VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION

August 17, 2017

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

Commencing at 10:00 a.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:
D.G. Van Clief, Jr., Chairman
I. Clinton Miller
Dr. Charles Steger
J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr.

COMMISSION STAFF:
David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator
Rhonda F. Davis, Pari-Mutuel and Licensing Coordinator

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

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CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Good morning, everybody. My watch says it's exactly ten o'clock. Thank you all for being here. This is a very professional crowd this morning, which means we must not have a very controversial agenda, or we don't anticipate one.

We do have a few action items, and I'd like to call the meeting to order and note that we have four of five commissioners present. Although he could not make it, he had a preexisting conflict, I'd like to welcome Stuart Siegel, who some of us served with during his years as chairman several years ago on this Commission. He has been reappointed and he will be replacing Carol Dawson, so we're delighted that he'll be back and look forward to working with him.

At the same time, I would like to thank former Commissioner Dawson for her service. You could count on her every time to ask the right questions, insist on the right standards and always seek to take the high road. So we're going to miss Carol Dawson in her role as a commissioner, but when we get a committee assignment, I'll be happy to say she will continue to serve the Commission.

So with that, we'll move on to the approval of
the July 6th meeting. This time around, I don't have any suggestions for changes. Does anybody have any questions about the minutes as drafted or suggestions or modifications they'd like to make? If not, we need a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Second?

COMMISSIONER STEGER: Second.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed? Thank you very much. The minutes are approved as submitted and included in your packets under Tab One.

Now on to new business. We do have several items we need to take action on here, beginning with a request for approval of a limited license, which has been submitted to the Commission by the Shenandoah County Agricultural Foundation, and that's of course for racing at Shenandoah Downs this year. That's under Tab Two for the commissioners in their books, and I believe that Mr. Hannum is going to present this item.

MR. HANNUM: Thank you. I'm here with Tom Eshelman. Tom, you all know, is the -- you all know Tom. Tom is an executive director of the new Shenandoah County Agricultural Foundation. That's a 501c3 organization, which is the applicant for the
license, and then the VEA like we did last year will
be the entity that will be operating and running the
races on behalf of the Shenandoah County
Agricultural Foundation, so we're here together to
talk through the license application.

So before we get in to the license itself, I
just wanted to touch base on a couple things. So
this will be our second year of racing at
Shenandoah, and you know, we expect that the track
will be better and more settled and will have had a
full year to work on it.

Last year, you remember the track was built in
record time after extraordinary rains out in the
Shenandoah valley all summer. So the track is,
according to John Dale Thomas, looks great and will
be ready for racing.

We have essentially the same racing office
coming back, which is great, and we'll get to that
on a later agenda item.

Working with Tom and his office at the county
fair, we've done a couple things to improve the
grounds. One of the significant things we've done
is we've expanded the crow's nest in the grandstand.
So last year it was quite crowded, so Tom and his
team got a plan in place that enabled us to
essentially double the amount of space that we had for the officials and for the camera crew. So we think that will make a big difference and just make it more professional and easier for everyone to work.

We'll have expanded television and audio down in the racing office, which will again help the judges and racing office monitor things.

The fence around the track has been painted. I think esthetically things are going to look a lot better. The grass has had a chance to grow and it just looks really well out there.

We will have a number of hot water sites for the horsemen. Last year, that was something we weren't quite as well prepared as we should have been, but we're going to have three main hot water stations throughout the grounds.

We have a new layout for the barns which we think will be better for the horsemen and will be easier for us to manage logistically. So these are just some of the items that we took as learnings from last year to improve things for this year.

So we looked to start racing on September 16th and 17th and then go the next four weekends so there will be ten days of racing total.
Again, just following the same pattern as we did last year, Saturday and Sunday racing. We'll have events on different weekends to help draw in the crowds and we've had good feedback from the racing office. Mike Wandishin, our racing secretary, says the horsemen are excited to come back and are being supportive of the meet.

So I'll pause there. Tom, do you want to add anything on behalf of the racing foundation?

MR. ESHELMAN: Yes. We took it upon ourselves -- as of last year, I was the representative for the facility, which is the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds Association, and obviously that entity is still in place.

Then an application was made for the expansion and preservation of agriculture, and along with that was for livestock and horse racing activities at the Shenandoah County Fair, and the entity became a 501c3 this past spring, was indeed labeled as the Shenandoah County Agricultural Foundation.

It has a separate board. I volunteered to be their executive director, so there's no compensation involved with that board or with that committee and we're very excited to be part of hosting the races.

The fairgrounds itself also took additional
improvements in to play, including pouring of concrete flooring under the grandstand, providing a more stable atmosphere; it's easier to clean.

We've eliminated a few walls. We expanded the area, cleaned it up a little, even more so than it used to be, while still trying to preserve the history of the fair which will be 100 years old this year.

So the grandstand kept on its original look and appearance, but we did some pretty unique upgrades; electrical so that we could host -- fix the issues that we had last year, as well as the flooring.

We also, with the assistance of donations from other entities including the Equine Alliance and also the Harness Horsemen's Association, given rain or shine here in the next seven days, hope to open a 1200 square foot washroom.

This will accommodate ADA bathrooms and showers used by the facility by the 4Hers and the livestock kids that show, as well as enable the horsemen to have a place to clean up after racing.

Very excited about having that up as well. That was a project that the fairgrounds took on. It was one of the first projects that the Agricultural Foundation took on, as well as a fundraiser.
So we're very excited to continue to upgrade our facilities and use the incomes that have been realized from rental incomes and upgrade our grounds for a wide variety of things, including racing.

MR. HANNUM: Thank you. So I open up for any questions, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I've got one. Could you talk a little bit about the marketing effort to build on your experience last year?

MR. HANNUM: Sure. I might put my colleague, Darryl Wood, on the spot to talk about that a little bit. Darryl is the director of communications and marketing for the VEA, so he's been spearheading that.

MR. WOOD: Thanks, Jeb. It's an interesting market to market. There's no TV stations in Winchester, which is 30 miles north, and there's one TV station in Harrisonburg, which is 25 miles south, so it's really reaching the people in those markets and in between in the valley through different publications and Tom has been extremely helpful in guiding us with his experience in marketing the fair.

Like Jeb said earlier, we've got events on five different Saturdays from beer festivals to wine
festivals, seafood festival, food truck festival and an Autumn Fest event, which will bring in our biggest crowd of the year. That's on closing Saturday. Last year, that event took place after the season ended. This year, it's on our closing Saturday, and Tom, that should bring in what? About 2000 people, I think.

MR. ESHELMAN: Two thousand plus.

MR. WOOD: So that'll really give us a nice way to finish out the meet. So our marketing efforts are focused really on those first four weeks especially; the opening, knowing closing weekend will take care of itself, that event.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: As far as your promotion of wagering goes, I believe your application included ten machines and six teller-manned stations. Is that the same as the previous year?

MR. HANNUM: Yes, and that's flexible. We can add machines easily or if it's a quiet day we can take a station down to save a little bit of money on not having a teller or two in place, but that's the same arrangement that we had last year.

We are going to experiment with a walk-around unit this year. Some of the feedback that we got was that it was hard for some of our racing fans to
sort of navigate the grandstand eight or nine times. So we don't have any betting stations up in the stands. Maybe that would be something we will look at next year, but we'll have a walk-around unit, so hopefully that will help some of the customers who don't want to walk up and down the stairs every time.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Are you projecting your handle at around the same level as last year? Do you expect to see some growth?

MR. HANUNIX: I hope to see some growth. We're still experimenting with the timing. There's a lot of competition for activities at that time of year. Always difficult with college and professional football going on. There are a lot of festivals in the area, so we're up against a lot of different events.

There have been some very preliminary conversations about maybe the spring season might be better in terms of for a spectator perspective, but I know harness horsemen like having the races in the fall because that works for the two-year-olds. So I think this will be a learning this year and we'll have to evaluate and see what's best for the horsemen and for customers.
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. That's all for me. Does anybody else have any questions?

If not, we do need to entertain a motion to approve the license application. We have under Tab Two in your books you'll find the staff report which summarizes the application, the full application that each of you received.

Mr. Lermond's recommendation is that we approve this application with the following two conditions, and I will read them verbatim.

Number one, the horse racing with pari-mutual wagering shall be operated in accordance with all representations, plans and specifications as submitted in the application and as described in the Virginia Racing Commission's August 17 meeting, and the licensee shall not deviate materially from these representations, plans and specifications without the prior consent of the Commission.

And condition number two, the horse racing with pari-mutual wagering shall be operated in accordance with all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations, the regulations of the Commission and all local ordinances.

So the motion this morning would be to approve the application as submitted with those two
conditions included. I'll make that motion.

    COMMISSIONER STEGER: I will second it.

    CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Any further discussion or questions? All in favor, please indicate by saying aye.

    NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

    CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed? The application is approved. The motion carries unanimously.

    Second on our list of new business action items is the request for approval of the agreement between the Shenandoah County Agricultural Foundation and the Virginia Equine Alliance and Virginia Harness Horsemen's Association. I believe Mr. Petramalo is going to brief us on that.

    MR. PETRAMALO: Yes, Mr. Chairman. This contract is similar to the one you approved last year with one difference. The licensee this time is the Foundation, the Agricultural Foundation. Last year, it was the Equine Foundation.

    Basically, Tom's group is contracting with the VEA to actually operate the meet. This is to schedule the races and take care of all of the wagering, et cetera.

    The other party to this agreement besides the
VEA and the Foundation is the VHHA, the Harness Horsemen's Association. They are agreeing to put up the purse money. So basically what's happening is the VEA will conduct this race meet as it would conduct any other race meet and as it did last year.

In return for the Foundation becoming a sponsor and taking out the license, the VEA will actually pay a sponsorship fee of $10,000 to the Foundation. That's basically the sum and substance of what's in the contract.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Are there any questions for Mr. Petramalo about the contract which is under Tab Three in your books? If not, we need a motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: So move.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MILLER: Second.

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

NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed? Thank you very much. The motion carries unanimously and the contract is approved.

Next up is the approval of racing officials for the harness meet, and I believe Mr. Lermond will
carry the water on this one.

MR. LERMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Hannum stated earlier, this is basically the same line-up of racing officials they had last year. The main difference would be the starter, and I should say starters. It's going to be Mo LaFontaine and Clarence Martin. According to our judges, Mr. LaFontaine does a very good job at Rosecroft. He has been the full-time starter there for a year now.

He's very good at calling out infractions, and a starter actually also works as a patrol judge at harness, so the closer attention he pays, the better it is for everyone because he's right out there with the action.

Clarence Martin will I think take Mr. LaFontaine's place once Rosecroft starts their racing up, and I think probably that's the last two weekends of Shenandoah. So between the two of them, I think we've got very good starters.

As I said, everyone else is basically the same. I would say that from a regulatory standpoint, last year's meet went very well, especially for an inaugural meet. We really didn't have any issues at all, and I think part of that is a reflexion of
these people listed under Tab Four.

I would also point out that the judges are appointed by the Commission, not by the VEA, and they're also on this list.

Mr. Remy is the presiding judge. He's the presiding judge in Maryland currently. Paul Tishuk -- I hope he's not reading the transcript -- but he's been around a long, long time and really knows the game very well. I've learned a lot from him personally and we're lucky to have him. Dan Kazmaier is the presiding judge in Delaware.

So we're very fortunate to have this high standard of judges and it just works out with the way the schedule falls where there is no racing in Delaware starting at the same time. Mr. Tishuk will only be available for the first three weekends, so James Mitchell will handle Mr. Tishuk's duties the last two weekends.

Mr. Mitchell was actually a paddock judge at Colonial the last couple years that they had harness racing there, and he's also a judge in Kentucky at Thunder Ridge and Red Mile, and that's good because he's familiar with some of the Kentucky drivers and trainers that come up to compete at Shenandoah.

So I would seek a motion to approve this list of
racing officials, to include the judges.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We have a motion. I'll second it. Is there any discussion, any questions for Mr. Lermond? If not, all in favor, signify by saying aye.

NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed? Thank you very much. Motion carries. List of officials for the Shenandoah Downs meet approved.

Dave, do you want to take us right on to the next issue with regards to your request for an amendment to qualifying race rules?

MR. LERMOND: Yes, sir. Under Tab Five in your books, you'll see some proposed amendment to 11 VAC 10-150-190, qualifying races. In harness, the equivalent of a official workout is a qualifying race. So in Thoroughbred racing, which you might be more familiar with, if a horse has not raced in 30 days, he's required to have a published workout.

In harness, they take it a step farther where a horse who has not raced in 30 days has to go through a qualifying race. It's a non-betting race and the only stipulation is that the horse has to finish the race under a set standard of time. That's actually
why it's called Standardbred racing, because of
this.

The horsemen had asked if we would look at this
regulation and extend it to 45 days, the main reason
being is that in Maryland, it's a 45-day rule. In
Kentucky, it's a 45-day rule. In Delaware, it's
actually a 60-day rule. Not that it will affect a
whole bunch of horses, but it probably will enable
them to get a few more horses in the races because
they won't have to have had a race in 30 days; it
will be 45 days.

If you see the way I drafted this with
Mr. Pitchford's help, it leaves the door open for us
to go back to 30. So what we're saying is it's 30
days from its last race; however, this may be
extended to 45 days for a particular race or race
meet with the approval of the stewards.

So the understanding is that our stewards or
judges are going to allow the 45 days for this meet,
but if we -- and I don't foresee this happening --
but if it was to be a problem or something we didn't
like about it, we could just in essence next year
say we're not going to approve it to be extended,
and then it would go back to the 30 days as it's
written here, and then we wouldn't have to go
through this exercise and change the rule back.

So I think it's a good way to approach it, and again, the horsemen have asked for this and staff has reviewed it and I would recommend that you approve this amendment.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you very much. Anybody have any questions for Mr. Lermond about this rule change? Is it a rule change or is it an ability to modify the rule?

MR. LERMOND: It's an amendment.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. If not, then we need a motion to approve the recommendation that Mr. Lermond has put forward in accordance with Tab Five in your books.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? If not, all in favor please signify by saying aye.

NOTE: The Commission votes aye.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any opposed? Thank you very much. The motion passes unanimously.

That pretty much is the action items. I wanted to talk a little bit about our strategic planning committee and activity there. Since the last meeting where we assigned members to that committee,
most of whom are representatives of our stakeholder
horsemen's organizations and also includes two
commissioners, which would be Commissioner Steger
and myself, we have determined in discussions with
the VEA that the best course of action is to
transfer formal responsibility, and if you will,
ownership of the planning committee and planning
process to the VEA, given the fact that a majority
of the members are VEA organization representatives,
and also given the fact that what we're asking this
committee to do is to come back and submit back to
the Commission a strategic plan that will guide
Virginia's racing industry in its decision-making
process and hopefully put it on a healthy road to
sustainability and growth.

We've asked that that plan be developed, that it
encompass at least in the blueprint form at this
point, we're looking for what we think should be a
five-year plan, but we're going to transfer the
ownership and the responsibility of that committee
to the VEA.

So that was less than clear, and when I first
brought the topic up at our meeting before and we
made the assignments, we were thinking in terms of a
VRC committee. That will now not be the case. We
will move it to the VEA.

Mr. Pitchford, do we need a formal motion to do that?

MR. PITCHFORD: I don't think so, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We'll just make that effective as of that meeting. Dr. Steger and I will continue to serve, but the ownership of that committee will be with the VEA.

I would like to talk very briefly about our Racing Safety and Medication Committee. I mentioned at the top that former Commissioner Dawson was leaving us and we thanked her for her service on the Commission.

I'm very happy that she has agreed to continue her service on the Racing Safety and Medication Committee. She's an active member. She's very enthusiastic about the commission of that and she is very keen on maintaining the highest levels of integrity and the best possible image for horse racing in the Commonwealth and agreed to serve on the committee of which she chaired until her departure from this Commission, so I am reappointing Mrs. Dawson to the Racing Safety and Medication Committee.

That's it on the committees. Any questions from
my fellow commissioners? Thank you very much.

Now back to Mr. Hannum for an update on your activities and your development, and you already talked about racing at Shenandoah Downs, but you brief us on any other issues you would like to at this point.

MR. HANNUM: I'll just speak to Breakers and Ponies & Pints here in town. So through July 31st, total handle combined for the two sites was 11.6 million. In July, we broke a nice milestone or threshold at Breakers. The handle $1,021,725, so that was great.

Then Ponies & Pints continues to do well. In July, they did a little over 800,000. So Breakers is averaging a little over 31,000 per day and Ponies & Pints almost 25,000 per day.

So we've been pleased with handle at the sites and continue to work with the staff and the owners of the two sites on making improvements.

So that's just a quick update on those two and I'll turn things over to Debbie to talk a little bit about prospective OTB sites. Then before I do that, I'd like to introduce Jason Whittler. Jason joins us after a distinguished 20-plus years in the United States military and a recent graduate of the
University of Arizona racing program.

So Jason is going to be overseeing OTB operations for the VEA, so we are very happy to have Jason on board and he's dived in and Mary Calabrese is training Jason and he's been just a big help and we look forward to his contribution going forward. So I wanted you all to have an opportunity to meet Jason here, and hopefully you can say hello to him after the meeting.

MS. EASTER: So as Jeb said, we are very happy with the Richmond OTBs. They continue to out perform what we projected for both of them, and it has been a very nice surprise to see how well they performed in the summer time.

As Jeb said with Jason, we're looking forward -- he's getting some intense training from Mary Calabrese right now, but I hope once he learns the ins and outs of how OTBs run, we will have somebody there that really can help us with customer service in our OTBs, working hand in hand with Darryl and myself to do what we can do and improve any situation we can to make it a better deal for customers.

Also, he's been to some of the new sites that we think we have located and he will be very
instrumental helping us get those open, but we think it was real important to get somebody -- that will be a multi-million dollar business, our OTBs, and have somebody overseeing that and looking at that every day and traveling around to the different sites and so we're real excited to have him on board.

I'm pleased to announce it, but I can't give you too many details. We've located what we hope are our potential sites in three areas. Vinton, the City of Vinton, Henry County, which is just outside of Martinsville, and Hampton. Hopefully by the next meeting, I'll be able to give you more details.

We've had great talks with the owners. We've had preliminary talks with each of the localities, government officials and the localities, and none of them seem to think that it will be a problem, but I got to go back in with plans and more details with them and have those talks with each of the city or county officials.

So I just as soon wait until we get there before we bring that up and put it out in public, but I'm very excited about some of our locations and want to grow in to some real neat, I think, hopefully some first-class places.
So hopefully like I said, next meeting we will be able to announce those locations and go forward from there. We hope to have -- it would be ideal if at the next meeting we could have some new applications for you. So that would be the plan.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. We hope so, too.

MS. EASTER: Anything else, Darryl?

MR. WOOD: No.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Any questions for the --

COMMISSIONER MILLER: Do you have anything that you can publicly report regarding any progress or non-progress in Chesapeake?

MS. EASTER: Jeb should do that.

MR. HANNUM: Yes and no, Commissioner. So I was down in Chesapeake on Tuesday night for a city council meeting and it's sort of confusing. There are two different tracks that are happening down in Chesapeake.

We have our conditional-use permit which is working its way through the planning commission and the city council. So the conditional-use permit was voted on last week by the planning commission and they recommended to vote -- they recommended for
approval, so the conditional-use permit is scheduled to go before the city council and it was a seven-to-one or eight-to-one vote in favor, so that's the permit. So that will be on the schedule for city council to consider in early September.

Then the second thing that is working its way through is a revised ordinance. The ordinance seeks to differentiate between satellite wagering facilities and what they have down in Chesapeake, these sort of quasi-legal internet betting cafés.

Unfortunately, that has gotten sort of muddled and it's not 100 percent clear to some of the planning commission and city council members the difference between these internet betting cafés, which it's questionable whether they're legal or not, and our highly-regulated OTBs.

So this revised ordinance is working its way through. It was originally introduced by a member of the city council to help us, but it unfortunately had two amendments attached to it which could potentially hurt us.

One of the amendments would require a 1,000 foot setback from any computer-based gaming facility and in a sort of residential housing. So our Buckets location is located 285 feet from an apartment
building. So if the amendment to the revised ordinance is adopted, we have a problem. If the ordinance is adopted without the amendment of the 1,000 foot setback, then that's something we would be fine with.

So we are trying to navigate the conditional-use permit which we need, and we need to get the revised ordinance through without the amendment requiring the 1,000 foot setback.

So on Tuesday night, the ordinance was up for consideration and it was continued so they didn't vote on it. It will now be on the schedule on September 12th, I think it is, the same date that the permit is on the schedule. So fortunately, we have a lawyer down in Chesapeake that is helping us navigate this complicated situation.

So we're moving forward, but it's far from straight forward. September 12th, we will hopefully have some clarity on our ordinance and the permit.

I should also say Mr. Lermond came down to the council meeting on Tuesday, which was extremely helpful.

So I had an opportunity to speak before council to explain what the VEA is and how we operate, and what we're trying to stress is that the OTBs are
highly regulated, that the Racing Commission not
only approves the license, but then has a regulatory
role, you know, forever.

So Dave came down and spoke very well and very
clearly to the council explaining that, and I think
that was very important and that just gives them
some time to process that information leading up to
the next meeting, so I appreciate his time to do
that.

So I hope that helps. That's where we are and
hopefully in September it will come out in our
favor, but it's far from a foregone conclusion that
it will.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: Thank you, and I think we
should thank our executive secretary, director,
whatever, for his diligence.

MR. LERMOND: I was happy to do it. It was a
little strange being on that side of the podium.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: Thank you for doing that.

MR. LERMOND: You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Absolutely. Anything

further from the VEA?

MR. HANNUM: No. I think that's it and I think
we covered Shenandoah, so that's my report, unless
there are any questions.
CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Any questions for Jeb or Debbie or any member of the VEA delegation on topics they have discussed this morning or any other questions you might have for them? Okay. Thank you very much.

That takes us to the public comment area. Do we have any members of the public who would like to have the floor for a few minutes?

All right. If not, that takes us to the commissioners' comments. I'd like to start to my left with Commissioner Reynolds.

COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I don't have any comments.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Commissioner Steger.

COMMISSIONER STEGER: I would just like to take a moment to express my appreciation to the VEA for their financial support for the strategic planning process, and also to recognize the Honorable Preston Bryant, who is with McGuire Woods Consulting, who is going to help us work through this process.

We have our first organizing meeting today, so we will intend to report regularly on our progress, and I particularly appreciate the individual constituency group representatives who have agreed to serve on this. I think it will be a productive
endeavor, and as the chairman said, we'll be finished in a couple months. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I just want to apologize to Commissioner Steger. I overlooked a fundamental courtesy, which was to ask him for his comments as the chairman of the committee a few minutes ago. Fortunately, he preempted me.

One further comment I think on the committee process, too. We were asked at an earlier meeting if we would make an effort to keep our fellow commissioners informed, as well as members of the industry, and we do intend to ask the VEA to issue regular reports on our progress. That's it for me today.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We need to consider potential dates for our next meeting. Executive Secretary Lermond let me know this morning that we have commissioners who do have some busy schedules through the late summer, early fall.

I also gather while the VEA is working on their game plan, we will not anticipate applications for the OTBs in the near future, so don't we have any action items until later in the year.

So what we thought we would do would be to pick
an early November date. If something arises that requires action, we can get in the game pretty quickly. We will organize a meeting, send out the required notice and reconvene, but other than that, we thought we'd give everybody a break and look for an early November meeting.

We can get out of the gate right away with a Thursday November 2nd meeting, if that works for the commissioners, or we can go the following week. Tuesday is election day, so that won't work, so we could do Wednesday the 8th or Thursday the 9th.

Since Commissioner Siegel is not here, Dave, why don't I ask you to circulate the Commission with dates and let's see which of those two weeks. Either is good for me and I'll hold mine open, but let's circulate and see what works and then issue a notice, if you would.

MR. LERMOND: Very good.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Great. Is there any other item of business or issue that any commissioner would like to bring before the meeting at this time? If not, I thank you all for your time this morning and I will move adjournment. Any opposed?

COMMISSIONER STEGER: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you very much. We
stand adjourned.

NOTE: The meeting is adjourned at 10:40 a.m.
CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Sandra G. Spinner, hereby certify that having first been duly sworn, I was the Court Reporter at the meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission at the time of the hearing herein.

Further, that to the best of my ability, the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings herein.

Given under my hand this 20th day of August, 2017.

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SANDRA G. SPINNER
COURT REPORTER