

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**VIRGINIA RACING COMMISSION**

DECEMBER 16, 2010

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

Commencing at 11:00 a.m.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

- D. G. Van Clief, Jr., Chairman
- Stuart C. Siegel
- J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr.
- Marsha K. Hudgins
- Stephanie B. Nixon**

**COMMISSION STAFF:**

- David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary
- Kimberly C. Mackey, Business Manager

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Elizabeth R. Myers, Esquire

**CAPITOL REPORTING, INC.**  
**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS**  
**(804) 788-4917**

## I N D E X

	PAGE
1	
2	
3	1. Call to Order 3
4	2. Approval of the September 17th meeting minutes 4
5	3. Public Comment Period 5
6	4. New Business
7	a. Request for Approval of a Significant Limited 7
8	License and Race Days for 2021 Submitted by Colonial
9	Downs Group, LLC
10	b. Request for Approval of Licenses to Conduct 13
11	Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Historical Horse
12	Racing at Rosie's - New Kent, Rosie's - Richmond,
13	Rosie's - Vinton, Rosie's - Hampton, and Rosie's -
14	Dumfries for 2021 Submitted by Colonial Downs Group,
15	LLC
16	c. 2021 ADW License Renewals 16
17	i. Twinpires
18	ii. TVG
19	iii. Xpressbet
20	iv. NYRabets
21	d. Request for Approval of the VEA Operating Budget 20
22	for 2021
23	e. Request for Approval of the VTA Breeders Fund 34
24	Administration Budget for 2021
25	f. Request for Approval of the Thoroughbred Breeder 39
26	and Stallion Award Totals for 2020
27	g. Request for Approval of Horsemen's Agreement 44
28	between Colonial Downs Group, LLC and the VHBPA
29	h. Request for Approval of the VHHA Breeders Fund 48
30	Administration Budget for 2021
31	
32	5. Report on Harness Racing at Shenandoah Downs by 50
33	Debbie Warnick (non Pari-Mutuel)
34	6. Commissioners' Comments 56
35	7. Closed Session (if necessary) 61
36	8. Adjournment 63
37	

1           NOTE: The meeting of the Commission is called to  
2 order as follows:

3           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. It is, for the  
4 record, 18 minutes after 11:00 a.m. and I would like to call  
5 this meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission to order.

6           I'm going to go ahead with a brief roll call just  
7 to advise for the record who's on.

8           Sarge Reynolds.

9           COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I'm here.

10          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, I can see you.  
11 Vice Chairman Stuart Seigel.

12          VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Here.

13          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I see you as well.

14          Commissioner Nixon, I can hear you, but I can't  
15 see you. Are you still on?

16          COMMISSIONER NIXON: I'm here, yes, sir.

17          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

18          And Dave, would you let us know what members of  
19 management and staff are on board?

20          MR. LERMOND: Kimberly Mackey and myself.

21          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

22          Do we have Liz Myers from the Attorney General's  
23 office with us? That's a no?

24          COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I see Liz.

25          MR. LERMOND: I see Liz.

1           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. I don't see her, she's  
2 not coming up on my screen.

3           VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: There's an arrow on the  
4 right, D. G., that can show you more people.

5           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes, Roger that. Okay.  
6 Yes. Thank you.

7           Okay. All right, so Ms. Myers is with us, and I  
8 think that's it.

9           I want to thank the Secretary of Agriculture,  
10 Bettina Ring, and particularly this morning Brad Copen-  
11 haver for making this facility available to us for our  
12 technologically driven meeting. Brad is working feverishly  
13 at the moment to pull it all together. Thanks, Brad, very  
14 much for your time and getting us going with a virtual  
15 session today.

16           Our first order of business is approval of the  
17 September 17th VRC meeting minutes. I've reviewed those;  
18 they were circulated electronically to all of my fellow  
19 Commissioners. Does anybody have any questions of or sug-  
20 gestions or requests for change to those brief minutes from  
21 September 17th?

22           NOTE: There was no response.

23           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If there are none, I need a  
24 motion to approve.

25           VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: So moved.

1 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. A second?

2 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Any opposed?

4 NOTE: There was no response.

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. The minutes are  
6 approved.

7 We now are at the public comment period. I'll  
8 throw this to our Executive Secretary. Dave, do we have  
9 anyone registered for public comments in the meeting format?

10 MR. LERMOND: I would have to check with Brad.

11 MR. COPENHAVER: So, we only had one person  
12 register for public comment, and that was Frank Petramalo,  
13 but I'm guessing Frank just wants to speak during the time  
14 in the meeting when he was scheduled to speak, but I'm going  
15 to unmute Frank and see if there's anything else he'd like  
16 to say in the public comment period.

17 Frank, are you with us?

18 MR. PETRAMALO: No, you're right, Brad, but I'm  
19 totally confused about the technology here. Where do I find  
20 the coffee and donuts? They're usually supplied at the  
21 Commission meetings.

22 Okay. I'll keep quiet now.

23 MR. COPENHAVER: We didn't have anyone else  
24 registered, but if anyone would like to provide public  
25 comment, if you can use the Raise Hand function down at the

1 bottom, you can let us know that you'd like to speak in  
2 Public Comments. I'll give folks just a few seconds to --

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you, Brad.  
4 Yes, we would welcome anybody that would like to, registered  
5 or not, take the opportunity right now.

6 MR. COPENHAVER: All right, we have one person  
7 with their hand raised, so I'm going to unmute.

8 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. We'd ask that  
9 individual to start their comments by stating their full  
10 name and affiliation for the record.

11 MR. BLAND: Good morning, everyone, I think that's  
12 me. My name is Richard Bland, and I'm an attorney, and I've  
13 been working with the Virginia Harness Horse Association.  
14 Actually, I did register for the comment, but I only did  
15 that about an hour ago for whatever it's worth.

16 And I know that Dr. Woogen, who is the president,  
17 wanted to make some comments, and he's also engaged on and  
18 off in medical procedures during this meeting. I don't know  
19 if I should make these comments now or I should just wait  
20 until there's a VHHA report later on that's being made.  
21 I'll seek your direction on this.

22 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Mr. Bland, thank you.  
23 Why don't we wait and just consolidate all of  
24 that under the VHHA report towards the end of the meeting,  
25 which is on the agenda at Number 5? Let's do that and we'll

1 package it all in one.

2 MR. BLAND: That's fine, that will be perfect.

3 Are you going to remute me?

4 MR. COPENHAVER: Yes.

5 MR. BLAND: Okay. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

7 Brad, do you see anybody else?

8 MR. COPENHAVER: I don't see anyone else with  
9 their hand raised.

10 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

11 MR. COPENHAVER: That's all of our Public Comment.

12 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, thank you. We'll thus  
13 close the Public Comment period and move on to New Business.  
14 We've got a slew of approvals to consider this morning, and  
15 although all of these are routine, I do want to take what-  
16 ever time the Commission may need to ask questions and make  
17 sure that you feel comfortable, fully informed before we  
18 take action.

19 So the first of which is we're in receipt of a  
20 Request of Approval of a Significant Infrastructure Limited  
21 License as well as Race Days for 2021, and that's been sub-  
22 mitted by Colonial Downs Group, LLC. I believe that Mr.  
23 Marshall, John Marshall is going to present that item.

24 MR. COPENHAVER: Mr. Marshall, you are unmuted  
25 now.

1 MR. MARSHALL: Thank you.

2 Mr. Commissioner, Members of the Commission,  
3 before you today is a Significant Infrastructure and License  
4 Application for 2021. Within that application consists of  
5 21 Thoroughbred slot race days contested July 19th through  
6 September the 1st with a pandemic forward schedule of Mon-  
7 days, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, post time 4:45, with the stable  
8 area opening July 5th and closing September the 7th.

9 Also related to the application, I did want  
10 to make three points. I wanted to cull out that our health  
11 and safety protocols which are now a way of life will be  
12 bolstered for the 2021 race meet shifting from policy to  
13 prerequisites reflected in stall applications and house  
14 rules.

15 From the equine safety perspective, Colonial  
16 Downs continues to proudly participate with the Mid-Atlantic  
17 Safety Initiative as safety continues to be the number one  
18 priority for the industry and Colonial Downs.

19 From a spectatorship perspective, spectatorship  
20 is understandably remaining in question for the meet. As  
21 the country now gets through the pandemic, it's similar to  
22 last season, and we remain on standby as we move closer to  
23 opening day.

24 So if there are any questions or comments about  
25 the contents of our Significant Infrastructure License, we



1 are here to address those. Otherwise, I would like to turn  
2 it back over to Chairman Van Clief.

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, very much, John.  
4 I would invite my fellow Commissioners to ask any questions  
5 they so desire at this point of Mr. Marshall.

6 NOTE: There was no response.

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If there are no questions,  
8 then Dave, I've got a procedural question for you. Are we  
9 approving this in one motion, or do we need to make one  
10 motion to approve the license and one to approve the dates?  
11 Dave, can you hear me?

12 MR. LERMOND: I'm sorry. I believe since the  
13 race days are part of the Limited License application that  
14 we can just do one motion.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Well, I'm going to  
16 go ahead and make that motion to approve the request as has  
17 been submitted. I do need a second to that motion, please.

18 MS. NIXON: I'll second.

19 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Commissioner  
20 Nixon seconds.

21 MR. LERMOND: D. G. --

22 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And Dave, before we go  
23 on any further, I'm going to direct everybody to Tab 2, if  
24 you've got that. It was sent electronically from the  
25 office, and Dave, could you comment as you'd like to on your

1 recommendations, which are submitted as Tab 2 in your  
2 materials today?

3 MR. LERMOND: Sure.

4 The Commission Staff received the application  
5 on December 2nd for a Significant Infrastructure Limited Li-  
6 cense to conduct pari-mutuel wagering. The application was  
7 reviewed by staff; the application fee was submitted; we do  
8 not have any issues with the application or the request for  
9 the race days for 2021.

10 I think Colonial Downs Group has done an  
11 excellent job, especially given the tough time we had this  
12 summer with the COVID. I don't have any reason to do any-  
13 thing other than to recommend approval of this application,  
14 and I would ask that if you could amend your motions to in-  
15 clude the following two conditions: Horse racing with  
16 pari-mutuel wagering shall be operating in accordance with  
17 all representations, plans, and specifications as submitted  
18 in the application and as described at the Virginia Racing  
19 Commission's December 16th meeting, and the licensee shall  
20 not deviate materially from these representations, plan, and  
21 specifications without the prior consent of the Commission  
22 or it's Executive Secretary and that horse racing with  
23 pari-mutuel wagering shall be operated in accordance with  
24 all applicable state and federal statutes and regulations,  
25 the regulations of the Commission, and all local ordinances.

1           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thanks, Dave, and for that  
2 recommendation, I'd like to amend my motion to include both  
3 of those conditions as you just read them, and I would ask  
4 Stephanie if she agrees with that in her second?

5           MS. NIXON: I do second.

6           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you.

7           Is there any other discussion or any other  
8 questions about the application either with regards to the  
9 license or the dates?

10          NOTE: There was no response.

11          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If not, all in favor of  
12 approving the application confirm by voting aye.

13          NOTE: All members of the Commission voted aye.

14          MR. COPENHAVER: Mr. Chairman --

15          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes.

16          MR. COPENHAVER: This is Brad.

17           I think for the purpose of these virtual meetings,  
18 and Liz, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think we need to do  
19 a roll call vote for each of these. I didn't catch that  
20 before when we were doing the minutes, but I think that's  
21 the way we need to do this.

22          CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

23           All right. Well, then we will ask for an up  
24 or down vote individually, and I'll start with our Vice  
25 Chairman, Mr. Seigel.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

3 If she's on yet, Commissioner Hudgins?

4 NOTE: There was no verbal response.

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. She's not  
6 participating yet.

7 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: But she reacted to your --  
8 she just put a thumbs up.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: She's on mute.

10 MR. COPENHAVER: Marsha, you're unmuted now. Can  
11 we hear you?

12 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: She's muted now.

13 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: She was just unmuted a  
14 second ago. Now she's muted again.

15 MR. COPENHAVER: Marsha, I just unmuted you.

16 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Marsha, I think you're  
17 unmuted now. Can you give us a verbal vote? Can't hear it.

18 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Got it.

20 Commissioner Hudgins votes yes.

21 Commissioner Nixon?

22 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

24 Commissioner Reynolds?

25 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Yes.

1           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote yes, so that's  
2 unanimous. The application's approved, the license and the  
3 race days for next year, 2021, are granted. Thank you.

4           The next Request is for Approval of Licenses to  
5 Conduct Pari-Mutuel Wagering on Historical Horse Racing at  
6 Rosies in the following locations: New Kent, Richmond,  
7 Vinton, Hampton, and Dumfries. The application and request  
8 have been submitted by Colonial Downs Group, LLC, and Mr.  
9 Lermond, there is a -- you submitted a recommendation for  
10 all of these locations. These are all under Tab 3 in your  
11 materials. Hopefully, you've all had a chance to take a  
12 look at those.

13           Dave, would you walk us through any highlights  
14 that you feel are pertinent at this point with regards to  
15 those applications and summarize your recommendations as  
16 management.

17           MR. LERMOND: Sure.

18           Again, all five of these applications were  
19 delivered to the Commission on December 2nd. Staff has  
20 reviewed the contents of the applications. They all  
21 contained all the required information as dictated by  
22 regulations. The \$1,000 license fees for each location  
23 were received.

24           I would say as a general broad statement that  
25 Commission staff has been very please with the way Colonial

1 Downs Group's management has run these facilities this past  
2 year. We have not had any issues or complaints from any of  
3 the patrons. I would also like to say that I think Colonial  
4 Downs has done a good job with the COVID restrictions and  
5 providing a safe environment for the patrons at these facil-  
6 ities.

7           According to our Attorney General, we can do  
8 one motion to approve all five of these licenses. I would  
9 recommend, or I would seek a motion for approval for Rosies  
10 New Kent, Richmond, Vinton, Hampton, and Dumfries with the  
11 following two conditions: Pari-mutuel wagering on Histori-  
12 cal Horse Racing shall be operated in accordance with all  
13 representations, plans, and specifications as submitted in  
14 the applications and as described at the Virginia Racing  
15 Commission's December 16th meeting, and that the licensee  
16 shall not deviate materially from these representations,  
17 plans, and specifications without the prior consent of the  
18 Commission or it's Executive Secretary, and that the pari-  
19 mutuel wagering on Historical Horse Racing shall be operated  
20 in accordance with all applicable state and federal statutes  
21 and regulations, the regulations of the Commission, and all  
22 local ordinances.

23           would someone like to make that motion?

24           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, Dave. Are there  
25 any questions before we go to a motion for Mr. Lermond?

1 NOTE: There was no response.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Are there any questions for  
3 Mr. Marshall and Colonial Downs Group?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Did I understand correctly  
5 that -- I don't believe that pari-mutuel was mentioned at  
6 the race track itself, am I correct, Dave?

7 MR. LERMOND: That would be the New Kent location.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: I didn't hear New Kent.  
9 I'm sorry, I just missed it.

10 MR. LERMOND: Sorry.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Any other questions  
12 for the report? If not, I do need a motion to approve the  
13 license as submitted.

14 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I'll make that motion.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. And again, this  
16 motion includes the conditions which Mr. Lermond just read  
17 into the record, and this is -- the motion should include  
18 licenses for all five locations, is that the intent?

19 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: (Nodding head indicating  
20 in the affirmative) Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. We need a second,  
22 please.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Any further  
25 discussion or questions?

1 NOTE: There was no response.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If none, then I'll call the  
3 roll and please vote up or down.

4 Vice Chairman Seigel?

5 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?  
7 Commissioner Hudgins?

8 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: She's muted.

9 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Brad, can we --

10 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Oh, there. Thank you.  
12 Commissioner Nixon?

13 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, and Commissioner  
15 Reynolds?

16 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye. The  
18 motion carries unanimously and the licenses for Rosies at  
19 the locations named are approved.

20 Mr. Lermond, would you take us on to the next  
21 item, which deals with the License Renewals for our four ADW  
22 companies?

23 MR. LERMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 The staff received license renewal applications  
25 for ADW licenses on or before December 1st with the appro-



1 puate renewal license fees. The four license applications  
2 were for Twinpires, TVG, Xpressbet, and NYRabets.

3 These have been four very good licensees for  
4 a number of years without any issues or concerns from the  
5 staff or any of the betting public. I would recommend  
6 approval of these licenses, and again, I think we can do  
7 all four of these at the same time.

8 Actually, before I seek a motion, I would like  
9 to mention that ADW handle is currently up 55 percent this  
10 year primarily due to COVID early on in the spring and sum-  
11 mer when there weren't a lot of betting opportunities on  
12 other sports, but it's a good thing that we have these folks  
13 because the OTB handle was obviously down from them being  
14 closed for a number of months, and the two combined actually  
15 gives us a 25 percent increase in OTB and ADW handle com-  
16 bined over the last year, which is one of the reasons that  
17 there's going to be a little bit more money for the Breeders  
18 and Stallion Awards, which we'll get to later in the agenda.

19 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I may be responsible for  
20 half of that handle.

21 MR. LERMOND: well, we certainly appreciate that,  
22 Commissioner Reynolds. It's a good thing for sure.

23 So I would seek a motion to renew the four ADW  
24 licenses for Twinpires, TVG, Xpressbet, and NYRabets for  
25 2021, with the following conditions: Account wagering --

1 Pari-Mutuel Account Wagering will be operated in accordance  
2 with all representations, plans, and specifications as sub-  
3 mitted in the application and as described at the Virginia  
4 Racing Commission's December 16th meeting, and the licensee  
5 shall not deviate materially from these representations,  
6 plans, and specifications without the prior consent of the  
7 Commission or it's Executive Secretary and that pari-mutuel  
8 wagering through account advance deposit wagering shall be  
9 operated in accordance with all applicable state, federal  
10 statutes and regulations, the regulations of the Commission,  
11 and all local ordinances.

12 would someone like to make that motion?

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, Dave. I seek that  
14 motion.

15 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: So moved.

16 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We have a motion. We need a  
19 second, please?

20 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, very much.

22 Any further questions or discussions?

23 NOTE: There was no response.

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If not, I'll call the roll  
25 and please vote accordingly.

1 Vice Chairman Seigel?

2 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

4 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Aye.

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

6 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

8 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye. The motion  
10 carries unanimously. The 2021 license renewals are approved  
11 for our ADW service providers. Thank you, Dave.

12 MR. LERMOND: Can you tell me who made the motion?

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I think it was Commissioner  
14 Hudgins, was it not?

15 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I think so, and it was  
16 seconded by Commissioner Nixon, if I'm correct.

17 MR. LERMOND: Perfect.

18 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Correct.

19 MR. LERMOND: D. G., could I just take a minute?  
20 I'd like to express my appreciation for the hard working and  
21 dedicated staff that we have at the Racing Commission. This  
22 has been a crazy year, as we all know, with the COVID and  
23 dealing with the restrictions and teleworking and everything  
24 that we've had to adapt to, I just wanted to let you and the  
25 public know that the staff has done a remarkable job. We

1 haven't skipped a beat as far as from an operational stand-  
2 point, and I would like to thank specifically Kimberly  
3 Mackey, Dr. Ada Caruthers, and Rhonda Davis, who is here  
4 with me at the meeting today.

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, David. That's  
6 very appropriate. Appreciate that.

7 Okay, then we will move on from our considerat-  
8 ion of License Renewals, and we're now moving into a series  
9 of budgetary items and an issue regarding the Horsemen's  
10 Agreement. Excuse me, my phone is talking to me.

11 So we will start with a consideration of the VEA  
12 Operating Budget for next year, and Jeb Hannum is going to  
13 present that. It's under Tab 4 in your materials if you've  
14 got those with you this morning.

15 Mr. Hannum, the floor is yours. Do we have Mr.  
16 Hannum?

17 NOTE: There was no response.

18 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Brad, have you unmuted Jeb  
19 Hannum? Is he with us?

20 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: I see Brad as muted.

21 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Brad, can you hear us?

22 NOTE: There was no response.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is Aaron, I'm here,  
24 but has Jeb called in?

25 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: He should have.

1           Oh, he says he's on the conference line. I just  
2 got a text from him.

3           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Great. Tell him to hit  
4 star-three and I can --

5           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Jeb, can you hit star-three?  
6 Try that again. Go ahead. Jeb, can we hear you? Go ahead  
7 and say something.

8           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Star-three will just raise  
9 his hand and then I can unmute him because I can't tell  
10 who's who on the conference line. But this is getting  
11 complicated.

12           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Jeb, can you hit star-three  
13 on your phone?

14           MR. HANNUM: Hi, can you-all hear me?

15           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I've got you loud and clear.  
16 Can everybody hear Jeb?

17           NOTE: Several participants answered in the  
18 affirmative.

19           MR. HANNUM: I'm on?

20           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're on.

21           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: You're on. I'm sorry about  
22 that, Jeb.

23           MR. HANNUM: It's a strange feeling when you can  
24 hear it all happening, but anyway, I'm glad we figured that  
25 out, so thank you.

1           Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. So  
2 I'm looking at the document Virginia Equine Alliance Final  
3 Budget for the Year Ending December 31st, 2021. It's just  
4 one page. I think what will help us get through this is on  
5 the far left, each line is numbered. So I'm not going to  
6 hit every single line, Mr. Chairman, but what I was thinking  
7 was just kind of hitting the sort of summary portion of each  
8 of the bullets, and I'll speak to those just in the format  
9 in which we're operating, it's probably easiest for me to go  
10 through the projected for this year versus the budget for  
11 this year. I'll just go through it all and then stop there  
12 and then take any questions and then I'll do the budget for  
13 2021. Is that an acceptable way to go forward?

14           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes, that's fine, and I  
15 would ask for one thing while you do that. If you could pay  
16 a little extra attention to those numbers which are signifi-  
17 cantly varied from the current year where you've got some  
18 significant percentage variations and maybe give us a little  
19 background on why those numbers are changing, I'd be inter-  
20 ested in that as well.

21           MR. HANNUM: Yes, absolutely, and that's a good  
22 segue into just saying that things are a little bit all over  
23 the place in certain areas because of COVID.

24           Having said that, you know, thank goodness for the  
25 VEA, because the VEA was able to step in and help different

1 aspects of the industry in a really significant way, which  
2 I'll sort of speak to, but you know, we were really very  
3 fortunate as an industry to have, you know, the VEA aboard  
4 in the structure and the way it operates in that it has the  
5 flexibility and discretion to allocate funds as-needed,  
6 which is, you know, different than how these sorts of things  
7 are happening in other states, so we're very fortunate in  
8 that regard.

9           So starting at the top, and again, I'm looking  
10 at the projected column and the budget column for 2020, if  
11 you go down to line four, it says net proceeds from ADW.  
12 As Mr. Lermond mentioned, ADW has been really strong this  
13 year, up over 50 percent. That's been enormously helpful,  
14 so we saw an increase of about a million -- about a million-  
15 two over what we had budgeted in ADW revenue, and that was  
16 really helpful.

17           Line five, and this is a little bit of background  
18 for the Commissioners and just as a reminder for some of  
19 the new Commissioners, line five reflects a portion of the  
20 contract that we have with Colonial whereby we relinquished  
21 our ADW -- or excuse me, our OTB licenses to the race track  
22 and we have a five-year payment plan whereby they take over  
23 those OTB licenses, so that's the 2.5 million there.

24           Line six is our agreement with Colonial, again,  
25 part of a larger contract with them whereby we receive a

1 percentage of HHR revenue, and you can see there we're down  
2 1.2 million from what we had budgeted, and that really just  
3 reflects the fact that the HHR sites were closed earlier  
4 this year, and you know, we lost a significant portion of  
5 revenue, but interestingly, it's almost a wash, which is  
6 really incredible in terms of the loss on the HHR side  
7 versus the up on the ADW side. So when you get to line  
8 eight, net revenue, we're down .42 percent, so 0.42 percent,  
9 which is really, you know, I think we were very fortunate  
10 that we did not have more of a significant revenue decline  
11 based on all of the, you know, uncertainties this year, and  
12 again, that's attributed to ADW revenue being so strong  
13 earlier in the year, so we were fortunate about that.

14           Jumping down, sort of going through the expenses,  
15 and also to hit on the key items, line 13, Virginia Gold  
16 Cup, so that's 377,000 versus 250 for this year, and what  
17 that reflects is two additional allocations of funds to the  
18 Virginia Gold Cup to support them, and this gets to where  
19 the VEA Board was able to act with it's discretion to sup-  
20 port steeplechase racing.

21           So again, for background for the new  
22 Commissioners, the entire steeplechase season for the NSA  
23 with all the races in North and South Carolina and Maryland  
24 and Pennsylvania, everything was canceled this spring with  
25 the exception of the two races in Virginia, the Virginia



1 Gold Cup and the Middleburg spring races, and that was due  
2 to the VEA being able to come in and provide the operational  
3 expense monies that the meets lost by losing their sponsor-  
4 ships and ticket sales. So the entire NSA season for the US  
5 would have been lost were it not for the VEA being able to  
6 help, and that's a really significant thing to point out.

7           So in the spring, the VEA allocated an additional  
8 77,000 to the Gold Cup for their spring meet, and then in  
9 the fall, they allocated an additional 50,000 to the Gold  
10 Cup to enable them to have those events, and again, they  
11 were done without spectators, without any corporate sponsor-  
12 ship and zero revenue from ticket sales, and so that's why  
13 you have the difference there.

14           Moving down a little bit to line 18, the Virginia  
15 Certified Program, that's the residency program, which is  
16 (inaudible) in bringing horses to the state. Over a thou-  
17 sand horses have come to fill Virginia farms, and it's just  
18 been enormously well-received, and it's a shot in the arm  
19 for, you know, horse farms all over the state, so that's  
20 going so well and we continue to support that program. The  
21 reason it's down a little bit is obviously because of being  
22 canceled for the spring and early summer so there were less  
23 runners there, and that was -- you know, that was helpful a  
24 little bit in the sense that it cut down on, you know, on an  
25 expense item.

1           The administrative expenses I think were fairly  
2 consistent. We were down about 6.3 percent in what we had  
3 thought we would spend this year. That's sort of due to  
4 travel and things like that not being done this year.

5           Our marketing budget was down a lot, and that --  
6 I'm on line 34 now -- and that was because a significant  
7 portion of our marketing money was allocated to Shenandoah  
8 Downs for the harness meet, and so what we did was we used  
9 that marketing money for purses, and I should say I skipped  
10 an important item here, so my apology, but let me go back  
11 up to line 11 for a moment, so sorry for jumping around.

12           Line 11, Shenandoah Downs purses, the 300,000  
13 there, again, that's a similar scenario to the Virginia Gold  
14 Cup which I spoke about. Because of the -- because of the  
15 -- so sorry. So the ADW revenue that had been so strong  
16 early in the year, that was primarily on the thoroughbred  
17 side, so when racing shut down and there were a few tracks  
18 that were able to carry on were supported so heavily on the  
19 ADW side, those were primarily flat races and the harness  
20 folks lost a significant portion of their ADW revenue which  
21 goes to purses in the spring, and that really set them back,  
22 so the VEA Board allocated an additional 300,000 to support  
23 their purses, which enabled them to run their meet at a  
24 level that they had originally planned. So again, the VEA  
25 Board's ability to step in and address an unforeseen circum-

1 stance was critical.

2           So what we did was we reallocated monies for  
3 purses, but we took some of the money from marketing that we  
4 weren't going to spend at Shenandoah because we didn't have  
5 spectators and used that to help support the purses. So  
6 again, just having some flexibility with the budget was very  
7 helpful.

8           Line 37 is another item which is up significantly,  
9 and reflective of the COVID circumstances, so line 37 is  
10 really what happened when the VEA Board helped to support  
11 the other steeplechase meets. So the Gold Cup, we singled  
12 out here on line 13, but the other steeplechase meets, Fox-  
13 field and the Middleburg fall and spring races all received  
14 additional support to offset operational expenses because  
15 they didn't have the ticket sales, et cetera, so that's why  
16 that number increased.

17           So when you get down to line 42, total expenses  
18 are up about five percent over what we had budgeted, and so  
19 all things considered, I think, you know, we came out of  
20 this year in a pretty good situation based on really just  
21 reacting to the difficulties as we sort of encountered them.

22           The 4.7 million at the bottom, if you sort of look  
23 up to the top of your page on the far right, the box, you'll  
24 see that 4.7 again, and then what we did was we've added  
25 some money back into it because what we did was for some of

1 these additional items that we supported throughout the  
2 year, we took them out of essentially the cash on hand that  
3 the VEA had, so essentially the sort of the savings that the  
4 VEA had, so we added back the -- about 440,000, which gives  
5 you the 5.195 that you'll see there under 2020 projected.  
6 So that number, that's important, because that number would  
7 have gone for purses this year at Colonial, but that will be  
8 rolled over, that will be held in an escrow account for the  
9 HBPA for purses going forward, so that's an important number  
10 for the HBPA as they look to next year, and we all hope  
11 we're sort of back to a normal racing schedule next year.  
12 So again, that 5.1 just doesn't sit with the VEA; that will  
13 go to the HBPA.

14           So let me pause there if there are any questions  
15 about (transmission interference) budget for 2020, and then  
16 I can go to 2021.

17           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Jeb, I've got two questions  
18 for you. Number one, on line 41, would you remind me what  
19 grants consist of again?

20           MR. HANNUM: Yes, thank you, yes, and that's  
21 important.

22           So what we did this year, we did two grants.  
23 we did \$200,000 to the Horse Center in Lexington. That's an  
24 organization that we supported last year, and the Board is  
25 committed to supporting them in the years to come. As I'm

1 sure you all know, they've had significant budget shortfalls  
2 based on the lack of state funding that they used to have,  
3 but this is an organization that conducts thousands of eque-  
4 strian sort of events with their shows and three-day events  
5 and other things, so there's a really large network of horse  
6 people throughout the state that benefit from that Horse  
7 Center. So you know, the VEA wants to try where it can to  
8 support as many different elements of the equine industry as  
9 possible.

10           The other -- the balance of that, the hundred  
11 thousand balance went to the Great Meadow Foundation. The  
12 Great Meadow Foundation is the site of the Virginia Gold  
13 Cup. They were really devastated this year by COVID; they  
14 lost about a half a million dollars in revenue from all the  
15 events that they had to cancel, which has put them in a very  
16 difficult position. So the hundred thousand that we did for  
17 them is a one-off grant, and that will help them get through  
18 this year, and you know, that's a critical site for steeple-  
19 chasing there at Great Meadow.

20           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thanks, Jeb.

21           One other related question with regards to the  
22 Horse Center in Lexington. Is the VEA confident that the  
23 grants you've made and may make to support them will make  
24 them sustainable? Are they going to be able to continue on  
25 the way they have been?

1           MR. HANNUM: Yes, and you know we've met with  
2 their Board and they -- you know, they have a really --  
3 their Board is committed, you know, they you know are --  
4 yeah, interestingly they have a -- the small, you know, tax  
5 that they have with the local hotels in the community that  
6 was put in place a number of years ago that helps them off-  
7 set their debt, and so they have done some things that they  
8 need to do to ensure their long-term sustainability. But  
9 the VEA coming forward has just been enormously helpful to  
10 them, and so I'm very confident that they're going to be in  
11 good shape going forward, but the VEA support will be an  
12 important part of that.

13           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

14           Now a different question: Going to the carry  
15 forward balance of 5.195 million projected at the end of  
16 this year, what percentage of that will support purses?

17           MR. HANNUM: Right, so again a little bit of  
18 background for the Commissioners.

19           So last year, so in December of 2020 -- excuse  
20 me, in December of 2019, the VEA member groups reached a  
21 five year agreement as to how funds would be distributed,  
22 and so this was important as we knew that additional reve-  
23 nues were going to be coming in from HHR. And so what it  
24 does is essentially treat the budget sort of in two, so you  
25 sort of have the top half of the budget, it's the admini-

1 strative expenses, the residency programs for the two  
2 breeds, the support for the Virginia Gold Cup and other  
3 steeplechase, and then the funds that are left over are  
4 split between the HBPA and VHHA on an 80/20 ratio, and the  
5 80/20 split starts next year. So this year, a hundred  
6 percent of what is left over goes to the HBPA for purses,  
7 and then next year for 2021, 80 percent goes to Thorough-  
8 bred and 20 percent goes to Standardbred.

9 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. I don't have any  
10 other questions.

11 would my fellow Commissioners like to ask  
12 anything?

13 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I have a couple.

14 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds.

15 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Thank you.

16 Jeb, just quickly, you're probably getting to  
17 it under the budget for '21, on line 29, the Management  
18 Fees, can you remind us where those Management Fees go and  
19 who you-all are paying, what that is again?

20 MR. HANNUM: Yes, sir.

21 So we have a relationship with Easter Associates.  
22 Easter has been working with the VEA since inception in 2015  
23 and they do all of the back office work for the VEA. So all  
24 of the financials, which become increasingly complicated are  
25 handled by Easter Associates. Bill Murrow as you-all know

1 who attends the Commission meetings, is the Chief Financial  
2 Officer at VEA, and so this is, you know, a critical func-  
3 tion to be tracking the different, you know, revenues we  
4 have coming in, but importantly, you know, it's the website  
5 and tax preparation, and really everything that, you know,  
6 we need on the back side.

7 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Okay, and I guess you'll  
8 speak to why it's going to go up to \$150,000 in your report?

9 MR. HANNUM: Yes, and so we've been -- you know,  
10 the Board has been looking to make an adjustment there. We  
11 hadn't had any increases in the last couple of years, and it  
12 just really speaks to the increased workload that's involved  
13 in, you know, supporting the VEA again as we grow and things  
14 become more complicated.

15 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Okay.

16 Last question: Line 26, you know, the numbers  
17 are consistent, but could you dig a little deeper? It's  
18 just Audit, Tax and Legal. You know, that's a pretty broad  
19 category there, but it is a pretty large number, 198,000.  
20 Can you just give, without going on too long, just a little  
21 bit of a breakdown of what that's all about? It just seems  
22 like a big number.

23 MR. HANNUM: Sure. The majority of that -- so  
24 it comes down to three things: The audit that we do each  
25 year with our independent firm. We have a VEA counsel with



1 a firm in Charlottesville; and then we have our government  
2 affairs representation, so lobbyists that we have, so the  
3 bulk of that is with the government affairs representatives,  
4 and I'd say the audit and the tax probably come to -- audit  
5 -- excuse me, audit and legal come to about probably about  
6 50,000.

7 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Okay.

8 MR. HANNUM: But I can get Dave the breakdown on  
9 all of that for you, Commissioner, if you'd like.

10 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: It's okay, it's pretty  
11 consistent. I'm just curious as to what was all entailed in  
12 that.

13 Okay. Well, thank you, very much, Mr. Hannum.

14 MR. HANNUM: Thank you, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Are there any other questions  
16 for Mr. Hannum?

17 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: It would be nice to see  
18 that breakdown. It looks like if 40,000 or so is for the  
19 audit, it seems like 150,000 for the other, so it would be  
20 nice to be able to see that breakdown.

21 MR. HANNUM: Certainly. I'll send that to Dave as  
22 soon as the meeting wraps up today.

23 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

24 Anything else? If not, we do need a motion to  
25 approve the VEA's Operative Budget for 2021.

1 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I'll make that motion.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds made  
4 the motion and Vice Chairman Seigel seconds. Thank you.

5 One last chance: Any further questions?

6 NOTE: There was no response.

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If not, I'll call the roll  
8 and please vote accordingly.

9 Commissioner Seigel?

10 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

12 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

14 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

16 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye.

18 The budget is approved as submitted. Thank you,  
19 very much, Jeb.

20 Next up is the VTA's Breeders Fund Administration  
21 Budget for next year, and that presentation will be offered  
22 by Debbie Easter.

23 MS. EASTER: Can everybody hear me?

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Loud and clear.

25 MS. EASTER: Super.

1 well, thank you all. This is a little bit  
2 different times and a little crazy how we're having to do it  
3 this year, but it's going along all right.

4 But -- so, if you-all will just take a peek at  
5 the page that's listed the Virginia Thoroughbred Association  
6 Breeders Fund 2021 Budget --

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: By the way -- excuse me  
8 Debbie -- for the Commissioners, that is Tab 5 in the mater-  
9 ials you were sent.

10 Sorry, Debbie.

11 MS. EASTER: I think the two most overall  
12 important things over the last five or six years in this  
13 budget that you-all should be aware of are, number one, when  
14 -- it was back when we first took over management of the  
15 VTA, and actually Commissioner Seigel was Chairman, the VTA  
16 was not in as good a financial situation as they are now, so  
17 I would say that what we call promotion of the funds was  
18 everything from advertising to trying at that point, our  
19 industry was, for lack of a better word, just going in the  
20 pot as Colonial turned in their license and racing was going  
21 away, and there was probably as little money in the Breeders  
22 Fund as we've ever had.

23 We used advertising promotion, we used events  
24 just to keep people engaged in the state, and this has  
25 morphed into now we're able to actually go out and promote

1 why people should be doing business in Virginia.

2           The second thing that you would notice probably  
3 is these large negative numbers at the bottom of the bud-  
4 gets. Those are actually good, because each year in the  
5 past, you-all have approved \$190,000 for us to administer  
6 and promote the Breeders' Fund in Virginia. What those  
7 negative numbers means is that we're spending that much more  
8 of our own association money to do additional promotion, and  
9 that's just good because that's what the VTA is here to do.

10           Mr. Chairman, if you want me to talk about  
11 individual differences, you know, higher percentages in  
12 number, I'll speak to -- in advertising and promotion, I  
13 think your biggest changes are that depending -- we found  
14 out a little better which publications seem to get our mes-  
15 sage out a little better, so that's probably where you see  
16 big changes in numbers. Also, things like the *Virginia*  
17 *Sportsman*, you'll probably start seeing some money for --  
18 I'm having a mind block, but the nicer magazines in Rich-  
19 mond. We're trying to hit not only horse guys, but also  
20 trying to promote racing and the benefits of racing to mar-  
21 kets other than just preaching to the choir, our own horse  
22 guys, so that's sort of the difference you see in the monies  
23 and the advertising and the promotion.

24           Under Industry Events, the biggest one is under  
25 the awards banquet, which we use every year to highlight the

1 best of Virginia's breeders and those that are best at the  
2 race track. Well, this year because of COVID, we were not  
3 able to hold that event, which is usually a great event. At  
4 the Gold Cup in May, we were able to, you know, put out in  
5 the press how well our Virginia-breds had done, but we  
6 weren't able to just do that nice event.

7           The number is bigger for 2021 because we  
8 anticipate trying to have a joint '20 and '21 event at the  
9 same time and really, you know, make sure we haven't forgot-  
10 ten about the folks that were special in 2020.

11           The other big number that you see is under  
12 website. The difference of what we spent here in 2020 com-  
13 pared to what we're going to spend in 2021, those are mainly  
14 just upgrades that allow us to get information from the  
15 Jockey Club and our computers to communicate us getting  
16 reports. Fortunately and unfortunately, The Jockey Club has  
17 a monopoly on all that information and they charge us for  
18 when we need to do things, so that was a one-time bigger  
19 charge to get everything up to date.

20           And other than that, you know, I would say that  
21 we're just trying to do what we can do to get the word out  
22 about Virginia-breds and why people should come here and  
23 come to Virginia to breed and race and send their horses  
24 here.

25           So if there's any questions, I'm happy to

1 entertain them.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, Debbie. No,  
3 you've answered my questions. The variations that I'm  
4 looking at I think are all in the promotions category, and  
5 so if I get the picture correctly, you've got more to pro-  
6 mote and you've got more dollars to do it with, so it sounds  
7 positive to me.

8 Any of the Commissioners have any questions for  
9 Ms. Easter?

10 NOTE: There was no response.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If not, we need a motion to  
12 approve the VTA's Breeders Fund Administration Budget for  
13 next year.

14 COMMISSIONER NIXON: I'll make a motion.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. That's  
16 Commissioner Nixon.

17 Do we have a second?

18 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: I'll second it.

19 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: That's Commissioner Hudgins.  
20 Thank you.

21 Any other questions? Any other discussion? If  
22 none, I'll call the roll.

23 Vice Chairman Seigel?

24 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

1 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

3 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

5 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye. The budget  
7 is approved as submitted.

8 Debbie, are you going to do the next item as well,  
9 which is Approval of the Thoroughbred Breeder and Stallion  
10 Award Totals for 2020?

11 MS. EASTER: Yes, sir, I am.

12 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.

13 MS. EASTER: Well, this is the exciting part of  
14 this budget kind of mess that we always have to talk about,  
15 and that's the fact that we're going to be able to give away  
16 a million dollars to our breeders and stallion owners in  
17 awards this year for 2020 wins.

18 As I said previously, five, six years ago, our  
19 Breeders Fund was probably at the bottom that it's ever  
20 been, and this whole -- in this COVID thing, it's been kind  
21 of crazy. ADW is up; it has really helped our Breeders  
22 Fund, and it's going to allow us to award \$950,000 to our  
23 breeders and \$50,000 to the stallion owners, so a million  
24 dollars total. Last year, we gave away \$750,000. We've  
25 been growing each year for the last five years, and it's

1 really given us something exciting to promote.

2           I don't know if you-all are familiar, but breeders  
3 are paid for any time they breed a horse that wins in North  
4 America, they get a percentage of that purse, and I think  
5 that projections, we're going to be somewhere in -- they're  
6 going to get an award of somewhere about 50 percent of that  
7 purse for each of those purses, and that is going to be huge  
8 compared to what happens in other states, that we'll be able  
9 to promote and hopefully entice a few people to come breed  
10 some horses in Virginia.

11           I think you-all are familiar -- I don't know  
12 that there's enough money out there to ever entice somebody  
13 to buy a farm and come here and start breeding horses, but  
14 I think it's something very exciting that we have to promote  
15 here in Virginia.

16           The other thing that I would say is that we've  
17 been awarding owners of Virginia-breds 25 percent of the  
18 purse when -- a winning purse when they win in the Mid-At-  
19 lantic. The feedback that I'm getting from consignors at  
20 horse sales is that people are looking for Virginia-breds  
21 now, and they think it's ten to 20 percent added value for  
22 people that are selling their horses. So, just a lot of  
23 positive things going on, especially because the Breeders  
24 Fund does not participate in HHR money; the fact that ADW  
25 is up, and OTBs are working well and Rosies -- just very



1 exciting and positive news I'm able to report.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you. That  
3 sounds very positive.

4 Any questions for Ms. Easter?

5 NOTE: There was no response.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. If not, then we have  
7 a budget to approve. It includes \$950,000 for yearend  
8 breeder awards, and \$50,000 for yearend stallion awards.  
9 That's under Tab 6 in your materials. Is that still  
10 correct, Debbie?

11 MS. EASTER: I don't know if it's under Tab 6,  
12 but --

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: No, I mean the numbers, the  
14 dollar numbers, I'm sorry. You're requesting \$950,000 for  
15 yearend breeder awards and 50,000 for yearend stallion  
16 awards, correct?

17 MS. EASTER: Correct, which is consistent with the  
18 same percentage they have been split in the past. I think  
19 that if anybody's worried about the stallion numbers, it's  
20 because of our low numbers of stallions here in Virginia, so  
21 if that grows, I would think -- if we ever have that growth,  
22 I think that percentage will grow, but right now, that seems  
23 to be the right number.

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

25 well, I make a motion that we have approve this

1 budget as requested. Do I have a second?

2 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I'll second it.

3 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you. Commissioner  
4 Reynolds seconds.

5 Any other questions about this?

6 NOTE: There was no response.

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Actually, Debbie, I've got  
8 one question related. It may be a little early to ask this  
9 question, but are you seeing any increase -- I know we've  
10 seen increases through the certified program and our train-  
11 ing facility population; are you seeing any increases in  
12 terms of resident mares or any other related upticks in our  
13 population as a result of things moving up?

14 MS. EASTER: So, it's a little hard to tell  
15 because this is a little bit of a delay. Say for the 2020  
16 foals, I don't even check to see how many are born until the  
17 end of the year, January, because people are slow about reg-  
18 istering them. We've been in the 110, 115 foals a year for  
19 a bit. I think this is going to give us something exciting  
20 to promote, and I'm trying to tell people pay attention,  
21 because you know, unfortunately, it's not that our Breeders  
22 Fund is bigger than any of the states that we compete  
23 against; it's the fact that we, you know, we have fewer  
24 playing in it, and I hope that that's something that people  
25 are paying attention to and might grow things in the future,

1 but D. G., let's go -- you know, the fact is that, you know,  
2 breeding overall is dropping, and after COVID and what's  
3 going on with the horse sales, I think most of us in the  
4 industry are going to project that we're going to see a  
5 drop off at the bottom again nationally, so I -- you know,  
6 I just hope that we can keep driving people here. We may  
7 not be -- I think our board is having to think about -- we  
8 may not be the breeding mecca that we used to be in the '70s  
9 and '80s, but we're a great place to raise horses, and if  
10 we're a hundred horses -- say a hundred horses are being  
11 bred here a year, when we can be bringing in 600 or so a  
12 year to board and train, it may not be what we originally  
13 intended, but it's really helping our farms and they are  
14 full right now, which is really good.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Great. Thank you, very much.

16 Okay, this request comes from the VTA and its  
17 Board of Directors has approved it as well. And we do have  
18 a motion and a second; I'll call the roll to vote.

19 Vice Chairman Seigel?

20 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

22 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

24 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

1 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote affirmatively  
3 as well. So the VTA's request for Thoroughbred Breeder and  
4 Stallion awards is approved as submitted. Thank you.

5 Our next item is a request for approval of the  
6 Horsemen's Agreement between Colonial Downs Group, LLC and  
7 VHBPA. I think that's actually a request for an extension,  
8 but I believe we have both Mr. Petramalo and Mr. Marshall  
9 available to comment, and I'll ask Mr. Petramalo to start,  
10 please.

11 MR. PETRAMALO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you  
12 hear me?

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes, I've got you loud and  
14 clear, thank you.

15 MR. PETRAMALO: Our Horsemen's contract expires  
16 at the end of this month. Over the past six weeks, John  
17 Marshall, Jill Byrne, and myself have been in negotiations  
18 for a successor contract. We're almost there. There are  
19 two issues outstanding, and I think it's safe to say that  
20 we'll probably resolve those probably by the end of this  
21 month, but obviously, it's after this Racing Commission  
22 meeting. So what I would request is that you approve an  
23 extension to our current contract of 30 days taking us  
24 through the end of January. As I said, we expect to have  
25 a contract before then, but by extending it into January,

1 that would allow you to, should you see it appropriate, to  
2 authorize the Executive Secretary of the Commission to ap-  
3 prove the contract, and the new contract would be effective  
4 January 1st.

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you.

6 For my fellow Commissioners, under Tab 7, you'll  
7 see a letter from Mr. Petramalo to Mr. Marshall which he has  
8 consigned indicating that he is in agreement with the ar-  
9 rangement that Mr. Petramalo just explained, but John, are  
10 you there and would you like to make any comments on this?

11 MR. MARSHALL: I am, thank you. You agree with  
12 the scenario as Frank has explained and believe that the  
13 additional 30 days will allow time for more discovery on the  
14 two issues that we're very close to an agreement on. Come  
15 the end of January, we're fairly confident that we will be  
16 able to propose a new agreement to the Executive Director  
17 for consideration.

18 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you.

19 Are there any questions on this proposed  
20 arrangement?

21 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have  
22 a question.

23 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds.

24 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: If we grant this extension  
25 today to get us through the end of January, but I guess that

1 would mean regardless of whether you have a new agreement or  
2 not, they'll either need another extension or we'll need to  
3 get together as a Commission in January to approve the new  
4 contract. If we don't meet in January, my guess is we have  
5 will have to meet in January.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We can probably skin this  
7 by giving our Executive Secretary authority to approve an  
8 agreement when it's submitted to him some time before  
9 January 31st and without the need for a full Commission  
10 Meeting.

11 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Okay. I just wanted to  
12 point that out. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I'd ask if all the  
14 Commissioners are comfortable with that arrangement?

15 I'll assume and ask Mr. Lermond, Dave, we will all  
16 be advised in advance of the details of the arrangement, and  
17 if there's anything different from the current, we'll be  
18 aware of it and have a chance to make sure we fully under-  
19 stand it, to ask questions before you give the okay, is that  
20 the way we'll work it?

21 MR. LERMOND: I believe so.

22 Liz, do you want to weigh in on that?

23 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: She's muted.

24 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I believe she's giving it  
25 a thumbs up.

1 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thumbs up? Okay.

2 Dave, given the importance of that to how racing  
3 runs in the state, I'll request then that you simply make us  
4 aware of how things are going to be handled. If there are  
5 significant variations in the agreement from the present,  
6 that you let us know as soon as you can, and if any of us  
7 have any questions that we want to delve into, we will, but  
8 I think it should be routine and I'm doing that, I'm com-  
9 fortable in authorizing you to go ahead with it and approve  
10 it as necessary.

11 MR. LERMOND: I think once I see the final  
12 agreement, I can speak to each one of you individually and  
13 just go over what the two remaining items are and how they  
14 were resolved before I give approval.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. That's great. It  
16 shouldn't take you long, because I guess you can put two of  
17 us on the phone at a time without breaching any meeting pro-  
18 tocols. I think it's important to at least be aware and  
19 have an opportunity to make sure we get our questions  
20 answered about the agreement.

21 MR. LERMOND: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay.

23 In that case, we need a resolution that number  
24 one, extends the present Colonial Downs Group-Virginia HBPA  
25 agreement through the 31st of January 2021; and secondarily,

1 a motion to authorize our Executive Secretary, Dave Lermond,  
2 to issue an approval on behalf of the Commission once the  
3 negotiations have concluded and he's advised the  
4 Commissioners.

5 Do we have such a motion?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: I move it.

7 COMMISSIONER NIXON: I second.

8 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: That was Commissioner Nixon,  
9 I think, with a second.

10 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes. Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. If there are no  
12 further questions or discussion, then I'll call the roll.  
13 Commissioner Seigel?

14 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

16 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

18 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

20 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye. The motion  
22 passes unanimously.

23 Next, I have on the agenda a request from the VHHA  
24 for Approval of their Breeders Fund Administration Budget  
25 for 2021, and that is under Tab 8 in your materials.



1 Debbie Warnick I believe is on the call to report  
2 on that item. Ms. Warnick, are you ready for that?

3 MS. WARNICK: Yes. Good morning, can everyone  
4 hear me?

5 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes, we've got you loud and  
6 clear.

7 MS. WARNICK: Good morning everyone. Basically,  
8 our budget is the same as it has always been. It's a total  
9 of \$50,000; there's no increases or changes from the past  
10 couple years.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, and that was set forth  
12 pretty clearly in your letter of November 10th, which we all  
13 have received copies of.

14 Are there any questions for Ms. Warnick on that  
15 budget?

16 NOTE: There was no response.

17 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: If none, then we need a  
18 motion to approve the VHHA '21 Administration Budget.

19 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: So moved.

20 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: I'm sorry, I didn't get that.  
21 who was that?

22 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Reynolds. So moved.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. Thank you, Sarge.  
25 Do we have second?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Seigel seconds  
3 it, and I will call the roll.

4 Commissioner Seigel?

5 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

7 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

9 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

11 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye, and the  
13 budget for the Standardbred Breeders Fund Administration for  
14 next year is approved.

15 I think at this time as well, Debbie, did you want  
16 to report on your activities at Shenandoah Downs this year?

17 MS. WARNICK: Yes, sir, I had a little bit of a  
18 summary to tell everybody about.

19 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, and I'm going to -- and  
20 once you've completed that, Mr. Bland, who is representing  
21 the VHHA here today requested some time, so when your report  
22 is completed, Mr. Bland, if you're with us, we'll simply un-  
23 mute you and we'll listen to your comments as well.

24 Thank you, Debbie.

25 MS. WARNICK: Virginia was very fortunate to

1 be able to have thirteen days of harness racing during  
2 September and October of this year. Three days were during  
3 the VHHA matinee meet, which replaced the Shenandoah County  
4 fair, and ten days during the Shenandoah Downs meet. Both  
5 meets were held without spectators and wagering due to Covid  
6 related precautions. Luana Murray, who usually oversees the  
7 pari-mutuel side of the meet, volunteered to take on the  
8 duties of overseeing all the Covid procedures and require-  
9 ments. The VEA and Horsemen followed these strict safety  
10 protocols and there were no Covid related issues that  
11 materialized during the meet.

12           The Shenandoah Downs meet was the first harness  
13 meet of 2020 that was able to race all the days that were  
14 planned, and with a special grant from the VEA of \$300,000,  
15 we were also able to distribute overnight purses and  
16 Breeders fund purses as planned. Again, something that had  
17 not been done at any harness track this year.

18           There were horsemen from twelve different  
19 states, plus Canada and even one owner from England who  
20 participated. While many of these were our regulars from  
21 previous years, some of these were new faces such as Brandy  
22 wine, Jennifer Sansone, Mario Desseureault, Gaston Lareau  
23 and Bill Popfinger, who has previously won the prestigious  
24 Little Brown Jug. New drivers included established names  
25 like John McDonald and Fern Paquet, Jr., who was the driver

1 of the meet. All of these new participants were impressed  
2 with our meet and are making plans to return next year. The  
3 VEA continues to get enthusiastic feedback about the track  
4 which was kept in excellent condition as always, by track  
5 superintendent J. D. Thomas and his staff.

6           There were a total of 131 races over the ten day  
7 meet, including days with 15, 16 & 17 races respectively. No  
8 day had less than 10 races and the average number of races  
9 per day was 13. Race secretary, Dee Lineweaver, did an  
10 excellent job coordinating and handling all of this again  
11 this year. There was \$943,725 in purses paid out, including  
12 \$363,575 during our 23rd annual Virginia Breeders' Champion-  
13 ships. This event featured eight divisional finals for two  
14 and three year-old trotters and pacers of both sexes as well  
15 as three Virginia Breeders aged races for horses four and  
16 up. Another \$17,800 was paid as a \$100 stipend to owners of  
17 horses that finished, 6th, 7th or 8th.

18           There were ten different novice race callers  
19 that were given a chance to announce a complete card of  
20 harness races. This turned out to be a great PR opportunity  
21 and created a lifetime memory for each one of those partici-  
22 pants. The Virginia Championship day actually featured a  
23 ten year-old announcer from Pennsylvania, and our opening  
24 day announcer drove all the way from California to be able  
25 to do this. We are now considering bringing back one of

1 these announcers on a permanent basis to be the “voice of  
2 Shenandoah Downs.”

3           Several of the horses that were part of the  
4 Virginia Breeders’ races this year have also competed and  
5 won stakes races or placed very high in other states such  
6 as Maryland and Delaware. Horse owners Amanda Jackson, Jane  
7 Dunavant, Elwood Tignor, Beverly Fletcher and Leon Harris  
8 all have had success in neighboring states.

9           Woodstock resident Betsy Brown scored the major  
10 accomplishment of her 500th driving win during the matinee  
11 meet, and 17-year-old Maryland high school student, Cole  
12 Olsen, got his first driving win ever during our matinee  
13 meet.

14           Heather Vitale came on our opening weekend and  
15 did some live social media broadcasts and interviews. This  
16 was her second year visiting Shenandoah Downs. Heather is  
17 a media superstar in the harness world as well as having  
18 connections to some of the major horses in our industry.  
19 She has traveled all over our country, Australia and Ireland  
20 visiting tracks and promoting harness racing. She says that  
21 Shenandoah Downs is one of the best tracks that she has  
22 visited. From our views of the mountains on the track to the  
23 welcoming family atmosphere on the backstretch, there is no  
24 better place to race. Heather said that she is often asked  
25 about our track as she travels, since people know that she's

1 been here, and she feels that Virginia racing and Shenandoah  
2 Downs are, to quote her, "becoming buzzwords in the  
3 industry."

4 we're looking forward to continuing this year, and  
5 actually increasing our race days hopefully.

6 That's all I have. If anybody has any questions,  
7 or if not, I don't know if Dr. Woogen is on or if Dickie --  
8 if Richard Bland is going to make more presentation.

9 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Well, thank you. Thank you,  
10 Debbie, very much, that's a very positive report. I think  
11 that the VHHA and Shenandoah Downs and the fair administrat-  
12 ion are to be congratulated not only for your perseverance  
13 and professionalism during a very difficult year, but for  
14 what you've achieved over the last three years. That's a  
15 lovely site for a race track and I'm delighted to hear that  
16 things are going well, and hopefully, we'll have pari-mutuel  
17 back there next year.

18 Any questions for Ms. Warnick from any of the  
19 other Members of the Commission?

20 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: I would just share your  
21 comments and congratulate them. It's been tough for them  
22 over the last few years, and it sounds like they're moving  
23 in the right direction by getting some national attention,  
24 and hopefully that will continue when we're beyond the  
25 pandemic and they'll do even better as we go forward.

1 Congratulations.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: All right. Thank you.

3 If nothing else at this point, then I call on  
4 Mr. Bland who would like to make some comments on behalf of  
5 the VHHA, I understand.

6 MR. BLAND: Thank you, very much. I was going to  
7 do so if Dr. Woogen wasn't available; I understand he's on  
8 this call also, so I was going to defer to him. If it's  
9 possible for you to unmute his phone, you can remute me if  
10 that's the case.

11 MR. COPENHAVER: I just unmuted him.

12 DR. WOOGEN: Thank you. Can you hear me?

13 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Yes, we can.

14 DR. WOOGEN: Thank you, very much.

15 well, Debbie did a great job in summarizing  
16 our meet. We are excited that it continues. That track has  
17 been in racing harness horses for over a hundred years con-  
18 secutively.

19 we did want to notify the Racing Commission  
20 that there's a letter on the way, a copy of a letter sent  
21 to Colonial Downs to Aaron Gomes and John Marshall. We had  
22 a meeting with them and we informed them that we would like  
23 them to consider giving us ten days -- up to ten days of  
24 harness racing this year.

25 we've raced at Colonial Downs for 18 years without

1 incident and without as far as I know any breakdown of tho-  
2 roughbred horses due to the conversion of the track back and  
3 forth.

4 The reason we're asking for this is we are for  
5 the first time going to share in the revenue from the HHR  
6 machines, which will give us enough money to race more than  
7 the total number of days allowed under the VEA's 501 status  
8 at Shenandoah Downs, so we're locked into 14 days at this  
9 point. We think at this point, we need more than 14 days.

10 So they will be receiving a formal notification  
11 from us asking them to discuss how we can achieve more days  
12 this year, and again, the Racing Commission will be copied  
13 on that letter.

14 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, thank you, very much,  
15 Dr. Woogen, we much appreciate the heads-up, and we will  
16 appreciate going forward being kept in the loop. Thank you.

17 DR. WOOGEN: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, well, that will  
19 conclude the report under Agenda Item Number 5, and at this  
20 juncture, we have an opportunity for any comments that the  
21 Commissioners may wish to make, and I'm going to call on  
22 each of you in the same order we've been calling on to vote.

23 So I'll start with Vice Chairman Seigel. Any  
24 comments that you care to make, Stuart?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Well, most of us serve on



1 other boards and commissions, and it's been a tough year  
2 for everybody, but I think that this particular call and the  
3 actions of our Commission put us in a good spot. This call,  
4 even though it was a little difficult to get started, I  
5 think we met successfully, and I think things are moving in  
6 the right direction.

7 Happy to see that we're setting forth dates  
8 for this coming year. Hopefully, everyone will be properly  
9 vaccinated by the spring, and we'll be set for a big summer  
10 meet.

11 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Excellent. Concur.  
12 Commissioner Hudgins?

13 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: I just have to reiterate  
14 that I'm amazed at how well the various organizations are  
15 working together, and the Equine Association just really  
16 knocked it out of the park this year for everybody. I feel  
17 really strongly about where we're going, and look forward to  
18 next year with some modifications, but we're on the right  
19 track, and congrats to everybody, job well done.

20 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you.  
21 Commissioner Nixon?

22 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes, I would just like to  
23 thank Dave and the Office of the Governor for putting all  
24 this together. I know it was a challenge, but it looks like  
25 it ended up, we got it all done, so I just wanted to thank

1 them, and also to reiterate how excited I am about hearing  
2 all of the reports that everyone gave, and I'm looking  
3 forward to a good year next year.

4 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Great. Thank you.  
5 Commissioner Reynolds?

6 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 I think my ten years is up after this meeting,  
8 so I guess I'm going to be on a month-to-month until I get  
9 thrown off, so this could be my last opportunity to say  
10 something, but I know Executive Secretary Lermond commended  
11 his staff, rightly so, for the hard work and the great job  
12 that they did all year, especially during these tough times.  
13 But I'd like to say that Dave has done a heck of a job ever  
14 since he got this job. He works hard; he's very detail  
15 oriented; he knows his stuff, and if there's a better Exe-  
16 cutive Secretary in this country, then wherever that may be,  
17 they're the luckiest people in the world, because I can't  
18 imagine anybody that's better than Dave.

19 So I wanted to give him a shout out and  
20 congratulate Dave and his team on a job well done. It makes  
21 the Commission's job, especially the Chairman's job a lot  
22 smoother.

23 Thank you, Dave. That's all I have.

24 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, very much.  
25 That's a perfect segue, because indeed it does make the

1 Chairman's job much, much easier. I always tell Dave that  
2 he spends at least 50 percent of his time trying to keep us  
3 out of trouble, and he does a great job at it.

4           So, all I can do this afternoon is to echo my  
5 fellow Commissioners and thank our Executive Secretary, Dave  
6 Lermond, and our staff as well as the other members of our  
7 industry: Colonial Downs Group, the VEA -- and Commissioner  
8 Hudgins, I'm totally agreeing with your comments, I think  
9 the VEA's importance to the Virginia industry was crystal  
10 clear this year in terms of being able to share assets in a  
11 way to make our race meets and our industry sustainable at a  
12 time when other industries aren't being sustained very well  
13 in some cases and to them especially. Also the Gold Cup and  
14 Shenandoah Downs for their professionalism and their per-  
15 severance against the odds.

16           I think the industry comported itself amazingly  
17 well this year, and I would thank everybody for being so  
18 professional and for sticking to their guns. I hope it sets  
19 us up, and I think it does, for real progress and real ele-  
20 vation of our business and our industry in 2021.

21           I would thank again the Governor's Office, Aaron,  
22 for being with us this morning, and the Secretary's office,  
23 Brad, for you-all navigating the technological aspects of  
24 this meeting, and facilitating it for us. Thanks to every-  
25 body.

1           MR. COPENHAVER: And before -- and I want to  
2 -- sorry to cut you off. I don't know, but before you  
3 adjourn, there's one additional thing from an administrative  
4 standpoint that we need to do that we forgot to do at the  
5 beginning of the meeting, so I just didn't want you to  
6 adjourn before we did that.

7           CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay, well, that pretty  
8 much wraps up my remarks. Thanks to all of you for making  
9 this possible today, and best wishes for the rest of the  
10 year, and I look forward to seeing all of you in 2021.

11           Brad, please take us through whatever protocol  
12 we need to accomplish before we wrap it up here, before I  
13 ask for a motion to adjourn.

14           MR. COPENHAVER: All right. Thank you,  
15 Mr. Chairman.

16           Just very quickly because we are meeting  
17 virtually, we need for you, Mr. Chairman and the Commission  
18 to just acknowledge that we're meeting virtually in accord-  
19 ance with the 2020 Appropriations Act. There's some lang-  
20 uage in there that allows us to do this and the Governor's  
21 executive order on a public health emergency due to the  
22 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, so this Commission meeting took  
23 place via electronic communications without a quorum of the  
24 public body physically assembled in one location.

25           So just an acknowledgment from you, Mr. Chairman,

1 that that's the way we operated, and I think we're good.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Okay. What I'd like to do is  
3 simply acknowledge that and have your remarks become part of  
4 the record. I acknowledge and endorse what you just said.  
5 Can we do it that way?

6 MR. COPENHAVER: I think so. Liz is nodding.

7 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: She's nodding? Okay, great.  
8 Well, I will acknowledge Mr. Copenhaver's remarks  
9 as a matter of record. Thank you, very much.

10 I note we do not need a closed session today,  
11 and so at this point, I think it would be appropriate to ask  
12 for a motion to adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds, thank  
15 you.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, and I actually  
18 am a little embarrassed to say I didn't realize Commissioner  
19 Reynolds, this might be your last meeting. I trust that it  
20 won't and I doubt that it will. So we'll probably see you  
21 this winter, but thank you for pointing that out, and thank  
22 you for your service for a long time on this Commission.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: If you look at the  
24 Governor's (inaudible), Sarge could be here another year.

25 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Hopefully. It's been a

1 great ride. It's been a rough ride. I got thrown off by a  
2 few bucking broncos back when I was Chairman, but it's been  
3 great, met a lot of great people. I'm going to miss you  
4 all. So hopefully, I'll last another year, we'll see what  
5 happens.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Well, based on past  
7 performance, we'll see you at the next meeting.

8 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: All right.

9 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And even if something  
10 miraculous happens and a replacement appears, we're going  
11 to invite you to come back for that meeting at least  
12 briefly, anyway.

13 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: I appreciate it. Thank  
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Again, thanks everybody. We  
16 do have a motion to adjourn; I don't think we got a second.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: We do? Commissioner Seigel  
19 seconds.

20 Are there any opposed?

21 NOTE: There was no response.

22 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Thank you, very much.

23 Oh, I'm sorry, protocol. We've got to call the  
24 roll.

25 Commissioner Seigel?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN SEIGEL: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Hudgins?

3 COMMISSIONER HUDGINS: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Nixon?

5 COMMISSIONER NIXON: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: Commissioner Reynolds?

7 COMMISSIONER REYNOLDS: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN VAN CLIEF: And I vote aye. The meeting  
9 is adjourned. Thank you-all, very much.

10

11

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

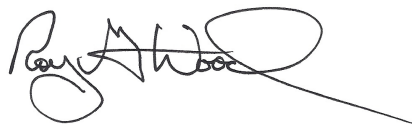
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

**CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER**

I, Roy Garrison Wood, hereby certify that I was the Court Reporter during the virtual meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission at the time of the meeting 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 28th day of February, 2021.



**ROY GARRISON WOOD**  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER