

Utah Horse Racing Commission Meeting Minutes



Date: Monday, March 30th, 2026

Time: 2pm to 3:30pm

Location: Utah Department of Agriculture

4315 S. 2700 W. TSOB S BLDG FL 2

Taylorsville, UT 84129

Room: 2504

Attendees: Chair Steve McIntyre, Board Members: Brad Hart, Billy Peterson, Keith Nellesen, Dale Winterton, Cody Allred, Bret Vickery, Asst. Attorney General Curtis Grow, UQHRA Bill Shuldberg, UQHRA Joyce Mower, UQHRA President Brandon Heaps, UDAF Phoebe White, UHRC Executive Director Thane Marshall, UDAF Camille Knudsen, Animal Health Director John Keller, UDAF Financial Advisor Jake Houtrouw

Invited but unable to attend: Nicole Cossey, Angi Kellett

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order - Steve McIntyre, Chair
 - a. Steve congratulated Keith on his horse and their winnings.
 - b. Bret Vickery is a new member of the commission. He introduced himself to the group.
2. Approve 12/17/25 & 2/10/26 Meeting Minutes (Action) – 5 Minutes
 - a. 00:02:00 Steve added to the record that Ann Provost will be unavailable as a steward for our spring dates contrary to what the 12/17/25 meeting minutes state. Motioned to approve 12/17/25 & 2/10/26 meeting minutes by Brad and seconded by Cody. Unanimously approved by the board.
3. Budget Review (Discussion) – Jake Houtrouw – 10 Minutes
 - a. 00:03:30 Jake reviewed the total expenses that have been charged to the account. \$12,000 has been charged thus far. \$35,000 has been allocated to Attorney General expenses. The attorney general fee is \$169 per hour. Keith would like to be efficient as we can. \$380,400 total appropriated funding, a component of that is for general fund. The purse money is allocated for a specific amount. The commission can't add or take away purse money funds.
4. 2026 UQHRA Contract (Action) – 5 Minutes
 - a. 00:14:00 The commission was presented with the UQHRA and UDAF contract. The biggest point for commission members to be aware of is the reimbursement section for stewards. The commission is in favor of reimbursing mileage for stewards from their home to the races.
 - b. 00:18:01 There is nothing in the contract that regards testing requirements or regulations. At the commission's next meeting they would like to discuss why PYRO tests are only required for QH racehorses coming to Utah. They are curious why QH racehorses are required to have more than other event horses.

- c. 00:25:41 It was recommended that someone check horse paperwork at the gate. Such as health papers, Coggins and PYRO. Billy recommends that papers are not required to be presented at time of entry. In previous years papers were required on race day and then set a scratch time.
 - d. 00:32:53 Test requirements can come through a paper or electronic copy. Registration, health certificates, Coggins and PYRO will need to be present on race day. The commission has a scratch time of 11am. If the paperwork is not presented by 11am they will not be allowed to race.
 - e. 00:37:11 Cody made the motion to reimburse stewards mileage regardless of their distance from the track. Seconded by Bret, approved by the board.
 - f. 00:38:22 Keith made the motion to approve the licensing agreement with the change to stewards mileage, seconded by Brad and approved by the board.
5. Stewards/Head Steward for Spring Dates (Scott Wilkinson, Dave Wheeler, Dennis Ellison) (Action) – 5 Minutes
- a. 00:39:49 Ann Provost is no longer able to be a steward for the UHRC. The three stewards agreed to come are Scott Wilkinson, Dave Wheeler, and Dennis Elison. Dennis Elison has agreed to be the head steward and the steward present at the draw night. Ann Provost could be a substitute if another steward is unable to come. Motion made by Billy to approve the stewards with Ann Provost as a substitute, second by Dale. Approved by the board.
6. Steward Payment for 2026 (Action) – 5 Minutes
- a. 00:42:10 Last year the head steward was paid \$500 a day and the other stewards were paid \$350 a day. The steward who attended the draw is paid \$250. The state mileage reimbursement rate increased this year. Billy recommended raising the steward day rate by \$50 per day.
 - b. 00:52:15 Billy made the motion to pay the head steward \$550 a day and \$400 per day for assistant stewards plus mileage at the state rate, Dale seconded approved by the board.
7. New Chairman (Action) – 10 Minutes
- a. 00:53:21 The chairman position needs to be elected annually. Brad Hart nominated Steve McIntyre. Cody recommended closing nominations.
 - b. 00:54:25 Cody made the motion to approve Steve McIntyre as the chairman, seconded by Keith, approved by the board.
8. Volunteers for Race Day (Test barn and Coggins) (Discussion) – 10 Minutes
- a. 00:55:05 The draw will be at a place of residence for 2026. A steward wasn't comfortable going to someone's house for the draw. One of the UQHRA board members has a large room that they offered to do the draw at. The draw is open to the public. Golden Spike was charging a large fee for a conference room for a night. The draw is streamed live so anyone can join.
 - b. 00:58:27 Brandon recommends having meetings towards the beginning of the month. UQHRA is meeting tomorrow at Taboo pizza at 6:30.
 - c. 01:01:50 Bill from UQHRA felt the test barn was running smoothly last year. Billy was in the test barn last year and saw that it might not be necessary for a commission member to be in the test barn. Two years ago, the commission sent double tests into the lab causing testing charges to be astronomical. This sparked the idea of having a commission member

in the testing barn to regulate what tests were sent to the lab. Dale agreed that it was very well organized in 2025, he didn't see where there was a big need for someone to be there. The commission wants to show their support and will attend race days when they can.

- d. 01:08:44 The club has assigned members to ensure only licensed individuals are in the paddock and testing barn. Bill thinks it was nice to have someone on the commission to overlook things. Phoebe will print off licenses for all commission members.
9. Round Table – 10 Minutes
- a. Bill for Parimutuel Status – Thane Marshall – 5 Minutes
 - i. 01:12:20 Thane would like the commission to reach out their connections and their legislatures to get the parimutuel status enacted. It was suggested that when a church sees betting put on the table that it is taken out before it hits the floor at the legislation session. Keith believes that if it got on the ballot then it would be approved. He suggests reaching out to politicians, focus groups and polling then going and putting it out for signature. It would require someone who has deep pockets to get it on the ballot. Keith believes that it would not pass. Indian casinos shut down bills like those in Idaho. The new horse betting place in Wyoming will contribute almost \$1 million dollars to the Wyoming purses this year. Keith would recommend putting parimutuel betting and sports betting on the ballot together.
 - b. 01:22:04 Thane received an email from Weber commissioners. The email had information regarding PETA beliefs on match racing. The Weber commissioners were in support of PETA viewpoints. They included a link to a website showing dates for match racing. They are trying to discontinue racing in Weber County.
 - c. 01:27:30 The commission doesn't have anything to do with match races.
 - d. 01:32:20 Nominations are sent out for fall dates. Late payment is available. Around 40 horses have entered for the fall nominations.
10. Adjourn
- a. 01:33:30 Dale made the motion and seconded by Brad approved by the board.