

## Racing Committee Minutes

February 4, 2010

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors Barrett, Collyer, Lawler, Richardson, Wood, Yepsen and Southworth; Spencer Hellwig, Mgmt. Analyst; Press.

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**On a motion made by Mr. Lawler, seconded by Mr. Wood the minutes of the October 8, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.**

Chairman Veitch announced his appointment of Mr. Wood as committee Vice Chair. Mr. Wood accepted.

Mr. Veitch said the Governor announced last week that Aqueduct Entertainment Group was chosen as the vendor for the operation of the VLT's at Aqueduct. When NYRA was given the 25 year franchise in 2008, part of the deal was video lottery terminals would be established at Aqueduct. As part of the agreement, the VLT's would make money and the state would earn revenue. The State would in turn give it to education, as well as provide operating revenue to NYRA for its operations and capital improvements to all the racetracks.

Mr. Veitch said the Racing Committee sponsored a study in 2006 to look at the economic impact of racing on the area. The study found that in the nine county areas the impact was over \$200 million, and was responsible for over 3,000 jobs. Not having NYRA or racing in the area would be devastating to the local economy. The VLT's at Aqueduct provide revenue to NYRA, who in turn makes capital improvements to the racetracks, including Saratoga Racetrack.

Mr. Veitch requested a resolution to urge the State of New York to come to an agreement with the Aqueduct Entertainment Group as soon as possible, and to begin construction of the VLT facility at Aqueduct in order to continue to preserve Thoroughbred Racing operations within the State.

**A motion was made by Ms. Yepsen, seconded by Mr. Barrett to urge the State of New York to come to an agreement with the Aqueduct Entertainment Group as soon as possible, and to begin construction of the VLT facility at Aqueduct in order to continue to preserve Thoroughbred Racing operations within the State. Unanimous.**

Mr. Veitch said the Task Force on Off Track Betting was put together last year to study the off track betting situation in the State. They had asked for input from some of the various municipalities.

Mr. Veitch distributed the Executive Summary from the report to all committee members for their review. The following points were highlighted:

- License out of state deposit wagering operators so that they would have to pay the same payments and breeder fees that are paid for in state.
- Consolidation and marketing business functions of OTB corporations
- Rates on what racetracks can charge for sending their signals to better compete with out of state programs
- Hold harmless provisions to ensure that OTB payments do not fall below a certain level to local governments
- Single mandatory payment that tracks OTB corporations
- Video lottery terminals operating at the Harness Track as well as Aqueduct
- Joint marketing efforts between the two tracks and OTB

Anyone interested in reading the entire report can access it from the website at: [www.otbfuture.com](http://www.otbfuture.com).

Mr. Veitch said there will be a horse racing session held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m., at the NYSAC Conference.

Ms. Yepsen said Thorofan will be sponsoring a talk on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. in the library in Saratoga Springs. Speakers will include Tom Gallo from Parting Glass Racing, Bill Wilmont from the NY Breeders Association, and Jeff Canuzzo, Executive Director of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders. Topics will be about the two major challenges facing the New York State Thoroughbred Industry, and the New York Breeding Development Fund Report.

**On a motion made by Mr. Collyer, seconded by Mr. Barrett the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Sansom