

Utah Horse Racing Commission Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, August 26th, 2025

Time: 1pm to 3pm

Location: Utah Department of Agriculture

4315 S. 2700 W. TSOB S BLDG FL 2

Taylorsville, UT 84114

Room: 2508

Attendees: Chairman Steve McIntyre, Board Members: Dale Winterton, Kevin Birrell, Chuck Bentley, Billy Peterson, Keith Nellesen, Cody Allred, Asst. Attorney General Curtis Grow, State Veterinarian Dr. Amanda Price, UQHRA Rep. Angi Kellett, UQHRA Bill Shuldborg, UQHRA Joyce Mower, Phoebe White, UHRC Executive Director Thane Marshall, UDAF Kortee McGee, UDAF Camille Knudsen, Animal Health Director Leann Hunting, UDAF John Keller, UHRC Financial Manager Jake Houtrouw

Invited but unable to attend: N/A

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – Steve McIntyre, Chairman
 - a. Individuals who were online introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Action) 00:02:11
 - a. Commission members were previously sent the minutes to review. Chuck made the motion to approve the previous minutes, Dale seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
3. WY Meeting Update (Discussion) 00:04:12
 - a. The commission members who attended the meeting on August 10th with the state of Wyoming felt it was a productive meeting overall. Brandi and Nick answered some questions directly and others not so direct.
 - b. 00:05:41 Wyoming is asking Utah to have their works regulated by a governing body and performed at a sanctioned track. The tracks need to be sanctioned by the commission and have limited access to who can enter works on Equibase.
 - c. 00:08:25 Wyoming would like Utah's efforts to ensure Utah works are legitimate to make things a little easier for them. Works will be more regulated going forward.
 - d. 00:10:52 The UHRC has approved 3 tracks in the past and are able to approve more going forward. Brandi made it clear that she did not like Canyon Breeze track and that the commission needs to come up with a plan to sanction the track. If the commission makes and follows the plan for Canyon Breeze, WY will then be ok with that track being used.
 - e. 00:11:33 Wyoming is going to require two people to be present at all works, a licensed clocker and Equibase clerk. UDAF/UHRC can limit access to Equibase to whoever. They are also able to limit the track access the hired employee would have on Equibase.
 - f. 00:12:55 Video works are no longer going to be accepted. The hired clocker and Equibase clerk must be in person at each work for it to be officially added.

- g. 00:15:00 Billy recommended limiting the restrictions the commission places on the horseman for works. The commission should not take on more than is required.
 - h. 00:24:33 Kevin gave examples of how other tracks perform their works.
 - i. 00:25:36 Steve gave an example of a plan. The UHRC could use a portion of the budget to pay for putting on works. The state can be split into 3 regions, Weber Downs, Fillmore, Beaver, and Dixie Downs. The commission should hire 8 people, 4 clockers and 4 Equibase clerks. The hired individuals are spread out across the approved tracks. They can put on workdays 4 days a week giving horseman a chance to go multiple days and at different times of the day if they want. The only issue is paying to use the Weber Downs track. Weber is the only track the commission is aware of in the Northern region.
 - j. 00:35:05 The commission must get involved in the works for Wyoming to accept them as proper works.
 - k. 00:36:15 Keith suggested putting on more Maiden races. A Maiden race can replace the requirement of needing two official works. Schooling races only count as one work.
 - l. 00:39:10 UQHRA was asked to talk to their board about the potential of putting on more Maiden races.
 - m. 00:43:58 Cody made the motion to support the works program that would be acceptable to WY for the benefit of the Utah Horseman. The commission will do the program with the least intrusion and without controlling it but still sanction the program. Billy seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.
4. Sanctioning Tracks in Utah (Discussion & Action) 00:45:23
- a. Summarized suggestion for the program, split Utah into 3 regions. Northern region will be at Weber Downs, Central region will have Fillmore and Beaver, and the Southern region will be at Dixie Downs. Hire 6-8 people to be clockers and/or Equibase clerks. There will be teams of two at each track. The commission could use the Encompass program instead of Equibase if wanted. The hires will be compensated from the commission budget. There could be 4 workdays. If a trainer can't come to those times, then they can work with the hires for another time.
 - b. 00:48:55 There is no fee to do works at most tracks. In some tracks the trainers pay \$10 a work. If a horse is off the premises they charge \$50.
 - c. 00:55:27 Keith suggested that the commission pay for the individuals to have set days but if a trainer can't make one of the workdays, the trainer is responsible to compensate the clocker and Equibase clerk.
 - d. 01:02:30 It was suggested that the commission hired individuals will be paid to work for one day a week from this time period to the other time period and if a horseman wants to do the work another day then they are paid by the horseman. Works can be performed from February 15th through May 15th and get paid for one day a week. If someone wants a work later than May 15th the horseman will have to pay for the clocker and Equibase clerk.
 - e. 01:08:35 Leann spoke with Equibase last year and they confirmed that the person putting in the work into Equibase have to watch the work be performed.

- f. 01:13:19 Leann suggested that UDAF write up a proposal for the works program and submit it to the commission for approval based off the discussion today. Steve volunteered to find the 8 people to do the works. The commission will look into the requirement of hiring 6 people and having them all licensed as clockers and Equibase clerks and then as long as two people are present at the work then the work should be approved.
 - g. 01:18:18 The commission is good with Weber Downs, Fillmore, Canyon Breeze, and Dixie Downs to be the sanctioned tracks.
- 5. Penalties for Falsifying Works (Discussion & Action)
 - a. 01:18:30 This item is tabled until a program design has been presented and approved.
- 6. FY2026 Budget & Wording Update – Jake Houtrouw (Information) 01:18:50
 - a. Jake reviewed the budget. Leann has previously approved the budget allocations and amounts. \$125K was appropriated to the commission, \$75K of it will be used for additional purse money and the \$50K is put to administration.
 - b. 01:21:11 The club has \$6K in their budget that they collected for the finals testing budget if it was necessary. UHRC still operated at a deficit so the added money would be nice. Animal Industry supplements the deficit from other program funds. \$18,050 plus \$4k for the veterinary clinic was charged for testing in 2025. UHRC would like Angi to send in the \$6K so testing can break even.
 - c. 01:29:34 Jake explained the main deficit cause is the fact that the commission doesn't charge enough in fees to break even. They don't charge more because no one would run in Utah if the fees go up.
 - d. 01:31:00 Once the UHRC has the number of race dates then they can alter the final testing fee to see how much they need to charge to cover costs.
- 7. Testing for Consolation Races (Action)
 - a. 01:35:05 This item is tabled until race dates can be provided.
- 8. 2026 UQHRA Race Dates – Angi Kellett (Action) 01:31:21
 - a. The club was waiting on the approved budget to see how many race dates they can afford. Angi is going to meet with the club to get tentative dates. They have Idaho dates to compare against. Weber Downs has said they aren't able to nail down a contract until 6 months in advance to the race dates.
- 9. Update on Rule Rewrite – Curtis Grow (Information/Action)
 - a. 01:35:20 Curtis and Camille are working to redo the rule book for the Utah Horse Racing Commission. Curtis and Camille would like to have two members to help guide them to keep what's most important in the rules. If the commission wants the rules to be submitted to the legislative session the draft needs to be submitted by November 1st. If it doesn't have to be submitted by November, they can keep working on it in the spring. Curtis suggested seeing how far they can get and if they aren't able to submit the final draft to legislation then they can complete and submit the most pressing matters for the next racing season.
 - b. 01:40:50 Chuck brought up the budget concerning funds going to the St. George track. It was decided that the St. George track has the possibility of commission funding for 2027 but will receive no funding for 2026.
 - c. 01:44:30 Steve McIntyre and Dale Winterton will assist Curtis and Camille in the rule rewrite process.

10. 2026 Race Season Licensing Fees – Phoebe White (Action)

- a. 01:45:39 The same licensing fees from last year were presented to the commission for approval. Motion was made by Kevin to approve licensing fees for 2026, seconded by Chuck and approved by the commission.

11. Board Roundtable

- a. 01:48:11 Leann thanked Kevin for his commission member service. UDAF is working on finding his replacement. Leann also announced her resignation from UDAF.

12. Adjourn 01:50:05