VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

August 18, 2016

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
TYLER BUILDING
COURTROOM B
1300 EAST MAIN STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23219

Commencing at 10:03 a.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:
D.G. Van Clief, Jr., Chairman
Carol G. Dawson, Vice Chairman
I. Clinton Miller
Charles Steger, Ph.D.
J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr.

COMMISSION STAFF:
David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator
Charles R. Harden, Equine Medical Director

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:
J. Duncan Pitchford, Esq.

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1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Mr. Lermond, Executive Secretary

3. Approval of Amended 6/21/16 Meeting Minutes

4. New Business:
   a. Racing Safety and Medication Committee Report
   b. Amendments to 11VAC10-140-50 and 11VAC10-50-50
   c. Breakers Sports Grille Simulcast Revenue Sharing Agreement Approval
   d. Shenandoah Downs Limited License
   e. Agreement between Virginia Downs, Foundation, Virginia Equine Alliance, and Virginia Harness Horse Association
   f. Approval of Racing Officials
   g. Approval of Expenditures
   h. VEA Report

5. Public Comment Period

6. Commissioners' Comments

7. Adjournment
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Good morning. My watch says that it is 3 minutes after 10:00 a.m., and we will now formally convene the Thursday, August 18th, meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission. I call the meeting to order. We're doing so with four commissioners present. Dr. Steger will join us later in the meeting but has been delayed this morning.

I'd like to start with one recognition. As you may recall, those of you who were with us for our last commission meeting, we went into executive session after our adjournment, and we did so for the purpose of conducting final interviews, final discussion, and a selection process for the appointment of a new executive secretary.

So in that regard, it's no surprise to anybody in the room, but I would like to also formally welcome Dave Lermond to his first meeting as Executive Secretary of the Virginia Racing Commission. I think he's been to probably more meetings of the commission than all of us sitting up here combined, but this is his first one as the boss.

So, Dave, welcome in your new role as Executive Secretary. We look forward to working with you, and we're delighted that you're here with us.

As we did go through the selection process
at our executive session, I would like to formalize
Mr. Lermond's appointment with the vote of the
commission this morning, so if I could have a motion to
formally appoint Mr. Lermond as our executive secretary,
I welcome such a motion.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I move to appoint
Mr. Lermond as Executive Secretary.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Miller
makes such motion. Do I have a second?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Vice Chairman seconds
it. All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Thank you.

And, again, welcome, Mr. Lermond.

The next item on the agenda is the
approval of the minutes from our June 21st meeting. I
do have a suggested change that I'd like to propose to
my fellow commissioners.

And may I call on Counsel or Mr. Lermond,
have either of you got that wording with you?

Dave, can I ask you to read the modified
wording?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: We inserted
it into the packets.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Was it in there?

Well, I will do that then.

(Charles Stenger joined the meeting.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. The commissioners will have seen the draft number one, and, since then, we have modified the minutes to reflect our action.

Mr. Steger, welcome.

COMMISSIONER STEGER: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I was just saying you were going to be delayed, but you're here virtually on time. Thank you. Thank you for joining us.

Note for the record that Commissioner Steger has joined us, please.

The minutes have been modified, I think, since some of you have seen them, and I'm going to read the modification, which constitutes the final paragraph and deals with the action we took regarding appointment of our executive secretary and it read as follows:

"At 1:46 p.m. the commission adjourned its meeting."

The modification takes the form of the following wording, "Prior to the adjournment, the commission announced it would meet separately in closed
session to conduct interviews for the position of the executive secretary of the commission, with the counsel reading the following motion at the request of the chairman, quote, in accordance with the provisions of 2.2-3711(a)(7) of the Code of Virginia, I move that the commission go into closed meeting for the purpose of discussion, consideration, and interviews of respective candidates for employment for the position of Executive Secretary of the Virginia Racing Commission.

"And the Virginia Racing Commission will not consider or discuss any other issues beside the issue that was specifically mentioned in the perspective motion."

That was seconded by Commissioner Steger. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

That modification is included in your minutes that I don't think we need any further action on that.

Thank you.

We're going now to new business. We've got a lot of action items today.

MR. PITCHFORD: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes.
MR. PITCHFORD: Prior to proceeding, I think we need to vote to approve the amended minutes.
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes. Okay. Since those minutes were amended since sent out, although included in your booklets this morning, could I have a motion to approve the amendment as I read it?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that we amend the minutes, according to the statement that you just read.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. The motion is to amend the minutes in accordance with the statement I read, which is in your packets.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any discussion?

All in favor signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Okay. Thank you. Minutes of the June 21st meeting are approved.

Now to new business. I think we've got about eight action items today, all of which are positive and speak to the -- rebuilding the Virginia industry, so I'm looking forward to this. We'll get to work right away.

Vice Chairman Dawson very kindly agreed this summer to chair a reconstituted version of our
Racing Safety and Medication Committee. There is no more important work than to ensure the safety of our athletes on the track and our compliance with best practices that assure the integrity of our sport.

There has been one meeting of that committee since our last commission meeting, so, Commissioner Dawson, can I call on you for a report?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd just like to say at the outset that we're very grateful, as a commission, to have the participation of so many prominent and outstanding individuals who are members of this Racing Safety and Medication Committee, and I want to personally say it was wonderful to see them all attend the meeting. We had two individuals who participated by telephone.

All in all, we had a very productive meeting, and I'm just happy to say that it opened up a lot of other issues and things that we need to get into in the month ahead.

The one -- the one meeting issue that we did come up with a potential action was the issue of silent enforcers in the paddock, specifically at the Virginia Gold Cup, and we would take up that matter following this agenda item.
So, again, I say if any members of the public have issues that they would like us to consider, certainly send those suggestions to our executive secretary. We probably will meet again by the end of October, once the Gold Cup is over and the Shenandoah Downs races have been held, so, again, thanks to everyone who participated. I think we're onto some more productive meetings ahead.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you very much.

The next item is an action item that also falls under Vice Chairman Dawson's purview. We were approached by the National Steeplechase Association following the Gold Cup and were asked to consider a modification to our saddling procedures.

Executive Secretary Lermond has taken that up with management of the Gold Cup and others, and the subject was remanded to Vice Chairman Dawson's committee for discussion and a recommendation. I think we have a recommendation for action today.

Commissioner Dawson, again.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: The recommendation is an amendment to our regulation pertaining to flat racing. It would come under saddling horses, and I will read the -- read the pertinent language.
"The trainer shall be responsible for the saddling of the horse, and, in his absence, he must assign an assistant or substitute trainer to saddle each horse entered by him. All horses must be saddled in the paddock unless permission to saddle horses elsewhere has been granted by the stewards."

And so that will, as I understand it, be inserted into the regulation.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I believe the -- the main point there is that we've always mandated that the horses are saddled in the paddock. That gets pretty crowded, and, if you have fractious animal, it can also get a little bit dangerous, so the NSA has requested that we consider that change and allow the stewards the latitude to mandate that the saddling take place back in the stalls. That's the main point.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: That's correct, Mr. Chairman, and, unfortunately, the language we were seeking was there, although it only referred to the saddling of one horse. And in this case, the stewards would want to have the ability to allow all the horses in a race or races to saddle in the barn or somewhere else that it's a safer environment.

And like a lot of our regulations, this also appears in another chapter, which is chapter 50,
under the duties of the paddock judge. And paragraph 8, where it talks about saddling of the horses shall be open to the public view, we just inserted the exact same language as Commissioner Dawson just described, where it says, "unless permission to saddle horses elsewhere has been granted by the stewards."

Procedurally, it would be better if we could do two separate motions, one to approve the final amendments to 11VAC10-140-50 and a separate motion to approve final amendments to 11VAC10-50-50.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you.

Are there any questions from commissioners on this process?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to comment that there was considerable discussion about this change and the participant from the Virginia Gold Cup was very much inclined to curb the situation to preserve safety in the paddock and made some suggestions about constructing some additional stalls up by the barn area and --

No?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: No. I think there were -- there was a rather lengthy discussion. I think in the end we decided we would let the horse saddle in the stall that they were -- where they had
arrived and they were more comfortable. Some cases you could have 10 or 12 separate stalls to do nothing but saddling, but that would be in the barn area and wouldn't be really in the view of the public anyway, so I think what we agreed was --

But once the horses are all saddled, they will be gathered in one group, and they will be led back to the paddock in numeric order. And at that point, the grooms will walk the horses around the paddock two, three, four times to let the public have a good look at the horses with their saddles. Then they'll call riders up, and they'll go out onto the track.

And members of the VRC staff will be there throughout that process just to keep an eye on everything.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: The Gold Cup at this point is the only thing that this covers.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: That's correct. But these -- this language will give the stewards the same ability to make a similar decision if circumstances warranted it, and it would mainly be for safety issues, I would imagine.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Right.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. If there are no questions, then we're seeking two motions, both
of which are going to approve the wording which was read by Commissioner Dawson, one which modifies the first motion, which will modify 11VAC10-140-50. Do I have such a motion?

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Second?

COMMISSIONER STEGER: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All in a favor, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Thank you.

The second motion, identical motion, this one, however, for 11VAC10-50-50.

COMMISSIONER STEGER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Dr. Steger makes the motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

All right. Great. Thank you very much, Commissioner Dawson.

The next item on the agenda deals with the
potential approval of the Breakers Sports Grille
simulcast revenue sharing agreement. And I believe
Mr. Petramalo is going to brief you on that one.

MR. PETRAMALO: Yes. Under -- under the
statute, revenue generated through handle at simulcast
wagering facilities is set forth -- a distribution
scheme is set forth in the statute. The horsemen get 5
percent of the -- of the handle.

What you -- what you have before you is a
revenue sharing agreement in which the horsemen agree to
take the difference, if there is a difference, between
their 5 percent share, which the VEA, as operator of
Breakers, would have to pay us, and 50 percent of the
net revenue, if there is a difference, if it's -- if
it's a negative difference, we would -- we -- the
horsemen would rebate that to VEA. If it's positive,
VEA would pay us.

This is -- this is nothing new. We have
been doing this for years and years and years, because,
basically, in some operations, for example, Colonial's
former SWF at Martinsville, if Colonial had to pay the 5
percent without getting any rebate, that operation would
have closed down because 5 percent would have -- would
have put it under water.

So what we did was rebate the difference
between 5 percent and half of the -- half of the, quote, profits, and we had that in place at, oh, Vinton, the one down in southwest Virginia, Bristol, et cetera. Basically, what we did was, in order to keep operations open, we -- we agreed to rebate a portion of our statutory share.

Here what we're doing is for a two-year period -- that's the duration of this agreement -- we're agreeing to do the same thing to give the VEA the opportunity to get off the ground. There are going to be overhead expenses to run the operation, so we're willing to, at least for two-year period, share with them the -- on a 50-50 basis, the net revenue. That's all it's about.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you very much. Do any commissioners have questions for Mr. Petramalo?

If not, the contract in question is included under tab number 4 in your meeting books. I think it was also distributed in advance. Does anybody need a little time to look at it?

If not, then we'd seek a motion to approve the agreement as set forth.

COMMISSIONER STEGER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We have a motion.
Second, please?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We have a second.

Is there any discussion?

No discussion?

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Motion carries. Thank you.

The next item is the approval of a limited license for Shenandoah Downs, and I believe Mr. Hannum is going to lead the report on this one.

MR. HANNUM: Right. Commissioners, thank you.

The application that you have before you for racing in Shenandoah Downs is submitted on behalf of the Virginia Downs Foundation. Virginia Downs Foundation is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(4) organization that was formed in part to preserve and promote Virginia's historic racing and breeding industries and to provide social welfare services to those in need in the industry.

The Virginia Downs Foundation has an agreement with the VEA whereby the VEA will provide the racing office and conduct the race meet at Shenandoah
As you are aware, the Shenandoah County Fair has recently completed an extensive renovation of its harness track for this meet. In preparation for the races, the Virginia Downs Foundation, the VEA, and the VHHA have worked closely with the fair, and all parties are in agreement that the track is in excellent condition and suitable for parimutuel wagering.

The VHHA is the recognized majority horsemen's group for the meet and will provide approximately $800,000 from their horsemen's account for purses.

It is the intention of the Virginia Downs Foundation, the VEA, and the VHHA and the county fair to conduct racing for many years ahead at Woodstock. This first harness meet will be an important first step in rebuilding the standardbred industry in the state, and we appreciate the commission's support, and I welcome any questions about the application.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions for Mr. Hannum?

If not, the contract is under tab 5 in your meeting books. It was also distributed in advance of the meeting. Does anybody have any questions about the contract? Need a moment?
If not, then we do need a motion to approve the contract as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: It's the application, not the contract.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I'm sorry.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: The staff report was under tab 5.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. So we do need a motion to approve the application as submitted.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Mr. Chairman, I move that we approve the application as submitted.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, Commissioner Reynolds.

I need a second.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Miller seconds.

Any discussion?

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Motion carries. Thank you.

All right. Next is approval of the agreement between the Virginia Downs Foundation, the Virginia Equine Alliance, and the Virginia Harness Horse
Mr. Petramalo, I think you're up again.

MR. PETRAMALO: Yes. Very briefly. This is the lawyer's way of putting into effect what Jeb has just described. Under -- under our statute, in order to grant a license of this sort, the organization needs to be either a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(4). The Virginia Downs Foundation is a 501(c)(4) social welfare organization, recognized as such by the Internal Revenue Service.

VEA, on the other hand, is a 501(c)(6), which is a trade association, so what we have is a three-way agreement between the license holder, the 501(c)(4), and the organization that will actually run the racing, the 501(c)(6), and the third party, of course, is the horsemen's group. So the contract, just as I said, puts into effect what -- lawfully -- what Jeb has just described.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Again, are there any questions for Mr. Petramalo?

If there are none, we do need a motion to formally approve the agreement between these three parties.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Miller
moves it.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And Commissioner Dawson seconds it.

Is there any discussion?

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Are there any opposed?

Motion carries. Thank you very much.

The next action item is the approval of officials for the Shenandoah Downs meet, and Mr. Lermond is going to address that.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The list of racing officials was submitted with the Shenandoah application, and it's also under tab 7 of your -- of your books, and, actually, the judges are appointed by the commission and the commission approves the racing officials, but I think for this we could do it all in one fell swoop.

The -- we're very lucky with our judges. We have Jack Remy presiding, who is the presiding judge not only at Ocean Downs but also at Rosecroft. Paul Tishick has been the presiding judge before at Ocean
Downs. He's kind of in a semi-retired mode, but has 30 or 40 years of experience. He was the very first presiding judge ever at the Meadowlands when they opened up.

And because I'm now the executive secretary, I'm asking that we appoint Dan Kazmaier. Again, we're fortunate Mr. Kazmaier is the presiding judge at both Harrington and Dover Downs in Delaware, so we have a very good group of judges, well experienced and well known in the industry.

I would also like to have you appoint me as an alternate. We never know when somebody may get stuck in traffic or something may come up, and I am fully accredited.

And we move on to the racing officials. Most of those folks have worked at Colonial Downs in the past. The main exception is the racing secretary -- or called the director of racing on this list, Mr. Mike Londishen. Mike has been Racing Secretary in Kentucky at Thunder Ridge, at Bluegrass Downs. He has also been Racing Secretary in the past at Rosecroft.

As I said, he -- he has assembled a good group of people for his racing office, all of which are well qualified. And we're also fortunate to have the starter Mike Wojchick, who was starting races at
Colonial Downs and also started races at the Woodstock fair for several years now. He will have a little more room on the track this year to start those horses, but I think it's great that we have him as the full-time starter.

So I would seek approval of these racing officials as well as the judges, and, also, if you could give me the authority to appoint, possibly, a third judge. Mr. Tishick has a conflict the last two weeks of the race meet. I have two options. I could fill in for him those last four days, or I could find someone else, possibly another judge from Rosecroft, but I don't have that nailed down right now, so if you could make part of your motion to give me the authority to appoint another judge, if necessary, that would be great.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. In that case, I think -- and, Dave, do you need -- do you need to add yourself as an alternate on the list?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: I'm written in there as an alternate.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I don't have a copy of it in front of me. Okay. So we have a -- I think a two-part motion, number one of which is to approve the officials as submitted by written list to the commission -- or I should say officials and judges --
and also to grant our executive secretary authority to
appoint an alternative, as necessary; is that correct?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: Very good.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. That would be
the motion. I'd seek that motion.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I so move.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds
makes the motion. Do we have a second?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Dawson
seconds. Any discussion?

In that case, all in favor, please signify
by saying aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Motion carries. Thank you.

You know, it dawns on me, as we go through
this, we've just done something extremely important.
We've approved the officials and the contracts and the
application for a brand new standardbred race meet at a
brand new standardbred racetrack. That's a very
exciting development for Virginia Racing.

Congratulations to all of you who have been working so
hard and have been so helpful to this success of getting
to this point. We wish you the best of luck.

DR. WOOGEN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. The next is also related to harness racing, and that is we need, today, to approve the expenditures from the standardbred portion of the Virginia Breeders' Fund for the current year.

Mr. Lermond, are you going to address that as well?

And just point out to the commissioners that under tab 8 there's a brief on that, which stipulates what we're looking for.

Mr. Lermond, is there anything --

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The breeders' fund subcommittee -- standardbred subcommittee voted through an e-mail to approve $40,000 to partially fund eight Virginia-bred staked races, which will be run at Shenandoah Downs on Saturday, September 10th, and Sunday, September 11th.

I wish there was more money in the standardbred portion of the breeders' fund this year, but, unfortunately, with the OTBs being shut down, that amount is limited for this year. However, I'm hopeful now with the Breakers OTB, and, hopefully, more to come,
that in future years we'll be talking about more than
$40,000 for the standardbreds. But this is what will be
available, and this is what the committee voted to
recommend to the commission, so I seek a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I concur with
your sentiments on that and look forward to more in the
future. It's a pleasure to ask for a motion to approve
this funding.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: I so move.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Dawson
makes a motion. Do we have a second?

COMMISSIONER STEGER: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Steger
seconds. Any discussion?

All in favor, please signify by saying
aye.

(Aye.)

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

Thank you. Motion carries.

That brings us to our VEA report and
updates on the developments there.

Executive Director Hannum?

MR. HANNUM: Thank you, Commissioner.

So I'll start with the OTB situation. You
all approved the license for opening an OTB at Breakers,
and we are moving forward quickly to get that --
everything in place that we need.

Right now we have October 17 penciled in
as the opening date, and so the idea would be that we
would sort of have a soft launch on the 17th, and then,
perhaps, have a sort of more -- have a sort of grand
opening, perhaps, a week later or that next Saturday,
once we've sort of gotten everything going and gotten
some of the kinks out.

And so the feeling was that, by waiting
until after Shenandoah racing, that our VEA staff, which
you know is limited, we could focus on having a great
race meet and redeploy our staff to the OTB, so that's
why we have the 17th penciled in, so we'll keep you
posted on that.

Good news. We have a new site at -- just
down the road, 110 North 18th Street, the Shockoe Bottom
area of the city, for another OTB. Mr. Burman, who has
been an important follower and supporter of Virginia
racing, nicely introduced us to the owner of what was
Tiki Bob's bar and restaurant, which is a great site.
It's a large facility. It has its own parking lot.

And plans are underway to completely redo
this facility with sort of equestrian -- the racing
theme, so this is a very exciting opportunity for us. I
think we're very lucky to have the ability to be there in this site.

As we get a little further along, we certainly -- as it's so close, be nice to get people down to look at it, but it has -- one of the nice things is, while it's a very large facility, it has a -- sort of a private room that we can use for our office and for the tellers, but also for people that are going to be a little bit more serious about betting that want to have a place to focus.

And, also, throughout the facility, there will be TVs and people that are sort of more casual fans to, hopefully, be engaged by racing, so we have an agreement in place, and so we'll keep you posted on that. It would be our hope to have an application before the commission, perhaps at the next meeting, depending on when that's scheduled for, but we want to move forward with that very quickly.

So the hope is that we have two OTBs open before the end of the year and, importantly, before the breeders cup. So that's, I think, an important -- important date that we're shooting for, and then the search continues for other sites.

Internally, you know, the VEA is, you know, considering what is the appropriate number for
Richmond, but I think that we're looking at three or four sites in Richmond, and then we can move out and look at Martinsville and Chesapeake and Hampton and other places throughout the state where there's been a referendum.

So we continue to look for sites. Daryl Wood has been very active with that and Mary Calabrese are looking at sites every week for potential, so that's -- so that's where we are with that. So, again, at the next commission meeting, depending on when it's scheduled for, we hope to have another application for an OTB before you.

Are there any questions on Breakers or the new site?

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: What about -- are you going to do any sort of marketing leading up to October 17th, or is the Breakers going to do any sort of marketing to announce this publically?

MR. HANNUM: Yeah. We are going to do that, and I could -- what we could do at the next meeting is have a report on that, and so that's something that Daryl and our staff will be spearheading. But at the next meeting, I can speak to that in a little bit more detail, if that's okay.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Absolutely. Thank
you.

MR. HANUM: Okay. So I'll move on from the OTBs. We've spoken about Shenandoah. Just to point out, Tom Eshelman, who is in the back there in the white shirt, Tom is a general manager for the Shenandoah County Fair, and Tom has been just an absolute superstar to work with.

He and his staff have turned around this project, you know, under very difficult circumstances. As you all remember earlier in the spring, we had all that rain and we lost two or three weeks of the construction, and they literally, you know, ripped their whole site apart for harness racing.

But at the same time, Tom has been hosting his usual events there, so life has gone on at the fair, but they have been fabulous partners and I really appreciate Tom's direct involvement and all the support from the fair.

Dr. Woogen, the president of VHHA, his board has been great to work with and everybody's really done, I think, an awful lot in a very short period of time to pull this off. And if you go out there, you will be absolutely blown away. It's a great track for Virginia, but it's a great track for the East Coast and this whole region, so I think Virginia ought to be very
excited about what's happened.

And there aren't a whole lot of new harness tracks being built in the US, and this is really what the VEA is all about, to -- to, you know, build new tracks and promote racing and sustain the industry, so it's a great example of us meeting our mission.

September 10th and 11th is the first weekend, and then the next four weekends after that, so I hope you all will find an opportunity to come out for a day or two or multiple weekends.

And, Commissioner Miller, we're going to put you to work when you come out. You'll be presenting trophies and doing everything we can get you to do, and I know this is exciting for you in your backyard so --

COMMISSIONER MILLER: The reason he mentions me in particular, I live about three minutes away.

MR. HANNUM: Yeah. And just, lastly, my thanks to Dave Lermond and the commission staff for their support on this project. So today is an important date for Virginia racing and for the standardbred industry. And, fingers crossed, everything will go well and the weather will cooperate, but I hope you all can come out starting September 10th and 11th so thank you.

Dr. Woogen, do you want to add anything?
DR. WOOGEN: I think you said it quite well and we echo that the VEA has been incredible in their support, your willingness to work with us and make sure that this came about in a timely manner, in a quality manner. We're all proud of the racetrack. I think it will be one of the finest racetracks for harness racing in the country, and we thank the commission, of course, for their incredible support.

MR. HANNUM: Tom?

MR. ESHELMAN: Ditto.

MR. HANNUM: Okay. Thank you, Commissioners.

The last thing, Morven Park, you know, this is a project that's six months or a year behind Shenandoah, depending on how you look at it. Things are moving a little more slowly, but it's a slightly more complex project, as I've spoken to.

Morven Park is building their equestrian horse park where they want to have top-tier, three-day betting, and so in the relatively small space of the old steeplechase course, we want to have our racetrack, and they also, in the infield, want to have or are planning to have two arenas for dressage and show jumping, and so it's an awful lot of things that are going to be happening in a small area.
So we're working -- we're working through that. It's just -- it's just taking a little bit longer than I think everybody had hoped, including Morven Park.

A comprehensive civil engineering packet has been prepared, which would be submitted to Louden County, literally, today or tomorrow or next week, very, you know -- you know, very soon, and then that will start a six-week review process where the county will review it all. There may be questions that will lengthen that six-week process, but that's kind of where we are.

During the six-week review, Morven Park will be collecting estimates and reaching out for bids on various components of the project, and then we'll have a better sense of what the actual cost is going to be for our component of it, and so that's going to be a very important part. And we have a general sense of what it might be, but with anything like this, it all -- it just sort of keeps getting higher and higher.

So at the next meeting I hope to have a little bit more to report on where things are with Louden, where things are with the costings for the racetrack, but we're -- but we're moving forward, but, again, it's a complex project, but we're pushing forward to get this done as quickly as we can.
I'll pause there. Frank, I don't know if you want to say anything or Debbie wanted to add anything about Morven, but please comment if you'd like to or we can keep moving.

MR. PETRAMALO: No, I agree.

MS. EASTER: I know that they've put -- I know that they've contacted contractors for bids, but the contractor they contacted told me they were waiting for the -- for the zone -- the stuff to come back from zoning, so they can't really do anything yet, so --

MR. HANNUM: So hopefully I'll have a little bit more to report at the next meeting, so that's my report from the VEA, and I welcome any additional questions or comments.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any questions or comments from commissioners?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: I do have one question. Jeb, you said the civil engineering report has been submitted to the county?

MR. HANNUM: It will be. It hasn't --

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: It hasn't yet?

MR. HANNUM: -- as of this moment, but it may be later today or tomorrow or early next week.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: As I recall, in
some of our past meetings we discussed work that had already been started there. Has that just been stopped, or how does it look now?

MR. HANNUM: Nothing substantial had happened. When we talked about the work that we had done initially, it was just routine maintenance on the old turf course. It literally had just been used as a hay field, so we'd been doing things out there to help manage the turf a little bit.

Morven is doing things to the barns that are there. They have over 100 stalls, so there are things that are happening, but the bulk of the work really can't proceed until the county has given its blessing, so a limited amount has been done, so most of the work has been based on the civil engineering process that goes before the county.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: So does this mean that the whole project is then delayed just a bit more?

MR. HANNUM: I don't think it's delayed any more than when I last spoke about it, but it really -- as I understand it, a lot of it will depend on what sort of comments the county has, and I don't want to speak to the intricacies of Louden's review process, but I think that there could be a situation where, if there were substantial questions, that the clock can
start over again, and you could start the six weeks over again, if they would be requiring a new submission, if there was substantial questions.

But it could be at the end of six weeks there aren't any questions, and they give conditional approval to move forward with construction, so it's possible dirt could be moving this fall or not.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Just let me ask, if it's appropriate, is there anything the commission can do at this point?

MR. HANNUM: Thank you for asking. And I think that at this point probably not, but I think once we get into the weeds with the county, that may be -- that may be appropriate, but I appreciate you asking.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Any other questions?

Okay. Mr. Hannum, thank you.

MR. HANNUM: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Good report.

At this point, we open up the meeting for any public comment. Is there anybody who would care to make a comment? If you do, please identify yourself and stay to a five-minute limit.

Anybody? All right.
MS. EASTER: I do, if I may, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes.

MS. EASTER: I have two public comments, if I may. First, just a quick report on the thoroughbred racing. We did -- excuse me. I forgot to state my name. Debbie Easter, Executive Director of Virginia Thoroughbred Association. Maybe I'll get rid of that.

Just a quick report, as you all remember, we ran five Virginia-bred races at Pimlico on June 25th, and I don't think -- I think that was after our last meeting. Those races went very well. We had great entries. Of the five races, four of them were -- were won by Virginia owners. The majority of the money that was distributed in those races went to Virginia owners.

But I think overall it was a nice day for opportunities for our folks, and it was a combo Maryland-bred, Virginia-bred day and a good crowd for -- for the summer when everybody's at the beach, and I think overall Maryland Jockey Club and our folks were all happy, so I think that was something positive that we could do for Virginia owners.

The second -- second comment I have is on the Virginia owner's bonus program that you all had approved. As you remember, the HPPA had asked that we
were able to fund an owner's bonus program for -- for any owner that wins with a Virginia-bred in a six-state, mid-Atlantic region.

Between July 1st, when -- when it began, and the 15th of August, there have been 30 awards that have been won and 103 -- a little over $103,000 distributed. As you remember, the program, when we set it up, was that it would be -- those wins would be awarded to any -- any horse that won an overnight race, that we excluded stakes and we excluded Virginia restricted races, and we put a $10,000 cap on it.

Not only has this program been real popular with the owners, we're getting a lot of play within the industry. As I'm at the horse sales, people have been very positive about how creative we were, not only to provide the owner's program but most states just do that within their state, not -- not for horses that run out of the state. Obviously, we have no choice, but we're getting a lot of bonus point for creativity.

As we look at this, one change that we'd like to make and just would like you all to know about it is that we had said no -- no, we would not award for stakes wins. There's a $10,000 cap on any individual win, which actually two horses that won at Belmont have made that cap.
But we do have a -- we did have a horse win a stake at Belmont, Long on Value, that was Virginia-bred. And the HPPA, in their meeting last week, thought that maybe in tweaking the program a little better, we ought to go ahead and award for stakes win, because then we have really something very nice to advertise and promote and that, you know, we're getting wins from anywhere from very quality level all the way down, and why wouldn't we award the guys that are doing the best? There's a $10,000 cap, so it can't hurt the -- hurt the -- hurt the total pool that much.

So I don't know that that would actually take approval of the commission. I don't know, but I think that that's the way we would like to go and be able to go back retroactively and just award this one gentleman that won the stake. And then, from now forward, go ahead and award -- award stakes wins.

We would still not award a bonus for any restricted Virginia-bred race, because I think all of us would think that's a little bit double-dipping, but just open stakes and our program would just be for wins anywhere in any kind of race, except for a restricted Virginia-bred race.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: Debbie, I think what the commission approved previously was not so
much the specific rules of the program, but the total
dollar amount, and if you're still thinking it's going
to be within, I think it was $500,000 area, I don't
think it requires any additional action by the
commission, but I would defer to --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I think it might,
just if -- if I recall, the elements were you had a
$500,000 pool, and you're obviously well within that --

MS. EASTER: Right.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: -- at a six-state
region, which was mid-Atlantic, and if we're talking
about Belmont stake, that's New York, so we might need
to make a modification. Is that right?

MS. EASTER: No. The New York was within
that mid-Atlantic region.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. I wasn't
quite sure.

MS. EASTER: So I think we're well within
the $500,000 that we approved. I don't think that's
going to change. And, as you remember, the HPPA agreed
that anything over that $500,000 would be paid out of
their non- --

MR. PETRAMALO: Discretionary fund.

MS. EASTER: -- restrictive -- yeah, their
discretionary fund.
MR. PETRAMALO: That's correct.

MS. EASTER: So I think it all fits within what you all have approved, but I -- one, we want to just notify you that we'd like to do that, and, two, I wanted to check if we needed --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I'll echo Mr. Lermond's question to counsel. I think we all think that it is within the context of the program. Is there anything we need to do?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: The only difference is that stake races would be included now, where, before, it was only based on overnight races, but, as Debbie says, with the $10,000 cap in place, I think you're --

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: But does that mean that we would have to amend that?

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: I --

MR. HANNUM: I think what you approved is the dollar amount, because it's money that's coming out of the ADW money earned after July 1, so as long as they're still saying anything over 500,000 will be borne by the horsemen, I think we're in the same place.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Could this --

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY LERMOND: We could certainly do a motion to be safe.
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Why don't we do this.
I was just going to say, why don't we, you know, embellish the standards here and do a motion, just to make sure we have it covered.

Commissioner Miller has a suggestion as well.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I would suggest, before we act on anything, that maybe we have our counsel give us some advice.

Do you need any action today?

MS. EASTER: No, because we can go back and pay that person.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I mean, if you needed action today --

MS. EASTER: We would change our advertising to say now -- you know, makes it a little easier to understand, but, no, I don't have to have that action today.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I would be more comfortable if we would -- if we could defer this to our next meeting, if we have to take any action. We may not need to.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: It's on the agenda.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: But counsel may say
we don't need to.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I see he's feverishly researching over there.

MR. PITCHFORD: Mr. Chairman, the minutes reflect that at the June meeting the commission approved an expenditure of up to $500,000 to support an owner's bonus program. The program will run from July 1 to December 31 of this year. The bonuses will be awarded to winning Virginia-breds competing in overnight races in a multi-state area on the East Coast. The bonuses would be 25 percent of the purse with a $10,000 cap.

So, as approved, the program only applies to overnight races. If the request is to move to stakes, we would need a motion.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: There we go. Commissioner Miller, would you still like to defer, or do you want to discuss the motion as amended?

COMMISSIONER MILLER: No, no. I just wanted to hear from our counsel. That's all.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right.

MR. PETRAMALO: Overnight races technically might include stakes races. You can have overnight stakes races as opposed to great stakes or et cetera, so it's -- it's arguable, but I agree with Duncan. I think you ought to take some formal action
and say, okay, let's make it clear.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I think we should as well. There's no point in not giving you the protection of some formal action. If you want to modify the program and we obviously did not approve it exactly in the specific manner you want to apply it right now.

Let me ask my fellow commissioners if there are any questions or discussions on this. This issue has obviously not been without some controversy, and there have been some varying opinions on the use of the money in the past, so I want to make sure we answer all questions before we take any action.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I have one.

I fully support it, but my big question is: If we took action today, it was not an agenda item, and I don't know if that's cause for concern or not, the fact that it's not on the agenda to be acted upon today.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: That's right. That's a good point.

COMMISSIONER STEGER: I concur.

MS. EASTER: One other -- one other comment I forgot to tell you is that approximately of the 30 awards, it's running about 50 percent are Virginia owners, so that's a good thing. We're getting money in Virginia owner's hands again, so --
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Well, then I'm going
to go ahead and table the issue. I think the consensus
of the commission is to make sure we give it careful
consideration and put it on the agenda so that if there
is any comment, that can be taken into account.

Am I correct that your timing allows for
that, comfortably? And I'm going to anticipate a
meeting next month, at which point we'd have it on the
agenda. It's a retroactive award.

MS. EASTER: Well, and, going forward, any
horse that would win a stake -- but I certainly can --
we certainly can put pending approval of the commission,
but there's so few horses that actually win an open
stake, that we just thought it was silly with the
$10,000 cap not to award the guy that's doing a very
good job, so --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I happen to agree
with you.

MS. EASTER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: But I think the
process has to be correct.

MS. EASTER: I understand.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Mr. Petramalo, did
you have a --

MR. PETRAMALO: No, no. I thought that
would be a good segue into setting a meeting for next
month, because what we'd like, hopefully, to do is, as
Jeb mentioned, have another license application in to
you for the Shockoe Bottom OTB. We wouldn't want to
delay that --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Well --

MR. PETRAMALO: -- next month.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I will move on then.

Ms. Easter, was there anything further?

MS. EASTER: No. I think that was --

overall, all of it is very positive, everything you've
heard today, and hopefully we can -- we're making small
steps, but we're going forward and that's a good thing.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Mr. Eshelman?

MR. ESHELMAN: Tom Eshelman, General
Manager with the Shenandoah Fair Association. I just
wanted to go on record. I started coming here about 18
months ago as a fly on the wall to these meetings and
got to meet quite a few people here, and I just wanted
to say for the record it's been a pleasure to work with
Scott at the VHHA and with Debbie and with Jeb.

It has been a challenge, and what is
existing now in Woodstock is definitely a premiere
racetrack. It's something that I think not only can
Virginia call -- call its own and be proud of, but it's
definitely something that the people of Shenandoah county are seeming to embrace. There has been very little negativity about it. Most of it has been very positive, and we're very excited to have it as an asset of our county, and I think it's going to make a lasting impression for people.

So everyone is invited to come, but it's been a great challenge and a great pleasure.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you for all your work. I can see Mr. Eshelman has the best tan in the room, and I know he hasn't been at the beach. Thank you for all your hard work.

At this point, we will circle back to -- if the VEA officials would look at their calendars, I'm going to ask for some recommendations on when you can be ready for a meeting. We'll circle back and do that before we adjourn.

But at this point, if there are no other comments that any members of the public or audience would like to make, then it is time for commissioner comments. I will deal to my left and start with Commissioner Reynolds.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I just want to thank you all for your hard work. I think it's obvious that, albeit slowly, the racing industry in Virginia is
moving forward, and we're very excited and appreciate your hard work. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Steger?

COMMISSIONER STEGER: Yes, sir. I was just thinking along the same lines, with all progress that we've made that we might want to consider either just the commission or jointly with VEA and the horsemen's association, but putting together a website that aggregates all these activities so people would have one place to go to get a schedule.

You could have photographs of the new tracks and all this sort of things, so you'd have one -- one location to see all the things that are happening, the opening day of the OTB and all that.

And I might be able to provide some help to get that going, if these things take a little effort, but I really do think it would help us in terms of promotion. It would also help the public in getting access to the various venues that are being created. That's just an idea for discussion and thought.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: That's a great idea, and in the spirit of being careful what you wish for, we, of course, will take you up on your offer, very kind offer, right away.

And I would suggest that if Mr. Lermond
and Mr. Hannum, Ms. Easter might be able to get together at Dr. Steger's convenience and talk about what facilities might be available and how we could help put that together. I know you all work on a website all the time, and maybe that's where it should reside, but it's a great idea to make that a more robust presence. We got a lot to talk about and a lot to promote, which is great news.

Commissioner Dawson?

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Thank you.

I just want to add my voice to those who are congratulating the VEA and the VHHA on this great accomplishment, having a harness track. I'm excited about it, too, and I think it just goes to show what you can do when you work together and don't care who gets the credit.

And I also wanted to mention -- I know it has nothing to do with Virginia racing, although most -- most of us are here because we enjoy horse sports and we support horse sports, and I just wanted to mention that I think it was last night the U.S. hundred jumper team won the silver medal in Rio. And a couple days before that, our U.S. dressage team won the bronze medal.

I'm not sure about the event team, if anybody can fill me in on that. I don't know. I know
they were in contention, but I don't know how that ended up.

But, anyway, we're very proud of our horse sports in the United States and especially in Virginia, so you guys are really keeping up the tradition and I look forward to Morven Park next year.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

Commissioner Miller?

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I -- I'm in the television market of the Washington, D.C., stations, and so I had the opportunity to see an interesting special on WRC, Channel 4, NBC station. There -- they did a two-part or three-part special on the Charlestown track on -- and on racing, thoroughbred racing. Some of it nice, some of it critical.

But if you get on the WRC NBC 4 or -- I think that's what it's called -- website, you can probably draw that -- find that on there, historical data under investigations, so I would urge people to do that.

Secondly, I don't know, several years ago we tried to set aside, as the commission, when I was on the commission at a prior -- prior term, we wanted to designate a certain amount of money from our funds for publicity and promotion. I know these are dire times,
and there's not much money available, but I think we need to start thinking about, in the coming year, this fall and next year.

We may not be able to do anything this fall, but next year we need to be thinking about trying to supplement whatever funds are set forth by the horsemen and by the harness horsemen or the thoroughbred horsemen in promoting their races at Morven Park and Shenandoah Downs, that the racing commission be able to transfer some funds from our account, whatever funds we might be able to use, to supplement promotion and publicity, regarding what we're doing and the races.

Because it's going to be very important for the success of Shenandoah Downs and Morven Park to have a publicity promotion presence in Northern Virginia, because that's going to be the primary market, not to say that the Richmond area isn't important also, and Chesapeake and so forth, but we're talking about a huge population center 30, 45 minutes to an hour and a half away from these facilities, so that's something for us to talk about in the future.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: That's a great thought. I couldn't concur more. I believe that ties directly into Commissioner Steger's suggestion on our website. It's about a communications effort. I would
love to see the commission support, in a tangible way --
and although Mr. Lermond doesn't yet know it yet, he and
I have a date to go over the budget in the near future.

    And, Dave, if you wouldn't mind adding
that thought to the conversation, let's start looking
for some ways to develop, if you will, a marketing fund
that we can use, and maybe there's some ways we can
leverage that with other components, both in our
industry and in state government to build on it.

    I think it would be awfully nice if we
could create a real marketing wherewithal. And when you
think about what we've heard today and the fact that
this is not only a significant day for Virginia racing
with Shenandoah Downs now on the near horizon, but that
Shenandoah Downs provides a facility that is likely
going to be of national import and recognition in the
world of harness racing.

    We do have a lot to talk about and we need
to shine a bright light on those important developments,
and it all eventually goes to the customer creation,
which we need so very badly in this sport.

    Thank you all very much. And, again,
those are great reports today, and it's awfully nice to
be involved in approving these kinds of developments.

    That takes us to our next meeting. It
sounds like -- so I'll ask Mr. Hannum if it is likely that we're going to be looking at an application for license as early as late September, and, if so, that's when we'll find a date for next meeting.

We can take a minute to talk about that, and I'm -- while you're thinking about it, I'm looking at maybe the last couple of Wednesdays of the month.

MR. HANNUM: I was thinking -- yeah, so if we look at the -- maybe the 22nd --

MR. PETRAMALO: Do you want to do it --

MR. HANNUM: -- that gives us --

MR. PETRAMALO: That's a Thursday.

Wednesday?

MR. HANNUM: Wednesday --

THE CHAIRMAN: We are flexible these days. I think we floated back and forth through the week. Thursdays are great.

MR. HANNUM: Thursday, I think it will be better, the 22nd. Then that gives us four weeks to prepare the application, because then we send it to the staff a week --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Is that enough or would you prefer another week?

MR. HANNUM: I think that's enough.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I think we need to
meet when we have action to take and not before. So I
don't want to -- I don't want to set a meeting and then
have to change it --

MR. HANNUM: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: -- if we can help it.

MR. HANNUM: Okay. So it sounds like

there's a horse council meeting on the 22nd.

MS. EASTER: Right.

MR. HANNUM: So we'd be looking at

Wednesday the 21st or maybe the next week, the

Tuesday -- yeah, maybe the next week, the 27th, 28th, or

29th, or whatever is --

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right.

MR. HANNUM: -- good for your schedule.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Do my fellow

commissioners have their calendars, and do we know if

that is going to -- if you'll be available?

MR. PITCHFORD: 27th, 28th is better for

me.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Me, too.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. The 27th or

28th? Either one? How about Wednesday the 28th, right

in the middle of the week?

MR. HANNUM: Does it matter to the

commissioners if it's Tuesday the 27th or is --
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Doesn't matter.

MR. PITCHFORD: Either one.

MS. EASTER: That would be better for me, if you don't mind, but I can --

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: That's fine.

MS. EASTER: -- get somebody to sit in the other meeting.

MR. HANNUM: So we'll shoot for Tuesday the 27th?

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. Let's pencil in Tuesday, the 27th of September --

MR. HANNUM: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: -- for the next meeting. If there is some unforeseen conflict --

MR. HANNUM: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: -- at this very moment, we will circulate a request for some additional dates, but we'll confirm it with a notice ASAP, so we'll set it for Tuesday the 27th.

MR. HANNUM: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

Is there anything else that any member of the commission would like to bring up as other business?

MS. EASTER: I'll bring just one more comment that I didn't think of. Commissioner Miller, we
are -- we are running cable TV, print, radio, all for
the races, so just because you're in the area, just be
interested, if you just kind of keep you ears and eyes
open in the next month that you'll see if it's being
effective all, so it -- so hopefully you'll start seeing
stuff around there in the next week or two.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Dawson?
VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: I just wanted to
bring up one other thing. I know, Debbie, you all have
a website.

MS. EASTER: We do. Virginia Horseracing
News, which is a combination website that -- just what
you all are talking about that we tried to put all the
information, but we would love the commission's help,
and if the commission -- if that's something Dr. Steger
has access to kids that -- people of more knowledge,
we're happy to share and put that in somebody else's
hands, but we do have one that we probably should start
with --

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: Do you have any way
of knowing what kind of feedback you're getting from
your site?

MS. EASTER: I can find that out for you,
but I don't have it right in front of me.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: And does the VHHA
have a website?

    DR. WOOGEN: We do.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: So there's a lot --

MS. EASTER: We made one big combo one

where you can access all of our websites, and we're

trying to put all the information on the one and then

feed it out to the, you know, say, the standardbred

stuff to the standardbred folks and all that, but we

would love help with that.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I'm sure there's a

way to improve it, and, if I recall, Blacksburg was the

first city in Virginia or maybe anywhere --

MR. PITCHFORD: In the United States.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: -- in the United

States to get wired for wi-fi, so I'm sure there's some

help to be had.

Commissioner Miller?

MS. EASTER: We'd love help.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: It just occurred to

me I wanted to ask Dr. Woogen if -- have you heard any

feedback from your drivers who have been coming to the

fair in years past about the excitement --

    DR. WOOGEN: Oh, yes, tremendous

excitement. I guess, with the saying: If you build it,

they will come, we had 90 stalls available, and we've
had over 200 applications for horses, so we've -- our
problem right now is we have to screen out the ones that
we can accept. And, unfortunately, we can't accept half
the horses that have applied, so there's a lot of
interest from trainers, drivers, owners.

We get comments wherever we race. People
come up to us and ask us about it.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I suspected that,
but I just wanted to hear it from --

DR. WOOGEN: I was afraid we wouldn't get
applications for the stalls, and here we are turning
people away.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I've got one last
comment, one bit of recognition. Mr. Burman is in the
audience, and while he has occasionally been one of our
critics, he is interested in honesty and engaged with
all of his opinion, and I just want to say thank you
very much for being the source for what sounds like it
might be our next OTB location and sounds like a very
good one at that, so thank you for your help.

With that, I would entertain a motion to
adjourn.

VICE CHAIRMAN DAWSON: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We have a motion.

Second?
MR. PITCHFORD: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed?

We stand adjourned. Thank you very much.

(This meeting concluded at 11:11 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of my stenographic notes well and truly transcribed to the best of my abilities.

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Angela N. Sidener