

**Minnesota Racing Commission
Meeting**

Monday, September 16, 2024

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**Full Commission Meeting
Monday, September 16, 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 August 19, 2024
- 5) Action Items
 - A. Committee Appointments
- 6) Staff Reports
 - A. Chief Veterinarian
 - B. Stewards
 - C. Judges
- 7) Status Reports
 - A. Canterbury Park Entertainment
 - B. Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack
- 8) Executive Director's Report
 - A. Contract Approvals
 - B. HISA/HIWU Update
 - C. Personnel Update
 - D. ADW Report
 - E. Licensing Report
 - F. Other
- 9) MHRI/MNHBPA/MQHRA Updates

10) Announce Future Meetings

A. Full Commission – Thursday, October 17, 2024

11) Adjourn

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Item 4 –
Minutes from
Commission Meeting
August 19, 2024

Full Commission Meeting

Monday, August 19, 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 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

Present –Chair McArdle, Commissioners Benjamin, Colombo, Dehn, Gingold, Goodman, 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 Commission Veterinarian, Minnesota Racing Commission), Casey Larson (Presiding Judge, Minnesota Racing Commission), John Groen (General Manager, Canterbury Park Entertainment), Aaron Bedessem, (Director of Marketing, Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack), Steve Carpenito (Director of Racing, Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack), 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

Commissioner Dehn motioned to approve the agenda; Second by Commissioner Gingold; Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes:

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Goodman motioned to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes; Second by Commissioner Gingold. Motion passed.

Action Items:

Agenda Item 5 –

A. New Business

1. Election of Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair

Chair McArdle asked for nominations. Commissioner Koob was nominated for Vice Chair. Commissioner Dehn was nominated for Second Vice Chair. Commissioner Gingold motioned the Approval of the Election of Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair: Second by Commissioner Colombo; Motion passed.

2. Committee Appointments

Chair McArdle asked for Mr. Gustafson to hand out the list of the current 2023/2024 Committee Structure and to briefly explain what each committee does. Commissioner Goodman then commented that this is something that should have been worked out and discussed in advance of this meeting. Commissioner Dehn motioned to table this issue until next month's meeting: Second by Commissioner Gingold; Motion passed.

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3. Running Aces Request for Interior Remodeling/Contracts

Mr. Bedessem presented from the packet. The building is 17 years old and needs a refresh and to be made more user friendly. There are two contracts one is for the technology the other for the remodeling. Start of the project is late September to early October and it will be a 23-week process. Commissioner Dehn motioned the Approval Running Aces Request for Interior Remodeling/Contracts: Second by Commissioner Koob; Motion passed.

Informational Items:

Agenda Item 6 – Staff Reports

- A. Chief Veterinarian's Report** – Dr. Hovda reviewed the report from the packet. She added that the New HISA rules that went into in effect July 8th have been a struggle. The 7 Furlong Chute test was successful.
- B. Stewards Report**
- C. Judges Report** – Mr. Larson reviewed the report from the packet. Added Dan Patch night had to cancel part of the night due to weather, 4" of rain in a matter of hours. Mr. Larson then reviewed an incident from the 7th race the night before when a horse pulled up, it did make it off the track but collapsed off the track. Want to thank the State vets and Running Aces who tended to the horse immediately, did have to cancel the remainder of the night due to Lasix restrictions and this incident. Horse was taken to the university and is doing well. The association agreed to pay out the purses for the canceled races equally to all participants entered and ready to race.

Agenda Item 7 – Status Reports

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

Mr. Groen – Horses per start 6.4 2023, 7.2 2024. Out of state handle is up 27%, on track handle is flat. Development - 7-furlong chute official race yesterday had positive response from everyone. Stable gate was moved Friday to its new location. Road projects have started and will continue after the race meet. Boardwalk Restaurant land transfer and closing anticipate taking place later this week. 12,000 in attendance over 2 days of the Rodeo, great response. Saturday was the Leg Up Day, raised tens of thousands of dollars for injured jockeys. Festival of Champions is August 31, 2024.

B. Running Aces Casino, Hotel and Racetrack

Mr. Bedessem - Held a mock race to take new photos, went good will have new materials soon. Rocking the Racetrack concert went great, huge crowd, packed stands. One more event coming up after the season, Freedom Fest September 28, 2024. Setting up Running Aces State Fair Booth. Mr. Carpenito – continue to be pleased with the racing, in the box field size up substantially over 2023. Competitive and exciting racing, all age track records on both pacing and trotting. Last night's Steve Wiseman Memorial Trot had a thrilling four horse photo finish. The winner, All Champy is trained by Kathy Plested, Steve's window and driven by Lemoyne Svendsen, Steve's best friend. The rest of the card was canceled due to an equine emergency, horse is doing well and will get to go home today. Trainer Williams Hernandez expressed he wanted to thank MRC staff, Aces staff as well as fellow horsemen who pitched in to assist last night leading to a positive outcome. Mr. Carpenito wanted to acknowledge and thank them also. 15 nights of racing remaining in the 2024 meet including next Tuesday race night to benefit the Invisible Wounds Project. Closing night, September 21, 2024, is Minnesota Night of Champions where \$780,000 will be paid out in purse money to the best Minnesota sired Standardbreds.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Director's Report

A. Contract Approvals

- B. HISA/HIWU Update** – HISA 2024 Q2 Metrics Report in the packet. Implementing the rule changes from July 8th in the middle of a race meet has been far from ideal. Our vets have done an incredible job navigating but it comes with a significant burden on the veterinary staff. The vets have expressed that they have flipped as far as the allocation of time that they are spending more time working on the burdensome paperwork for the platform then with our horses which is unfortunate. Bottom line is the safety of the horses, safety and integrity of racing.

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- C. Personnel Update** - vets office assistant will be going back to college after this week, Kay King will be taking over as the Vets office assistant.
- D. ADW Report**
- E. Licensing Report**
- F. Other**

Item 11 – MQHRA/MTA/MHRI/MNHBPA Reports

MHRI – Cathy Dessert – University of Wisconsin River Falls program through This Old Horse have three students that are requesting Standardbreds this year and she will be suppling. Tratter House social media visited the track, interested in harness racing, could be a great asset in the future. State Fair will have Standardbreds, 2 private owners are bringing four to the state fair, stop by and visit them in the horse barn. One of them is grey. Houles Feed Store Forest Lake held an event August 11th, Harness Racing Extravaganza, to bring attention to Standardbreds and Harness Racing to the Forest Lake area. Successful event and probably will continue next year. Can check out video and pictures on their page. Commented on the equine incident and how everyone pulled together as a community to care for the horse, it was amazing.

MNHBPA – Mike Cronin – Wanted to commend the Aftercare committee it is the gold standard and do such good work. Elections are September 5th, 3 open seats to owners and 1 seat open to a trainer. For the Leg Up Day, the Furlong Learning kids, ages 5 -12, did about 40 pieces of artwork paintings. They sold out and have about another dozen orders.

Item 12 – Future Meetings

Full Commission Meeting Monday, September 16, 2024 @ 4:00 pm at Nutrena Conference Center.

Item 13 – Adjournment

Chair McArde adjourned the meeting on Monday, August 19, 2024, at 4:57 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 – A
Committee
Appointments

2023/2024 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

All commissioners are invited to attend as non-voting members of any committee meeting

Executive Committee (previously Compliance Committee)

Comprised of committee chairs from each committee

Camille McArdle, Chair

Barbara Columbo

Lisa Goodman

Alan Gingold

Julie Idlekope

Administration Committee

Legislative Affairs, Licensing, Public Information (Communications), Affirmative Action, Personnel, Drug and Alcohol Testing Policies and Procedures

Julie Idlekope, Chair

Lisa Goodman

David Koob

Finance Committee

Financial Oversight, Wagering Integrity, Pari-Mutuel and Card Club Operations, Breeders Fund, Security and Surveillance, Internal Controls

Alan Gingold, Chair

Barbara Colombo

Ray Dehn

Racing Committee

Safety and Welfare, Stewards and Judges, Rules, Medication, Review of Class A and B Licenses, License Review, Breeding Industry, Advisory Committees, Strategic Planning and Racing Dates

Barbara Columbo, Chair

Ray Dehn

Camille McArdle

Racehorse Aftercare Committee

Develop Policies and Procedures for distribution of public funds dedicated to racehorse aftercare

Lisa Goodman, Chair

Barb Colombo

David Koob

11/28/2023

Item 6 –
Staff Reports
A. Chief Veterinarian

Veterinarian's Report
Canterbury Park
April 22 through August 31, 2024

Medication Violations - 1

- Racing - 1
 - **Confirmed**
 - NSAID
 - CORTICOSTEROID
 - Dexamethasone - 1 (HISA)
 - 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 - 574
 - Blood only - 61
- HISA TCO2 - 275
- HISA Out of Competition - 96
- Quarter Horse post-race testing
 - Blood and Urine - 81
 - Blood only - 2
- Deceased Horses - 2
 - Hair and Blood - 1
 - Blood only - 1
 - Hair only - 0
- Research - 0
- Special (needles, syringes, bottles, etc.) -1
- Workout - 45
- AQHA Challenge Hair - 5 total

Current Veterinarian's List

- **Total - 89**
 - Bled - 2
 - Ill - 5
 - Injured - 12
 - Intra-articular Injection - 8
 - Non-Ill - 1
 - Unsound - 41
 - Medication Problem - 0
 - Workout Needed - 20

Restricted List Horses Examined - 142

Veterinarian's Report
Canterbury Park
April 22 through August 31, 2024

Horses Working for DVM

- **Total - 45 (2 QH, 43 TB);** 5 didn't make time, 2 lame post work
 - Off greater than one year -10
 - 4-Year-old and greater first-time starters - 4
 - On Vet's List (MN and other states) - 31
 - Cornell collar - 0
 - Steward's List - 0
 - Other - 0

Ambulance Use

- **Total - 11**
 - Backside - 0
 - Detention Barn - 2
 - Racetrack - 8
 - Main - 6 (5 during racing, 1 in training)
 - Turf - 3
 - Paddock - 0
 - Training Track - 0

Deceased Horses

- **Total - 2**
 - Racing - 1
 - Dirt Track -1
 - Turf Track
 - Starting Gate
 - Paddock
 - Training - 0
 - Illness/Other - 1

Claims (Total) - 55 successful claims for \$579, 250

Claims Voided Due to Veterinary Reasons - 5

Veterinarian's Report
Running Aces Harness Park
August 1st-August 28th

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 - 266 (260 race/6 qualifier)

- Blood Only - 70 (68 race/2 qualifier)
- Blood and Urine - 196 (192 race/4 qualifier)

Workout Samples - 0

Research Samples - 0

OCT - 0

TCO2 tests - 68

Current Veterinarian's List - 40 (3 from 2023)

- Bled - **0**
- Ill - **5** (4 AM, 1 PM)
- Injured - **16** (8 AM, 1 PM, 6 post-race, 1 from 2023)
- Non-Ill - **4**
- Unsound - **15** (5 AM, 5 PM, 3 post-race, 2 from 2023)

Horses Working for DVM

- Off > year - **2**
- On Vet's List - **7**
- Cornell collar - **0**

Ambulance Use - 0

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

Deceased Horses - 0

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

Claims - There have been 8 claims this month at Running Aces Harness Park.

Item 6 –
B. Stewards

Board of Stewards Monthly Report Through September 5, 2024

The month of August was a month of great racing capped off by the Festival of Champions featuring 8 races comprised of all Minnesota Bred horses. The crowd was treated to a great event and a beautiful night of racing.

August saw 7 rulings issued, the majority for minor riding offenses. The stewards hope this trend continues and the meet finishes without any major excitement.

There were 17 claims made in August, slightly more than July, but which maintains the slow pace of claiming that has been present this whole meet.

The stewards have enjoyed a relatively uneventful meet and hope that the last few weeks continue in the same fashion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Blum", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Item 6 – C.Judges

Judges Report - August 2024

The month of has brought the heat to Minnesota as the temperatures have risen and the racing is closing in on its final weeks. It has been an unusual year for weather as the rain has been a constant battle for track maintenance to maintain a safe and speedy racecourse, but they have risen to the occasion time and time again to constantly provide our equine athletes the best possible surface available to compete as the end of the meet is within view. We have had two rainouts this year as the downpours have proved to be too much so close to racing or during the racing action that have required us to cancel race programs but it is to be noted that Running Aces did agree to pay out the purses split among the entered participants scheduled that night.

On the evening of August 18 we did have an equine athlete Winnerup who was racing in the Steve Wiseman Memorial that drew a huge crowd due to its popularity amongst Minnesota residents, did have an issue during the race and was able to walk off the track under its own power but did collapse just past the gate and was tended to by the State Vet and numerous horsemen to successfully after almost an hour to regain its mobility and stand on its own. Due to the extreme caution and utmost concern for the equine athlete the remainder of the card was cancelled, and Running Aces graciously did pay out the remainder of the card to the horseman. The Judges again want to thank the association for always putting the equine athletes first over the business model.

The Judges have been busy along with others I am sure in working on suggesting some possible rule changes for the future to better represent the industry moving forward. We did have an incident with a licensee for intoxication as is noted below in the rulings which was handled in what we feel was the best professional manner. Also, we have run into a new situation concerning states legalizing recreational medicine that will have to have some more thought out discussion as how to move forward and denote these changes in the rule book to better describe the course of action for regulators of the State of MN.

Here are the rulings for the month of August:

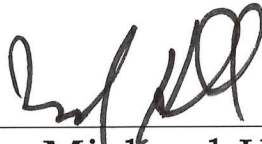
Other Than Wrist Action	1 - \$100
Late To The Paddock	1 - \$100
Impede The Progress	2 - \$400
Intoxication	50 Day Suspension
Failure To Set Pace	1 - \$100
Failure To Pass Drug Test	1 - \$500 (5 Day)
Failure to Obey Instructions of An Official	2 - \$1100
Passing Lane Violation	1 - \$100
Changing Course In The Stretch	2 - \$400
No Safety Vest	3 - \$300

Here at the stats thru the end of August:

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
July	10.6	93.2	84.6	8.0	\$104,054	\$15,458	\$191,121
August	10.9	97.7	88.2	8.1	\$106,200	\$12,395	\$173,961



Casey Larson
Presiding Judge



Michael Hall
Associate Judge



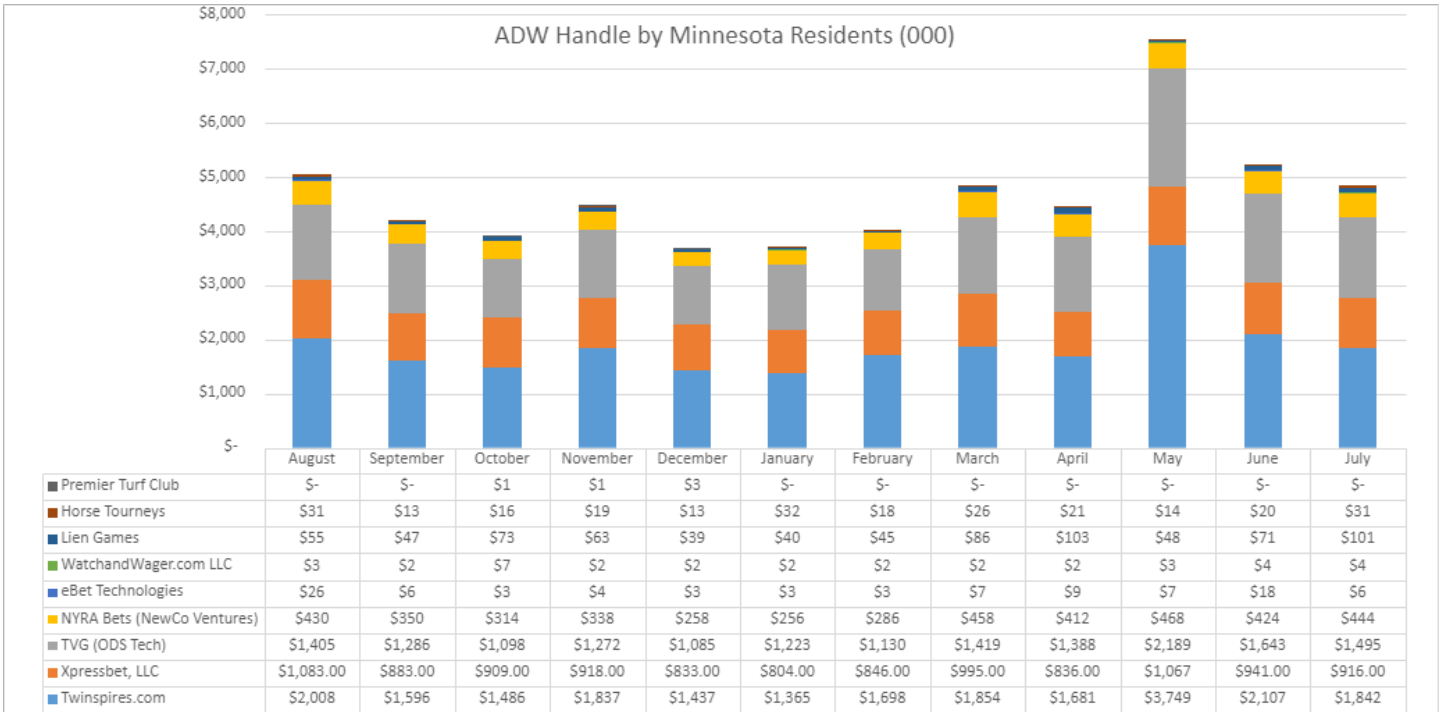
John Yinger
Associate Judge

Item 8 – Executive Directors Report

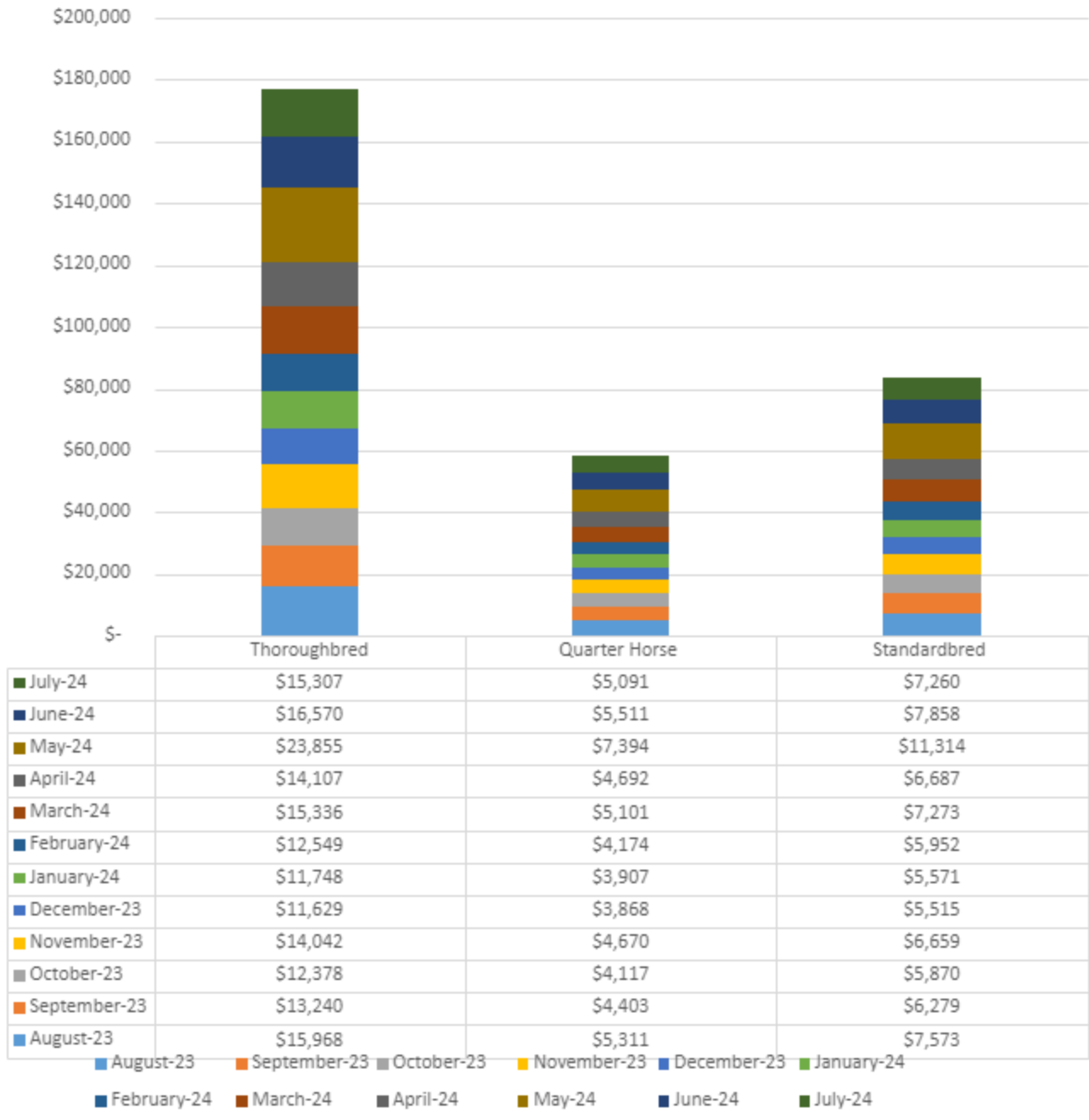
- A. Contract Approvals
- B. HISA/HIWU Update
- C. Personnel Update
- D. ADW Report
- E. Licensing Report
- F. Other

Item 8-

D. ADW Report



Incremental Breeders Awards via ADW



Item 8 –
E. Licensing Report

Minnesota Racing Commission

August 2024 Licensing Report

Class C Applications Processed @ Canterbury Park: 74

Class C Applications Processed @ Running Aces: 64

Class C Large Gaming/Racing Vendors: 0

Class C Small Gaming/Racing Vendors: 0

Class C Non-Gaming/Racing Vendors: 0

Class C Licensing Fees for Month: **\$5,165**

Fingerprint Fees for Month: **\$1,550**

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

Fines Collected FYTD as of 8/31/2024: **\$13,450**

Item 10 -

Future Meetings

Full Commission Thursday,

October 17, 2024 –

Nutrena Conference Center