

Utah Horse Racing Commission Meeting Minutes



Date: Monday, April 20th, 2026

Time: 3pm to 3:30pm

Location: Utah Department of Agriculture

4315 S. 2700 W. TSOB S BLDG FL 2

Taylorsville, UT 84129

Room: 2502

In-Person Attendees: Chair Steve McIntyre, Asst. Attorney General Curtis Grow, UDAF Phoebe White, Animal Industry Director John Keller,

Online Attendees: Brad Hart, Billy Peterson, Keith Nellesen, Cody Allred, Bret Vickery, Bill Shuldberg, Brandon Heaps, Thane Marshall, Haddie Hadley

Invited but unable to attend: Angi Kellett, Amanda Price, Dale Winterton, Joyce Mowers

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order - Steve McIntyre, Chair
2. Approve 3/30/26 Meeting Minutes (Action) – 5 Minutes
 - a. 01:10 Bret made the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Billy, approved by the board.
3. New Spring Steward (Doug Ray) (Action) – 5 Minutes
 - a. 01:39 Steve explained the situation with Wyoming and why Utah needs a new steward for the May 30th meet. Steve would like the commission to approve Doug Ray as a substitute steward. Doug wasn't willing to be a steward without an increase in pay.
 - b. 03:40 Doug has been a steward in multiple states. The horsemen know Doug Ray. Billy recommends paying the stewards equally.
 - c. 06:20 Motion by Billy to approve Doug Ray as a backup steward and to increase the steward pay to \$500, seconded by Keith, approved by the board
4. Increase 2026 Steward Pay (Action) – 5 Minutes
 - a. The steward pay for 2026 is as follows.
 - i. Steward at Draw Night: \$250
 - ii. Head Steward: \$550 Day Rate
 - iii. Steward: \$500 Day Rate
5. Round Table – 5 Minutes
 - a. 07:41 Keith asked regarding the testing protocols. The commission tests blood and hair on the top 10 qualifiers for trial races. For finals and consolation/stakes races we test blood on the top 4 fastest. There is a random urine test administered throughout the meet.
 - b. 09:33 Three people have spoken to Billy regarding the PETA release. Thane has not had anyone talk to him. Bret has also had people discuss this with him. He is receiving some backlash from the St. George Track.

- c. 10:39 Golden Spike Arena got a GRAMA request to turn over records for their racetrack involving previous and current race records. County commissioners are involved. There is a chance that PETA will be at the races. As far as Billy knows the match races will no longer happen at the Ogden track this year.
 - d. 12:54 The workout program seems to be going very well. There is a workout day scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd. They cut the number of horses off at 113. Ogden has been good to work with. Steve and Paige will be going to help. The workouts down south have done well. Paige works with Bret. They collect information as to why the individual is getting the work done for data purposes. Someone has spoken to Keith recommending that the Fillmore track be open for workouts.
 - e. 16:14 Utah is going to keep their own starting gates for the 2026 racing season. The contract didn't go through with Wyoming. The condition book is available on Equibase.
 - f. 18:03 Schooling races should be entered in as works not races in Equibase. Haddie can talk with Trent after the races and double check that he puts them in as workouts. Trent is at the official races and enters all races into Equibase. It would be easiest if Trent enters the schooling races into Equibase on race day.
6. Adjourn
- a. 24:04 Motion to adjourn made by Billy and seconded by Bret, approved by the board.