

Minnesota Racing Commission
Meeting

Monday, July **15**, 2024

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**Full Commission Meeting
Monday, July 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Nutrena Conference Center
1801 Dudley Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55108**

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2024

Action Items

- 5) Authorizing Resolution to Proceed with Rulemaking and Publish Request for Comments: Proposed Amendments to Rules Governing Horse Racing, Minnesota Rules, Parts 7869-7897
- 6) Aftercare Grant Awards
- 7) Running Aces Request for Approval of Seasonal Racing Official

Informational Items

- 8) Status Reports
 - A. Canterbury Park Entertainment
 - B. Running Aces Casino, Hotel, and Racetrack
- 9) Staff Reports
 - A. Chief Commission Veterinarian's Report
 1. Industrial Laboratories RTI Proficiency Test Results
 - B. Chief State Steward's Report
 - C. Presiding Judge's Report

10) Executive Director's Report

- A. Tribal Consultation
- B. Contract Approval
- C. HISA/HIWU Update
- D. Personnel Update
- E. ADW Report
- F. Licensing Report
- G. Other

11) MQHRA/MTA/MHRI/MNHBPA Reports

12) Future Meetings – Full Commission Meeting August 19, 2024 – Nutrena Conference Center

13) Adjourn

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Item 4 –
Minutes from
Commission Meeting
June 17, 2024

Full Commission Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.
Nutrena Conference Center
1801 Dudley Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

MINUTES

Call to Order:

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair McArdle called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roll Call:

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

Present –Chair McArdle, Commissioners Dehn, Gingold, and Koob. A quorum was acknowledged.

Other participants – Kyle Gustafson (Executive Director, Minnesota Racing Commission), E. Joseph Newton (General Counsel, Minnesota Racing Commission), Penny Nelson (Deputy Director, Minnesota Racing Commission), Dr. Lynn Hovda (Chief Veterinarian, Minnesota Racing Commission), Casey Larson (Presiding Judge, Minnesota Racing Commission), John Groen (General Manager, Canterbury Park Entertainment), Amber Carlisle (Senior Manager of Racing Operations, Canterbury Park Entertainment), Javier Barajas (Track Superintendent, Canterbury Park), Aaron Bedessem, (Director of Marketing, Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack), Steve Carpenito (Director of Racing, Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack), Josh Gago (Director of Casino Management, Running Aces), Jason Norby (Shift Manager, Running Aces), Cathy Dessert (Vice President, Minnesota Harness Racing, Inc.) Mike Cronin (Minnesota Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association).

Adoption of Agenda:

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Agenda

Amended agenda to add Action Item 5 B. Variance Petition to MRC 7873.0188 Subp. 7 regarding restrictions on superfecta wagering. Commissioner Gingold motioned to approve the amended agenda and agenda; Second by Commissioner Koob; Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes:

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Dehn motioned to approve the May 20, 2024, minutes; Second by Commissioner Gingold. Motion passed.

Action Items:

Agenda Item 5 –

A. Running Aces Request for Stadium Texas Hold'em

Mr. Gago & Mr. Norby presented. Requesting to replace our existing Stadium Three Card Poker to Stadium Ultimate Texas Hold'em. Ultimate Texas Hold'em is an approved table game on our gaming floor. Stadium Ultimate Texas Hold'em is a dealer assisted table game version of the already approved game offered by Light & Wonder. Cards are dealt from an electronic shoe by a dealer and a digital facsimile of those cards is displayed on a terminal for players to play. All buy in's, cash outs, bets, and payouts are handled electronically by the player terminals. Commissioner Gingold motioned the Approval of Running Aces Request for Stadium Texas Hold'em: Second by Commissioner Dehn; Motion passed.

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B. Variance Petition to MRC 7873.0188 Subp. 7

Mr. Groen Presented. Requesting a variance to MRC 7873.0188 Subp 7 regarding restrictions on superfecta wagering. Earlier this year, Canterbury Park requested a change to this rule which would reduce the number of betting interests required for offering Superfecta wagers from six to five. The requested change was unanimously approved at the Full Meeting of the Minnesota Racing Commission on February 15, 2024. The rule as approved by the MRC and upon approval by an Administrative Law Judge will read: "Restrictions on superfecta races. In no event shall superfecta wagering be allowed with fewer than five betting interests. If for any reason superfecta wagering is canceled, all superfecta wagers must be refunded." While we await final adoption of the rule packet, Canterbury Park respectfully submits this discretionary variance petition to allow the track to begin accepting superfecta wagering on races with five betting interests as soon as possible. Commissioner Gingold motioned the Approval of Canterbury Park Request for Variance Petition 7873.0188 Subp. 7: Second by Commissioner Koob; Motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Staff Reports

- A. Chief Veterinarian's Report** – Dr. Hovda - Running Aces - Update on Cardiac Study. One catastrophic injury resulting in death, first in 4-5 years. Canterbury Park – HISA Accreditation, 1st HISA Safety Meeting coming up. One horse deceased from colic. Horse Ambulance number two has been retrofitted. HISA – named to the Sudden Death Committee.
- B. Judges' Report** – Mr. Larson reviewed the Judges monthly report for May 2024 from the packet and the incident on 5/28/24 when the horse sustained the catastrophic injury.
- C. Stewards Report**

Agenda Item 7 Racing Surfaces Reports

- A. Running Aces Casino and Racetrack** – Mr. Carpenito outlined the letter in the packet from Track Superintendent Ryan Hertling.
- B. Canterbury Park Entertainment** – Mr. Groen & Mr. Barajas discussed the letter in the packet. Chair McArdle asked Mr. Barajas about the new 7-furlong chute.

Agenda Item 8 – Status Reports

A. Canterbury Park Entertainment Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack

Mr. Groen – First 11 days of racing total handle is up 10% mostly due to out of state handle. Starters per race are up to 7.39 from 6.4 from a year ago. Percentage of favorites winning is down from last year to more of the national average of 35%. Father's Day 9,500 in attendance. Coming weekend is the Northern Stars Turf Festival. This past Saturday did end up canceling after one race, has been a lot of rain. HISA Accreditation process, report back September/October. FTC approved new HISA rules, which go into effect July 8, 2024. Development - 7-furlong chute waiting for a dry day to do some final grading, Amphitheater project the city is moving forward with the road construction on that property in July. Trackside Development - starting to haul in dirt and that is moving forward.

B. Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack

Mr. Carpenito First 13 nights of our meet pleased with the results. Strong horse population. 98 in the box compared to 83 at this time last year, 18% increase. Number of starters averaged 8.1 starters per race. Racing has been competitive, out of the 122 races there are five drivers that have won double digit races. The purse account has paid out more than \$1.1 million, represents a 13% decrease from 2023. Live Handle is down 15%, could be attributed to poor weather. Total handle is down 21%. Thinks numbers are going to regulate, also once fans get used to post time change, the track will see some improvement. Mr. Bedessem – Track is holding up well with all the rain. Great crowds even with the weather and school nights, lots of new faces. Trout fishing successful and doing well. Concerts start next Friday.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report

- A. Tribal Consultation Policy Development Update** – Working with several drafts of policies of similar size agencies as a starting point to bring a draft to the commission for approval. In the process of trying to schedule several consultations with tribes over the course of the summer.
- B. Contract Approvals**
- C. HISA Update** - HISA published 2024 First Quarter Metrics Report. FTC Approved Racetrack Safety and Registration Rule Modification to take effect July 8, 2024.
- D. Personnel Update**
- E. ADW Report**
- F. Licensing Report**
- G. Other**

Item 16 – MQHRA/MTA/MHRI/MNHBPA Reports

MHRI – Cathy Dessert – AJ has been doing barn tours, 7 so far. Reinstated jog cart rides on Sundays, fans enter a drawing where they get to do one lap around the racetrack with a driver, get to know the driver one on one and everybody who does it comes out with a giant smile. Invited all commissioners to Horse Racing Celebration June 30th including Ron Banks Memorial Race and This Old Horse.

MNHBPA – Mike Cronin – Every week we are having good meetings keeping the lines of communication open on safety concerns in the stable area and staying on top of things with Horsemen and Canterbury Park Management. Meet with HISA also last week. Furlong Learning has created a sponsorship with Northfield Construction in building a clubhouse for the kids that can be moved to various places to create a garden village area around the chapel.

Item 17 – Future Meetings

Full Commission Meeting Monday, July 15, 2024 @ 4:00 pm at Nutrena Conference Center.

Item 18 – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Dehn. Chair McArdle adjourned the meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 5:12 p.m.

THESE MEETING MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024 BY A QUORUM OF THE MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION.

Action Items

Item 5 –

Authorizing Resolution to
Proceed with Rulemaking and
Publish Request for Comments:
Proposed Amendments to
Rules Governing Horse Racing,
Minnesota Rules, Parts
7869-7897

Item 6 –
Aftercare Grant Awards

Racehorse Aftercare Committee

2024 Aftercare Grant Recommendations

On June 26, 2024, the Racehorse Aftercare Committee met and voted to recommend to the full Commission the following grant distributions:

This Old Horse	\$128,010
Bowman's Second Chance Thoroughbred Adoption	\$41,990

Additionally, the Committee recommends that \$10,000, along with \$3,200 of the unspent emergency reserve from last year, be reserved for emergency situations, to be used upon recommendation by the Commission's veterinarians.

Item 7 –
Running Aces
Request for
Approval of Seasonal
Racing Official

July 3, 2024

Mr. Kyle Gustafson, Executive Director
Minnesota Racing Commission
15201 Zurich St., Suite 212
Columbus, MN 55025

Subject: MRC Rules 7877.0110 subp. 4
Running Aces 2024 Racing Official Submission

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

North Metro Harness Initiative, LLC d/b/a Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack, respectfully submits for your review and approval an additional employee with responsibilities related to the 2024 Live Racing season.

- Jessica Johnson – Outrider (To serve as a backup for Mr. Scott)

We appreciate your consideration of Running Aces Racing Officials for the 2024 Live Racing Season. Please contact me with any related questions, concerns or comments at 651-925-4532.

Sincerely,



Taro Ito, President & CEO

Jessica Johnson

Outrider

Jessica Johnson

Skills

-
- Professional Standardbred Horse Trainer
 - USTA "G" Training License
 - Outrider
 - USTA "P" Driving License
 - Breaking, Training, Showing Dressage and Event horses at the Third Level, and Training Level (Respectively)
 - First Aid Certified

Experience

Watch and Wager (Cal Expo) / State Licensed Outrider

December 2023- May 2024

- Part-time Morning Outrider
- Race night on-call backup

Sunborn Stables /Working Student and Assistant Trainer

2000-2009

2000- 2007 Working Student through Highschool

- Starting babies under saddle
- Building horse-first relationships and Training of multiple breeds
- Retraining OTTB's
- Conditioning horses for Competition

2008-2009 - Assistant Trainer

- Daily training of horses in a training program
- Show preparation

Roland Racing - Barn Manager

2011-Present

- Ensure daily workout program and feeding schedule is followed.
- Assist in exercising, training, and coordinating race-night schedule.
- Extensive knowledge of racetrack equipment, race track scenarios, how to assist in high-stress situations.

Education

USTA Outriding Clinic / attendee

August 2023

- Attended the inaugural formal outriding clinic put on by the USTA.

USEA/USEF Competitor and Clinician

2001-2020

Twenty years of equine competition experience in Area IV and Area X

- Dressage through 3rd Level
- Eventing through Training Level
- Jumpers to 3'6"

Attended clinics with riders and vets from all over the country.

Marshalltown Community College/ Associates of Arts

Chicago Lakes Highschool/ Class of 2008

Item 9 –

Staff Reports

A. Chief Veterinarian's Report

1. Industrial Laboratories RTI
Proficiency Test Results

**Veterinarian's Report
Canterbury Park
April 22 through June 27, 2024**

Medication Violations - 0

- Racing - 0
 - Confirmed
 - NSAID
 - CORTICOSTEROID
 - Dexamethasone
 - Betamethasone
 - Triamcinolone
 - Methylprednisolone
 - OTHER
 - Split sample or appeal - 0
- Workout - 0
- Other - 0

DVM Violations - 0

Samples Submitted

- HISA Post-Race Testing
 - Blood and Urine - 183
 - Blood only - 28
- HISA TCO2 - 84
- HISA Out of Competition Testing - 43
- Quarterhorse Post-Race Testing
 - Blood and Urine - 15
 - Blood only - 0
- Deceased Horses - 0
 - Hair and Blood
 - Blood only
 - Hair only
- Research - 0
- Special (needles, syringes, bottles, etc.) - 0
- Workout - 21 blood samples
 - TB - 19
 - QH - 2
- AQHA Challenge Hair - 0

Current Veterinarian's List

- **Total - 103 (includes 59 from prior years)**
 - Bled - 4
 - Ill - 3
 - Injured - 15
 - Non-Ill - 3
 - Unsound - 49
 - Medication Problem - 0
 - Workout Needed - 20

Restricted List Horses Examined (unraced for more than 180 days) - 132

**Veterinarian's Report
Canterbury Park
April 22 through June 27, 2024**

Horses Working for DVM

- **Total - 21 (19 TB, 2 QH);** 18 made time, 3 did not
 - Off greater than one year - 5
 - 4-Year-old and greater first-time starters -3
 - On Vet's List (MN and other states) - 13
 - Cornell collar - 0
 - Steward's List - 0
 - Other

Ambulance Use

- **Total - 7**
 - Backside - 0
 - Detention Barn - 1
 - Racetrack – 6 total
 - Main – 4 (3 racing, 1 training)
 - Turf - 2
 - Paddock
 - Training Track

Deceased Horses

- **Total - 1**
 - Racing - 0
 - Dirt Track
 - Turf Track
 - Starting Gate
 - Paddock
 - Training - 0
 - Illness/Other - 1

Claims (Total) - 20

Claims Voided Due to Veterinary Reasons - 2

Veterinarian's Report
Running Aces Harness Park
May 9 - June 25, 2024

Medication Violations Reported by Industrial Laboratories

- Racing - **0**
 - NSAIDS - 0
 - CORTICOSTEROIDS - 0
 - OTHER - 0
 - Out for split sample or appeal - 0
- Workout - **0**
- Other - **0**

DVM Violations - 0

Post-race Testing - 400 (368 race/32 qualifiers)

- Blood Only - **101** (97 race/4 qualifiers)
- Blood and Urine - **299** (271 race/28 qualifiers)

Workout Samples - 0

Research Samples - 0

Deceased Horse Sample - 1 (blood and hair)

Out of Competition Testing - 9 (1 blood/8 hair)

TCO2 tests - 57

Current Veterinarian's List - 17 (3 from 2023 meet)

- Bled - **1**
- Ill - **3**
- Injured - **8** (2 post-race, 5 AM, 1 from 2023)
- Non-Ill - **1**
- Unsound - **3** (1 post-race, 2 from 2023)
- Medication Problem - **1**

Horses Working for DVM

- Off > year - **0**
- On Vet's List - **6**
- Cornell collar - **0**

Ambulance Use - 1

- Backside - **0**
- Racetrack - **1**

Deceased Horses - 1

- Racing - **1**
- Illness/Other - **0**

Successful Claims - 6

Voided Claim - 1 (Non veterinary)



Racing Medication and Testing Individual Final Report

Occasion 1

Report Number: 2024-01-Lab 02-01
Issued: May 26, 2024

Provided by

Amy Evans, Proficiency Test Coordinator
RTI International
Center for Forensic Sciences
3040 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Telephone 919-316-3963
www.rti.org



To: Industrial Laboratories Company, Inc

Thank you for participating in the Racing Medication and Testing PT program. The evaluation of participating laboratories was based on the ability to correctly identify the analytes present in each sample. Below is the sample matrix that was distributed for this occasion and the results reported by your laboratory.

Sample	Analytes	Target	Result Reported	Satisfactory Results	Unsatisfactory Results	Not Assessed
Urine 1	Ibuprofen	1,500 ng/mL	Ibuprofen	1	0	0
Urine 2	Piroxicam	1,500 ng/mL	Piroxicam	1	0	0
Plasma 1	Fluphenazine and Fluphenazine sulfoxide	0.6 ng/mL 0.6 ng/mL	Fluphenazine	1	0	0

Your laboratory did not have any unsatisfactory results for this occasion.

Your laboratory identification number is **Lab 02**. This identification number corresponds to your laboratory results in the final group report.

Evaluation Criteria

For this qualitative survey, laboratories were evaluated as follows:

- Participants were marked “unsatisfactory” if they reported a drug to be present when it was not (false positive) or if they failed to report a drug that was present (false negative).
- They were not marked “unsatisfactory” for matrices or analytes that they do not test for.

Disclosure

PT results must be kept confidential. Information must not be disclosed without permission from the proficiency test provider, except as required to support results reported for donor specimens, or as required by RMTTC policies.

For questions or additional information, please contact Amy Evans at aevans@rti.org.

Revision History:

Revision Number	Revision Details	Effective Date of Revision
01	This is the initial report. There are no revisions at this time.	5/26/24

Item 9 –

Staff Reports

B. Chief State

Steward's Report

Board of Stewards Monthly Report Through June 30, 2024

It is fair to say that this has been a relatively uneventful meet thus far. Besides having to cancel races 2-8 June 15th due to inclement weather, there have been no other major incidents.

Of note, for the past few years, the Stewards have requested a camera that shows a head-on view of the turf straight-away, and there was an incident where this camera would have provided quick resolution. The only head-on view available for turf races has poles that block the view of specific portions of the starting gate. In one race this season, the #1 horse reared in the gate, and because of the obstructed view, the Steward were unable to have a clear head-on view of what happened.

This set of races so far this season have been run very cleanly with only 3 jockey rulings. These were for minor offenses leading to two with 3-day suspensions, and one with a fine.

Claiming at Canterbury Park is on par with last year, which maintains the sharp decline that we saw from previous years. This year has seen 26 claims compared with 24 in 2023, down from approximately 120 at this point in the 2022 season.

It has come to our attention that the Canterbury Park race day program no longer includes the names of the Minnesota Racing Commission Commissioners, staff, or Stewards. This is a departure from the past and from the broad industry standard, so it is notable.

We hope that this season continues the uneventful way that it has started because we sure do like it that way!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kurt J. [unclear]", written in a cursive style.

Item 9 –
Staff Reports
C. Presiding Judge's
Report

Judges Report - June 2024

The 2024 Racing program at Running Aces has had a tremendous start to the year. Even with some disastrous rain weather the Track Crew at Running Aces has kept the surface in tip top shape and in excellent racing condition.

The month of June ended with the Ron Banks Memorial on Sunday 6/30/2024 with an exciting field of 9 celebrating a great individual who had a positive impact on Minnesota Racing.

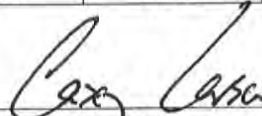
Here are the rulings for the month of June:

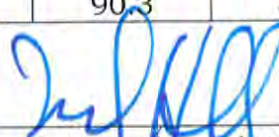
Other Than Wrist Action	2 - \$200
Feet Off Of Pegs	1 - \$200
Failure To Set Or Maintain Proper Pace	5 - \$600
No Saddlepad During Warmup	1 - \$100
Failure to Complete Licensing	1 - \$100
Expired Health Certificate	1 - \$100
Unlicensed Employe in Barn Area	2 - \$500
Changing Course in Stretch	1 - \$200
Unprofessional Actions	1 - \$200
Illegal Administration of Medication	1 - \$500
Unapproved Whip	2 - \$200
Late To Paddock	1 - \$100

The Judges have been pleased to see the entire box full this year with almost 12 races daily to provide ample racing for the participants here in Minnesota. The racing has provided and extremally great number of close races which has made it an exciting outing for many fans. Running Aces once again does an amazing job of being an extremely family friendly environment for their fanbase.

Here at the stats thru the end of June:

Month	Races	Entries	Starters	Horse Per Race	Purse	On Track	Total Handle
May	9.5	97.5	77.5	8.2	\$77,433	\$10,866	\$173,465
June	10.9	100.1	90.3	8.3	\$106,338	\$13,525	\$225,114


Casey Larson
Presiding Judge


Michael Hall
Associate Judge

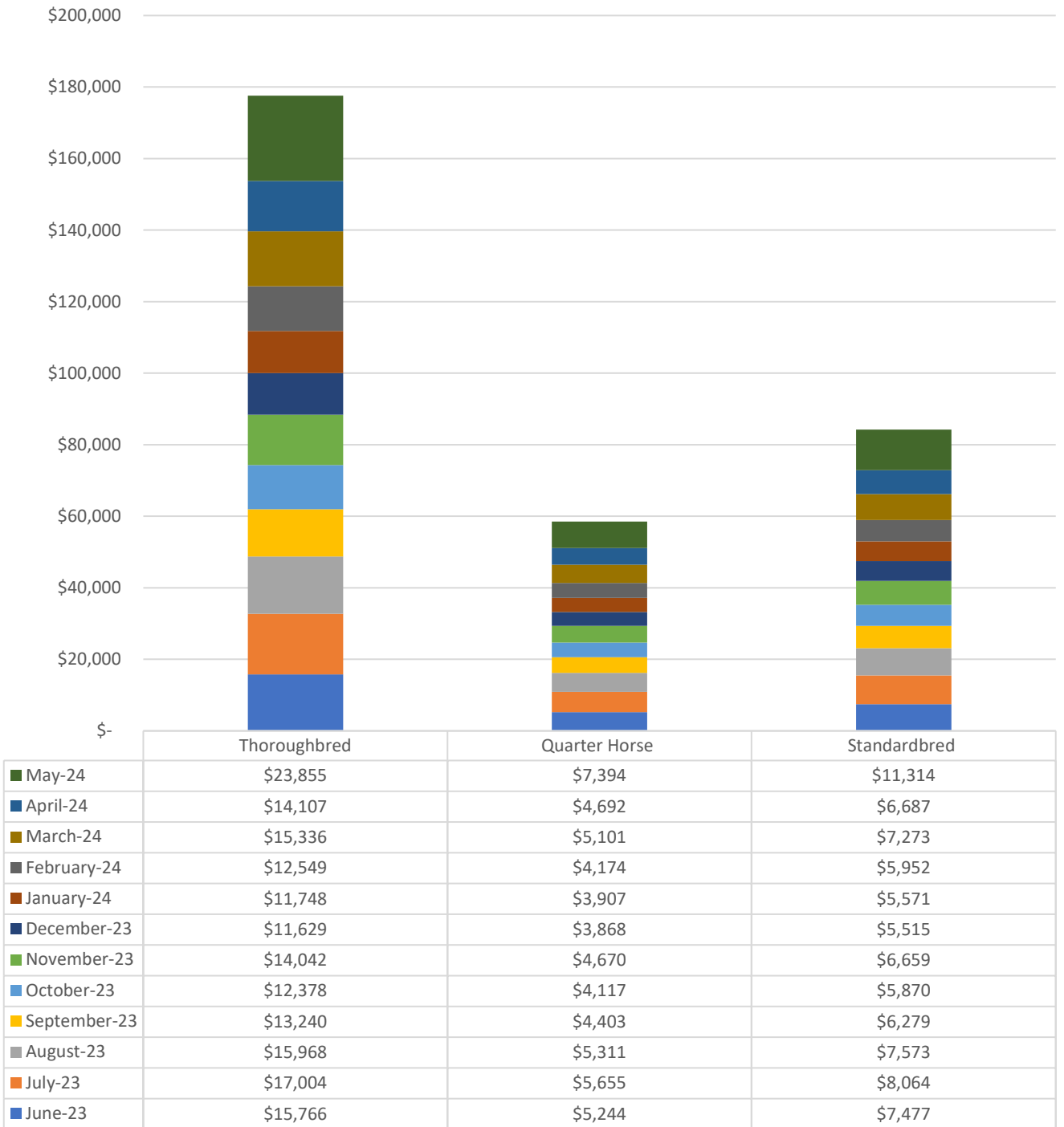

John Yinger
Associate Judge

Item 10 – Executive Directors Report

- A. Tribal Consultation
- B. Contract Approvals
- C. HISA/HIWU Update
- D. Personnel Update
- E. ADW Report
- F. Licensing Report
- G. Other

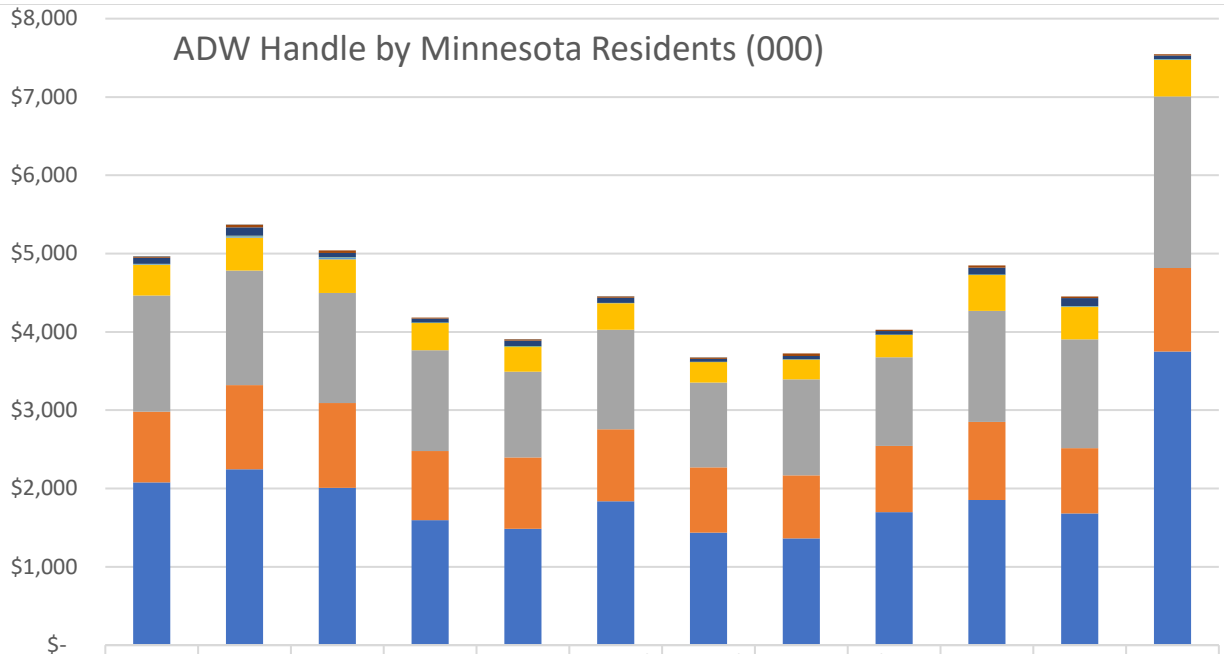
Item 10 –
E. ADW Report

Incremental Breeders Awards via ADW



June-23
 July-23
 August-23
 September-23
 October-23
 November-23
 December-23
 January-24
 February-24
 March-24
 April-24
 May-24

ADW Handle by Minnesota Residents (000)



	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
■ Premier Turf Club	\$6	\$1	\$-	\$-	\$1	\$1	\$3	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
■ Horse Tourneys	\$13	\$30	\$31	\$13	\$16	\$19	\$13	\$32	\$18	\$26	\$21	\$14
■ Lien Games	\$78	\$109	\$55	\$47	\$73	\$63	\$39	\$40	\$45	\$86	\$103	\$48
■ WatchandWager.com LLC	\$4	\$5	\$3	\$2	\$7	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$3
■ eBet Technologies	\$9	\$16	\$26	\$6	\$3	\$4	\$3	\$3	\$3	\$7	\$9	\$7
■ NYRA Bets (NewCo Ventures)	\$391	\$424	\$430	\$350	\$314	\$338	\$258	\$256	\$286	\$458	\$412	\$468
■ TVG (ODS Tech)	\$1,484	\$1,461	\$1,405	\$1,286	\$1,098	\$1,272	\$1,085	\$1,223	\$1,130	\$1,419	\$1,388	\$2,189
■ Xpressbet, LLC	\$903.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,083.00	\$883.00	\$909.00	\$918.00	\$833.00	\$804.00	\$846.00	\$995.00	\$836.00	\$1,067.00
■ Twinspires.com	\$2,078	\$2,246	\$2,008	\$1,596	\$1,486	\$1,837	\$1,437	\$1,365	\$1,698	\$1,854	\$1,681	\$3,749

Item 10-

F. Licensing Report

Minnesota Racing Commission

June 2024 Licensing Report

Class C Applications Processed at Canterbury Park: 322

Class C Applications Processed at Running Aces: 56

Class C Large Racing/Gaming Vendors:

Class C Small Racing/Gaming Vendors:

Class C Non-racing/Gaming Vendors: 4

Class C Licensing Fees for June 2024: **\$18,945**

Fingerprint Fees for June 2024: **\$4,075**

(Fingerprint fees are forwarded to Public Safety for processing reports)

Fines Collected during 2024 Racing Season: **\$4,650**