

Utah Horse Racing Commission Meeting Minutes



Date: Tuesday, January 27th, 2026

Time: 10am to 12:00pm

Location: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

4315 S. 2700 W. TSOB S BLDG FL 2

Taylorsville, UT 84129

Room: 2507

In Person Attendees: Chair Steve McIntyre, Asst. Attorney General Curtis Grow, UDAF Phoebe White, UHRC Executive Director Thane Marshall, Animal Health Director John Keller, UDAF Field Vet Nicole Cossey

Joined virtually: State Veterinarian Dr. Amanda Price, UQHRA Rep. Angi Kellett, UQHRA Bill Shuldborg, UQHRA Joyce Mower, UDAF Camille Knudsen, Paige Schvaneveldt, Pam Cornia, UDAF Finance Jake Houtrouw, Billy Peterson, Keith Nellesen

Invited but unable to attend: Brad Hart, Dale Winterton, Chuck Bentley, UQHRA President Brandon Heaps, Kortee McGee, Joe Hadley

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order - Steve McIntyre, Chair
 - a. Steve welcomed everyone, there was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting.
2. Approve 12/17/25 Meeting Minutes (Action)
 - a. 00:00:34 Steve asked if anyone had questions on the minutes. There were no questions.
3. Workout Plans – Pam Cornia & Paige Schvaneveldt (Discussion)
 - a. 00:05:07 Pam & Paige have worked out a schedule with Weber Downs to do workouts with little to no cost to the horseman.
 - b. 00:07:11 There are 8 rules they put together. Where the works will take place, there needs to be two people there, etc. If a starter is needed Paige and Pam can get that worked out. All two-year-olds will be identified. If the horse is older or known they won't scan for an official ID. They will enter the works on a spreadsheet.
 - c. 00:08:08 The budget looks to be about \$20,000. 10 workdays a month are scheduled for Paige and 10 days are scheduled for Pam. Pam will work in the Northern part of the state. Paige will work in the southern region.
 - d. 00:09:04 In April and May, they will do works in the middle of the week and then during the weekend. Pam was able to have a great meeting with Weber Downs. If the horseman does not have a membership with Weber Downs they will be charged \$5. The horseman will pay the fee.
 - e. 00:10:16 Paige plans to get works done on Friday in St. George. Depending on the weather, Beaver track may be open for works soon.

- f. 00:11:56 Pam has had Sheri Hansen, Nancy Gren, Joyce Mower, and Cody House agree to be clockers. Cody House, Hadley Hansen, Logan Gibson, and Kason Hansen will be identifiers. Hadley Hansen, Logan Gibson and Kason Hansen will also be starters.
- g. 00:12:46 Paige has had Randi Sackett, Monte Turner, and Chance Rollins agree to be clockers. Randi Sackett can also be an identifier if needed. Brett Vickery and Chance Rollins can be starters. Not everyone will be at the track at a time.
- h. 00:14:17 Keith had some concerns as to where the money would be coming from. He doesn't like the idea of doubling the cost by having two people available at each work. The money to pay for works will come out of the administrative budget. When money is given to the program the legislation decides what is purse money and what is administrative. We cannot spend purse money on anything other than the race purse.
- i. 00:19:50 Pam and Paige will count a workday as 8 hours. They can work 80 hours a month doing workouts. They might work one day that only lasts 3 hours. As a result that allows them 5 hours to do other workouts another time in the month.
- j. 00:21:08 Billy said he understands the desire for integrity by having two people at each work. Billy asked if they were always planning to have two people at each work. He gave the example of El Paso doing works. He asked if they could gauge how many people would be at the workout based on how many horses were coming to work. Paige and Pam plan to have two people at each work.
- k. 00:27:00 Cody asked if there were any fees for the horseman. There are some at Weber Downs. The fees charged to the horseman will get paid directly to Weber Downs, the state of Utah will not collect fees for 2026 workouts. For those who go to Weber Downs, the horseman will be charged if they don't have a season pass. Horseman may also be charged a track fee to do workouts at Weber Downs. If someone is not signed up on the sheet, they do not get a workout. If they show up, they will be sent away. Pam will split up fees based on how many are signed up for the sheet. Pam will reach out to the UQHRA asking for them to post information to the horseman on how to sign up for works.
- l. 00:31:11 Keith doesn't think the state of Utah should allow people from out of state to get a work done in Utah. Commission members think we could charge an extra fee for those out of state. The time has passed to charge fees for this next racing season.
- m. 00:35:00 John Keller mentioned that there is an issue with the budget. We need to be aware of the expenses of adding a new program within horse racing. He thinks it would be just fine if horses from out of state trained here. The thing to keep in mind is that the state can't be funding the program, they can help just not fully fund it.
- n. 00:39:00 Last year around 40% of those who did workouts were thoroughbreds. There wouldn't be many Wyoming trainers coming for workouts. Some will be coming from Idaho.
- o. 00:44:04 The commission mentioned asking Wyoming for some funds to help pay for workout costs.

- p. 00:44:50 Dr. Price mentioned that the commission might not be able to charge fees to the horseman due to the time passing to present it to the legislative session. We could start the process of adding fees for the 2027 season if the commission wanted.
 - q. 00:48:57 Steve asked everyone if people from out of state should be allowed to do workouts in Utah. Paige is in support of people from out of state allowed to get a work. Pam agrees, Keith disagrees, Angi is in favor. Billy is not in favor unless there is a subsidized plan, Cody is in favor
 - i. 00:51:15 There might be a way for the club to co-sponsor the work. The club would collect a fee from the horseman. It would need to be separated from the commission.
 - r. 01:01:07 The commission plans to vote next week virtually. They will discuss if they would like to allow out of state horses to get workouts in Utah.
 - s. 01:04:04 Keith proposed the question be, do we allow out of state people or not. We need to keep track of how many people are out of state. At the end of the year the commission will review the results. If it comes back with a third or more are out of state, then the commission can go from there.
 - t. 01:04:47 Cody suggests what do we count as out of state. Keith would say people who are coming across the border. Keith suggested charging a significant amount unless they race in the Utah track meets.
 - u. 01:13:34 Joyce said she can work on looking at who did workouts last year and compare them to the racing programs to see how many raced in Utah.
4. Letter Supporting the Racehorse Health & Safety Act – Commission (Discussion/Action)
- a. 01:15:08 Arkansas is asking for the support of Utah in the Racehorse Health and Safety Act. HISA would be discontinued and control would return to individual states. The act includes a new group forming to control regulations of horse racing. There is an annual fee for membership of the state commission. They will come up with rules on medications, tracks, penalties/sanctions, and how they will be carried out. If Utah joined, they would be required to follow the rules. Utah would also be required to only use the approved labs.
 - b. 01:20:04 Keith understands that HISA has only been implemented for thoroughbred racing. The state of Utah could not afford to be a part of HISA. Keith believes that by joining this new group, it would add more regulations to the State of Utah racing. Arkansas is trying to get control back to the states because HISA is very expensive. The letter would not be obligatory to join. The State of Utah could not afford to join the new regulating group.
 - c. 01:25:43 Included in the new group, there will be 9 members on the main commission and there will be 3 subcategories. Thoroughbred, QH racing, and standard bred racing.
 - d. 01:28:14 Keith is 100% in support of overruling HISA from a political standpoint but as a commission maybe not. Billy said he also supports getting rid of HISA. It would be helpful to Utah horsemen. Cody is in support of getting rid of HISA and sending a supportive letter if the commission is not tied into joining the new group.
5. Update Rules for Trainers with Positive Hair Tests – Commission (Discussion/Action)
- a. Tabled
6. 2026 Coggins & Piroplasmiasis Requirements – Commission (Discussion/Action)

- a. Tabled
- 7. Progress Letter to Wyoming Gaming Commission – Phoebe White (Action)
 - a. 01:33:04 Phoebe read the letter aloud. Some edits may need to be made regarding cost and if two licensed people will be at each workout. Keith wasn't in support of sending it. Cody and Steve were in support of sending a letter to acknowledge Wyoming. If we don't hear anything back it would be seen as a positive point. Cody brought up if we send it Wyoming, they could say we won't accept those protocols. The commission would like to know if Wyoming would accept our works now rather than in April or May.
- 8. Commission Member Test Barn Assignments
 - a. 00:01:45 Steve encouraged board members to think about dates they could help in the test barn.
- 9. Round Table
 - a. 00:02:19 Ann Provost now has conflicting items on her calendar for our spring meet dates. She works with Wyoming and their dates have changed. She will not be a Utah steward for spring dates.
 - i. Steve plans to reach out to Dennis Erickson to be our steward for one of the spring race dates. He will bring up the nomination for approval as the race dates get closer.
 - ii. If anyone else has suggestions of who could be the steward, please let Steve know.
 - iii. Dates for races are as follows spring dates, May 8th 9th 30th and fall dates are September 13th and October 4th.
- 10. Adjourn