \$1,853,410.

The Commission revenues for the month were \$480,557. Personnel cost were \$479,523. Operating expenditures were \$58,039, bringing the total expenditures for the month to \$537,561.

Moving on to Testing, as stated previously, there have been no transfers made from the RHDTF since July. Personnel costs were \$468,850. Total operating was \$462,645. Please note, under specialized services, that \$445,540 is for PETRL but that has not been approved, but it's encumbered. Total expenditure was \$931,494.

For Promotions, there's been no transfer. The transfer will be about \$1.8 million. The entities have been advised of the awards. Currently we are working on new grant agreements, which expired on June 30, 2025.

Moving on to the Comparative, it's somewhat skewed because of the funding issues. This year total revenue is a little over 4 million. Last year it was 6.7 million. You'll notice over 3 million is the difference from the RHDTF. Total operating expenses this year is almost 2.7 million. Last year it was 3.3 million. Total expenditures of 7.2 million versus 7.5 million.

The remaining three accounts are the restricted accounts for the PA Breeders, Sires Stakes and Standardbred Breeders. These accounts have been receiving funds since July 1st and weren't impacted by the budget impasse.

3.) HISA Update – Presented by Thomas Chuckas. Mr. Chuckas reported that the 2025 assessments and credits are done. The industry has been notified. The Commission sent the finalized IGA and LSA to HIWU. The 2025 extensions were set to expire November 4th and have been extended to 12/31/2025, which allows the parties time to negotiate the new agreements for 2026.

As you know there are three agreements between the Commission, HISA and HIWU. The first is the Racetrack Safety program, that's simply an MOU and we don't foresee any issues there. The second one is the IGA, which is the test barn operations and the personnel cost and the vet cost. The last piece is the Lab Services Agreement. We'll see what happens during the upcoming negotiations.

4.) PETRL Suspension Update – Mr. Chuckas reported that PETRL has addressed the deficiencies that HIWU alleged in the July 8th notification. HIWU requested additional information and on October 27th PETRL responded and is waiting for HIWU's response. Currently PETRL is conducting the standardbred forensic testing as well as both Standardbred and Thoroughbred Research. All Thoroughbred Forensic testing is currently being done by Industrial Laboratories.

5.) Mohegan Sun at Pocono 3-year License Presentation – Presented by Anthony Carlucci President of Mohegan PA, Ron Chrzan Director of Compliance Mohegan PA, and Mike Zullinger Director of Racing and Sportsbook at Mohegan PA. Mr. Zullinger spoke about Pocono Downs 60-year history of racing in northeast PA. Pocono Downs opened in July of 1965 and opened its Allentown sports book in 1993. Mohegan PA has operated both facilities since 2005.

For our 2026 season, we are asking for 128 live race days starting on February 14 and running through November 1st. We will kick off the meet with our popular game of claims series followed by the Bobby Weiss Late Closer Series. Sun Stakes is scheduled for Saturday August 22, followed by the PA Sires Stakes 2-year-old Final in September as well as the Simpson Memorial in October.

As far as property upgrades, we have purchased software and graphics packages to upgrade our tote board. We've upgraded all our tote equipment to the newest versions, and we are currently upgrading our iBet system. Our simulcast and clubhouse seating areas have been recently upgraded.

Mr. Carlucci spoke about the importance of trying to bring new people into the building with so much competition for the gambling dollars. We have been hosting "Party on the Patio" every Thursday evening during the summer, which has drawn roughly 5000 people a night. We also host free concerts and giveaways, constantly trying to get new customers.

6.) Parx Racetrack & Casino 3-year License Presentation – Joe Wilson Chief Operating Officer for Parx Racing and Sarah Stoner Counsel for Greenwood Racing gave a brief history of Greenwood Racing and Parx Racetrack and Casino.

We currently have five graded stakes including 2 \$1 million grade one races in the PA Derby and the Cotillion. We continue to race 150 live race days a year at pretty much the same purse level which is tough to do these days.

We have spent over \$ 40 million on improvements since 2006. All new barns, renovated Dorm rooms, completely redid the Jockeys room, walking ring, winners circle, new rider protection rail, and renovated the detention barn. This past year we have installed all new tote terminals and new LED digits on the tote board.

Attorney Stoner stated that Parx has demonstrated a consistent commitment to promoting, developing and improving the horse racing industry in Pennsylvania. Parx utilizes high quality equipment and security measures to safeguard and promote the integrity of wagering.

7.) Harrah's Philadelphia Racetrack & Casino 3-year License Presentation – Barry Brown Director of Racing Operations, Attorney Stephen Schrier and Zara Alayan Senior Vice President and General Manager. Mr. Brown spoke about the continued cooperation between the PHHA and Harrah's allowing them to maintain purse levels and the number of race days. Also, this year there import program is up nearly 52 %. Our relationship with TVG FanDuel which started back in 2010 has been very beneficial for both of us and we just extended our agreement into a long-term agreement.

We are constantly trying to drive visitation (bringing people out to the property). Some of the events we have planned for 2026 are our "Last Man Standing Handicapping Contest". Two times reward days is another promotion that has worked well in the past and we will be continuing that this year. Sunday Family days during the summer months with our outside bar on the patio as well as outdoor grilling, face painting, and balloon artist.

Mother's Day and Father's Day continue to be big draw days as well as Kentucky Derby Day. This year will be hosting the Sires Stakes finals for 3-year-old fillies on the Labor Day weekend. We will be hosting 4 special events with Alex's Lemonade to help raise money for childhood cancer. Our parent company Caesars Entertainment will continue to sponsor the Dan Patch Awards as well as the USHWA for another 3 years.

This year will be our 20th anniversary, and I have been fortunate to be here for all 20 years, we are still in the planning stages, but we will be working with the PHHA to celebrate the great working relationship that we have had over the past 20 years.

8.) Penn National Racecourse 3-year License Presentation – Chris McErlean Vice President of Racing for Penn Entertainment, Alex Hvizda Regional Director of Compliance and Scott Lishia Director of Racing and Sportsbook Penn National Racecourse. Mr. McErlane gave a brief history of Penn National and its origins. Horse racing has been a huge part of Penn Entertainment, starting with Penn National Racecourse. We're the largest operator of pari-mutuel racetracks in the country. We have ten racetracks in seven different jurisdictions. Just to give you a perspective of how much business is involved in horse racing across the country, we have 950 live race days at our ten tracks on an annual basis. Nearly a billion dollars wagered either at our racetracks on live or simulcast wagering or on our races across the country through export simulcasting.

Mr. Lishia spoke about the racing events that are planned for 2026 including the Penn Mile. He also thanked Todd Mostoller and the HBPA for all their efforts in working out the live race dates. We have a lot of special events planned throughout the year including Camel, Ostrich, Zebra and Corgi races. We'll have several concerts throughout the summer as well.

Mr. Hvizda spoke about the charitable outreach that Penn National has been involved with over the last couple of years including "Penn Heroes" a subset of our Penn Player Rewards program. That's for veterans, active duty and first responders. We were able to donate \$20,000 to the Grantville Volunteer Fire Company. We were able to donate gift cards to Central EMS, and the Pennsylvania Veterans Trust Fund, which is run out of Fort Indiantown Gap. We were able to donate \$120,000 to them, and we're approaching half a million dollars in direct donations to them.

9.) Meadows Racetrack & Casino 3-year License Presentation – Chris McErlane gave a brief history of the Meadows. It is the oldest continuously operating racetrack in the state founded in 1963 by the great horsemen and ambassador for harness racing, Delvin Miller. We're one of only four harness racetracks in the country that race 12 months out of the year.

The Meadows is very proud to be the host of the Delvin Miller Adios, which is one of only 5 Grade One Stakes in the country for harness racing. It is our signature event, and it is just a great day of racing with something for the whole family. The last two years we handled \$1.5 million on the day, it was broadcast live on Fox Sports as well which is a great partnership with the MSOA. We appreciate their help and coordination and not only that but all the marketing special events out at the property that the MSOA help sponsor.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

10.) Motion to Approve the 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule.

Motion By: Commissioner Rogers
Second By: Commissioner Sweeney
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

11.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for December 2025 for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, and The Meadows.

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser
Second By: Commissioner Hoffman
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

12.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for December 2025 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

Motion By: Commissioner Sweeney
Second By: Commissioner Jones
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE OPERATIONAL MATTERS FOR LICENSED RACING ENTITIES:

NOTE: At the request of Commissioner Jones, Prior to the Approvals of each Racetracks Operational and Live Dates request, the Racing Director's from all six tracks gave a brief explanation of their concerns regarding computer assisted wagering "CAW".

13.) Operational Approvals for Penn National:

- i. Requests approval on 105 Live Race Days in 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- ii. Requests approval on Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval on Take out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval on Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval on Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- vi. Requests approval on Simulcast Out for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Sweeney
Second By: Commissioner Rogers
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

14.) Operational Approvals for Presque Isle Downs:

- i. Requests approval for 76 Live Race Dates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- ii. Requests approval for Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval for Take Out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval for Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval for Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

vi. Requests approval for Simulcast Out for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Ellis
Second By: Commissioner Sweeney
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

15.) Operational Approvals for Parx:

- i. Requests approval on 150 Live Race Dates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- ii. Requests approval on Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval on Take out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval on Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval on Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- vi. Requests approval on Simulcast Out for 2026 as submitted and file with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Jones
Second By: Commissioner Sweeney
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

16.) Operational Approvals for The Meadows:

- i. Requests approval on 169 Live Race Dates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- ii. Requests approval on Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval on Take Out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval on Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval on Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- vi. Request approval on Simulcast Out for the 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Rogers
Second By: Commissioner Hoffman
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

17.) Operational Approvals for Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs:

- i. Requests approval on 128 Live Race Dates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

- ii. Requests approval on Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval on Take Out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval on Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval on Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- vi. Requests approval on Simulcast Out for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser

Second By: Commissioner Rogers

Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

18.) Operational Approvals for Harrah's Philadelphia:

- i. Requests approval on 110 Live Racing Dates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- ii. Requests approval on Officials for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iii. Requests approval on Take Out Rates for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- iv. Requests approval on Wagering Format for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- v. Requests approval on Simulcast In for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.
- vi. Requests approval on Simulcast Out for 2026 as submitted and filed with the Commission office.

Motion By: Commissioner Hoffman

Second By: Commissioner Breniser

Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

LICENSING

19.) Race Meet 3-Year License Renewal:

Attorney Augusto read the order granting the renewal request for Penn National, Parx, Harrah's, Meadows, and Pocono and asked for individual motions for each track.

- Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing association, LLC and Penn National Turf Club, LLC (d/b/a Hollywood Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-27)

Motion By: Commissioner Sweeney

Second BY: Commissioner Rogers

Decision: Passed by majority vote, Commissioner Breniser & Hoffman Abstained

- Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. and Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (d/b/a Parx Racetrack & Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-28)

Motion By: Commissioner DeBunda
Second By: Commissioner Sweeney
Decision: Passed by Majority vote, Commissioner's Breniser & Hoffman Abstained
- Chester Downs and Marina, LLC (d/b/a Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack) (Doc. No. 2025-29)

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser
Second By: Commissioner Hoffman
Decision: Passed by majority vote, Commissioner's DeBunda & Jones Abstained
- Mountain Laurel Racing, Inc. and Washington Trotting Association, Inc. (d/b/a The Meadows Racetrack and Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-30)

Motion By: Commissioner Rogers
Second By: Commissioner Breniser
Decision: Passed by Majority vote, Commissioner's DeBunda & Jones Abstained
- Downs Racing, LP (d/b/a Mohegan Pennsylvania (Pocono Downs) (Doc. No. 2025-31)

Motion By: Commissioner Hoffman
Second By: Commissioner Ellis
Decision: Passed by Majority vote, Commissioner's DeBunda & Jones Abstained

20.) Electronic wagering Petitions for 2026:

Attorney Augusto read the proposed order which would apply to all six racetracks seeking approval of their electronic wagering petitions, this was done with one motion in block.

- Chester Downs and Marina, LLC (d/b/a Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack) (Doc. No. 2025-119)
- Downs Racing, LP (d/b/a Mohegan Pennsylvania (Pocono Downs) (Doc. No. 2025-17)
- Mountain Laurel Racing, Inc. and Washington Trotting Association, LLC (d/b/a The Meadows racetrack & Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-21)
- Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. & Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (d/b/a Parx Racetrack & Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-18)
- Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association, LLC & Penn National Turf Club, LLC (d/b/a Hollywood Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-20)
- PID, LLC (d/b/a Presque Isle Downs and Casino) (Doc. No. 2025-22)

Motion By: Commissioner Sweeney
Second By: Commissioner Ellis
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

INDUSTRY REPORTS

21.) General Reports.

Director Salerno recognized the following Industry participants for their reports:

- Chris McErlean, Meadows, thanked the Commission for today's approvals. He announced that Michael Carter will be the new Director of Racing at the Meadows replacing Scott Lishia who is now the Director of Racing at Penn National. We're trying something a little different next year, for the month of January will race 4 days a week and then drop back to a 3 day a week schedule for February, March and April. He also wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.
- Mike Zullinger, Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs, thanked the Commission for their approvals for the 2026 season. He mentioned that they just finished up their 2025 season. We are also very proud of the fact that we had no accidents or equine Fatalities for 2025. The credit goes to our track crew for keeping our racing surface safe. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Matt Ennis, Presque Isle Downs, thanked the Commission for approving PID's three-year license renewal as well as the operational approvals for 2026. He also reported that the 2025 season ended in late October and the backside is now closed for the winter months. Happy to report our export handle was up \$5 million year over year. We also introduced some earlier post times, with the Commission's approval and the response from the community was very positive and we have decided to stick with those changes for 2026. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, thanked the Commission for their approvals for the 2026 season and appreciated the open and frank conversation. Tomorrow, we have our pre-Thanksgiving Stakes Day with five stakes, two of them are \$100,00 PA Bred Stakes, which include the Pennsylvania Nursery Stakes. We're also doing a mandatory distribution on the Philly Big Five, so hopefully it does not get hit today. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia, thanked the Commission for Harrah's approvals for 2026. We took a short break for Thanksgiving and will be returning to racing this Sunday and then we'll have a full month of racing in December to wrap up our season on New Year's Eve. In December we race both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Both have been traditionally great days for us. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Scott Lishia, Penn National, reported we are winding down our season as well. We will be shifting race days at the end of this month in December with a Thursday, Friday schedule for three weeks ending on the 19th. He also thanked Director of Licensing Nicole McCrone for all her help with the licensing process. Just wanted to mention that we had a caretaker event at the track recognizing all the caretaker and all the work that they do without them there's no racing. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Jeff Matty, PTHA, thanked Ashley and her team for helping with the Caretakers' Day. It was very well received by the horsemen, and it was just a great event. We do this in partnership with them, obviously with Joe Wilson and Parx as well. It just gets bigger and better every year, so thanks to everyone that help make it possible.

We are very much looking forward to the new Turf course that will be coming in 2026. In a time when our board has disagreed on a lot over the years, this is one thing that were all in agreement on. So very much looking forward to 2026 and the options for the turf Course.

Finally, this is an election year for the PTHA. So, we've sent out roughly 2200 ballots to all our membership and we will be electing new board members as well as a new president. We will have the results in the first week of January. Just want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, reported that slots revenue to the Thoroughbred Breeders Fund is up approximately \$1.6 million, but a good portion of that increase is because of money not being taken out for testing during budget issues.

He attended a Breeders workshop for the Mid-Atlantic region, where many issues were discussed, the number of mares bred, decline in foal crop, funding shortages. We also talked about what other states were trying, for example Maryland and Virginia are having meets where they both are putting aside money so that breeder's awards can be paid in each state. He also talked about a new rating system that the Jockey club has come up with that will allow horses with the same ratings to race against each other, hopefully creating more competitive fields.

He also talked about the possibility of having some new stallions moving into Pennsylvania soon and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Mike Simpson, PA Standardbred Breeders thanked everyone who attended the Standardbred Horse Sale and noted that it was the best sale they have had in its 87-year history.
- Mike Harrant, Executive Director of the PHHA thanked Mike Zullinger and his staff at Pocono for a successful and safe meet. He noted that there are only 13 race days left at Harrah's and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Todd Mostoller, PAHBPA had no report this month.
- Dawnelle Mock, Executive Director MSOA reported that Caretakers Day went off great. Our caretakers are always appreciative of the joint effort with the PHRA and the Meadows. We gave out free lunch, hoodies, and socks. Looking forward to Michael Carter coming on board. I would also like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Bryan Langlois requested the Commission investigate an incident that occurred at the start of the 2nd race at Parx on November 11th. As the horses broke from the gate, one of them lost their rider. Horse and rider were fine but there was a change in the odds after the gate opened. Giving the impression that someone was able to cancel their ticket after the gate had opened.

Dr Langlois acknowledged that the Commission had a hot line for welfare complaints or integrity issues but asked if wagering complaints could be made on that hot line as well.

Chairman Redding confirmed that all complaints, whether for equine safety and welfare or integrity as well as wagering complaints can be left on the main Integrity hotline.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Redding thanked the staff for all their hard work and announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. The Meeting location is PDA Lobby Conference room and Teams. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Executive Session 10:30 A.M.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By: Commissioner Sweeney

Second By: Commissioner Ruddy

Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Chuckas Jr.
Bureau Director
Bureau of Thoroughbred Horse Racing

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing