



# Utah Horse Racing Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 Time: 11:30 Am to 1:00pm

Location: Utah Dept. of Ag and Food  
4315 S 2700 W, TSOB South Bldg. Fl. 2  
Taylorsville, UT 84129

## Attendees:

**Board Members:** Chuck Bentley, Steve McIntyre, Kevin Birrell, Billy Peterson, Cody Allred, Dale Winterton **UDAF:** Animal Industry Director Leann Hunting, State Veterinarian Amanda Price, Animal Health Coordinator Kortee McGee, Asst. Attorney General Curtis Grow, Financial Manager Jake Houtrouw, Head Steward Jim Openshaw, Scotty Mann, Camie Ovaleni **UQHRA Reps:** Joyce Mower, Bill Shulberg, Angi Kellett **Public:** Dave Wheeler

## Summary:

This meeting, chaired by Leann Hunting, covered various topics including racetrack support, race dates (April 5th, 27th, May 10th, and 31st), and personnel changes to the UQHRA (Hattie Hadley replacing Savannah Canales as race secretary). Key decisions included Steve McIntyre's appointment as chairman, a deadline of 10:00 AM Scratch time for Saturday before the race for Coggins/Pyro test results for horses. The commission pledged support and collaboration, while also addressing communication improvements and ongoing concerns about the UQHRA club's internal controls and having issues with access to databases.

## Agenda:

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Leann Hunting
2. **Washington County Track Update (00:00:00)**
  - ◆ Chuck Bentley reported that previous administrators were supportive of horse racing, but the current one is making it difficult. The Utah Horse commission favors the racetrack. (00:00:00). It's hard for the trainers who have been using this facility to keep bringing their horses back when unsure about the following year's direction of the track is headed.
3. **Approval of meeting minutes from 1-21-2025 – Action (05:20)**
  - ◆ Kevin Birrell Motioned to approve the minutes for 1-21-2025 as they are and Chuck Bentley Seconded. Minutes were approved
4. **Elect New Chairman: (05:45)**
  - ◆ Following Korry Trapp's term expiration, several nominations for the new chairman were made and declined due to health concerns (00:03:35). Ultimately, Steve McIntyre agreed to serve as interim chairman (00:06:05). Kevin Birrell Nominated Steve McIntyre, nomination passed.
5. **Review of Race Day Duties: (10:47)**
  - ◆ Assignment of race day duties. The race dates were confirmed as April 5th, 27th, May 10th, and 31st, with two dates dropped due to unfulfilled sponsorship. Bill Shulberg explained the sponsorship hasn't been declined but hasn't been paid yet, and if paid might allow for more race days.
  - ◆ UDAF licensing staff will be there on Race days from 8 AM to 12 PM.
  - ◆ The races will have the same stewards as last year with the exception for the last race day (May 31st) the head steward will be Dennis Elison.
  - ◆ UQHRA race secretary was announced, with Hattie Hadley replacing Savannah Canales.
  - ◆ UQHRA has been having issues with obtaining members information from their system since the previous secretary held all the passwords to those systems. UQHRA Rep Joyce is also working on a playbook so this

situation will not happen again. UQHRA has been working on this issue and has been building a new email database and has also been able to get into some of their social media platforms. The lack of access to the old database, previously managed by the previous secretary, caused the Utah Commission board to worry about UQHRA member communication. UHQRA said if they are unable to reach people by email they will be calling people by phone, if it comes to that.

- ◆ (34:58) Brandon Heaps and Cody house are the ones doing draw night. Joyce is going to summarize how the UQHRA members will be conducting the draw night and get those to Leann. This year they planned for the two members conducting draw night to not have horses in the races they do draw nights for. Patty one of the UHQRA Board member has made a poster for draw night and will get those times and dates to Leann.
- ◆ (37:18) The verification of the Coggins and Piro Tests will be checked by Angi Kellett who will check paperwork given to her at the booth, and (39:05) Taylor Johnson will be over the group who will be at the gate handling the paperwork verification there.
- ◆ (37:45) UQHRA is having some concerns with the Testing requirements this year for all horses on the track, including pony horses, to have Piro and Coggins tests. They are hoping they reached out to everyone but are afraid with this new test requirement, and their communication system with their members being down, that there won't be pony horses for the race horses on race day.

## 6. Review and Finalize Procedures to verify negative Coggins and Piro Test Results at Draw and at the Racetrack – Action

- ◆ (All horses on the race grounds need to have Pyro and Coggins Test.) (54:10)
- ◆ (39:23) Jim Openshaw raised the question that if the people didn't show the testing paperwork at the draw was he to scratch them? The Utah Horse Racing Commission stated their concerns
- ◆ with UHQRA not getting this information out to their members. At previous draw nights this would be the case to scratch on draw night, but the Utah Racing Commission wants to give the horsemen the opportunity to get the testing done if they didn't know about this new testing requirement on scratch night.
- ◆ It is to UHQRA's understanding that all members got the letter about the new testing requirements, but there is still no guarantee for the what ifs.
- ◆ (53:41) Joyce stated that they were going to send out another email tomorrow after this meeting to their members and also call to make sure they know about the testing requirements.
- ◆ (54:33) Dale made a motion to set a deadline of 6:00 PM on Friday before race day for negative Coggins and Piro test results to be done for all horses before entering the grounds. Kevin Seconded the motion.
- ◆ (1:01:36) A role call vote was called for the Friday at 6:00 pm scratch time. Then voted on the amended motion to move the scratch time to Saturday morning at 10:00 am. Motion passed for scratch time on Saturday morning at 10:00 am if they do not meet the testing requirements.

Board Member	Friday @ 6:00 pm	Saturday @10:00 am
→ Steve	→ No	→ Yes
→ Kevin	→ Yes	→ No
→ Billy	→ No	→ Yes
→ Chuck	→ No	→ Yes
→ Cody	→ No	→ Yes
→ Dale	→ No	→ Yes

- ◆ Who will be in the test barn on race day? The reason for a commission member to be there is for extra security and making sure the testing is done properly. The commissioner's role will be able to come and go, as long as there is a UQHRA member there, to check paper work and to be there to make sure the tests on the form are

submitted. A member of UQHRA will also be there, either Bill or Cody House. UDAF will provide a license for the commission board volunteers.

- April 5<sup>th</sup>: Chuck
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: Billy
- May 10<sup>th</sup>: Kevin
- May 31<sup>st</sup>: Dale? Needs to check

- ◆ Korry was going to make sure the stewards had a room where they could watch tapes. Angi secured a room but Leann will talk to Korry and find out about getting them a TV, DVD player and a table.

#### **7. Vet Update – Dr. Amanda Price**

- ◆ (1:16:46) Industrial labs has changed how they do the payment for the testing. UHQA collects the testing fees from the horsemen and will now have to pay UDAF instead of the lab and then UDAF will send the check to the lab.
  - ◆ The Vet List for horse racing has changed some, but wanted to know where to send the list of horses that are still on the Vet List. Send it to Angi so she can get it to Hattie.
- (1:18:49) Angi then addressed the board of some of the challenges they are going through to get things running again. Not every horseman has listed an email or even a phone number on their application to UHQA, so information about the testing requirements still may not reach all the horsemen till draw night.
- (1:20:33) Paperwork for the tests is still asked to be done by draw night, but for the ones who didn't receive the message from UQHRA in time about the testing requirements, the Utah Horse Racing Commission wanted to give the horsemen time to get that paperwork in before they are scratched. Horsemen can still be entered on draw night without the test paperwork, but will be given a warning to have that paperwork in no later than Saturday morning at 10:00 am on race day. If no testing paperwork is produced then they will be scratched.

#### **8. Legislative Update – Leann Hunting**

- ◆ (1:21:33) Two main bills. First one was Senate Bill 276 and it passed. In this bill, it essentially says that if the stewards make a ruling for a violation and the individual appeals the ruling to the commission body. When the commission rules, the order becomes effective immediately. The only way the individual can sanction their suspension and fine and put them on hold is if the district court rules to get a stay from the court to do that.
- ◆ (1:23:30) The other bill that was ran was regarding pari-mutuel races in Utah. It would establish a pari-mutuel commission. It has been circled, tabled, and not voted on at this time.
- ◆ (1:23:41) There was an RFA that went through for horse racing for \$125,00 in funding. \$50,000 goes to administrative cost and \$75,000 goes to purse money for horse racing in Utah. This is an addition to what was granted last year, but will not go into effect till 2026.

#### **9. Update on Rewrite of Rule R52-7 Curtis Grow**

- ◆ Curtis would still like Kevin's help and Steve's to review and correct wording in new rules made in the legislative session.

#### **10. Closed Session – (1:30:24)**

#### **11. Board Roundtable**

- ◆ The board is concerned with horse racing in Utah especially now with only 4 race days this year. It is the Utah Horse racing Commission who sanctions UHQA's races. The Commission will see if there are other possibilities to help have more sanctioned races here in Utah.

#### **12. Public Comment**

#### **13. Adjourn**