

**STATE OF MAINE
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION**

In re: YEAR 2023 HORSE SUPPLY) DECISION & ORDER
PURSUANT TO 8 M.R.S. § 271)

INTRODUCTION

On August 20, 2023, the Maine State Harness Racing Commission (“Commission”) held a public hearing pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 271(7) to determine whether the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on the assigned race dates for 2023. A quorum of the Commission was present during all stages of the proceedings. Chair Harry B. Center II, Barry Norris, Don Marean, Patricia Varnum, and Diane Dunn participated and voted as Commission members.¹ The August 9, 2023 Notice of Hearing informing interested parties of the hearing was admitted without objection as Exhibit 1. Miles Greenleaf (“Mr. Greenleaf”), Agricultural Program Supervisor, and Executive Director Shane Bacon (“Mr. Bacon”) testified during the hearing. There were no intervenors pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 9054.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

Mr. Greenleaf offered a 2023 Maine State Harness Racing Commission Horse Supply Tracking Sheet which was admitted without objection as Exhibit 2. Mr. Greenleaf testified to the information contained within the Tracking Sheet, which reflected racing days awarded to facilities and fairs, the total days raced, dashes awarded, and the number of horses in each race among other information. It also included the number of racebacks for First Tracks, Bangor Raceway, and the Topsham Fair. In Mr. Greenleaf’s opinion, the horse supply has been adequate

¹ Commissioners Varnum and Dunn were present remotely pursuant to the Commission’s Remote Participation Policy.

for the number of dashes conducted on assigned race dates. The Commission accepted Mr. Greenleaf's testimony and there was no opposing testimony.

Mr. Bacon testified that the amount of racebacks shown on the Tracking Sheet is still concerning, but that it is too early to tell whether the other fairs will have a high number of racebacks as those fairs have not occurred yet. Mr. Bacon testified that there are still some five horse fields being raced which is not ideal. However, last year, First Tracks did not have an adequate horse supply for any eight horse fields. This year, First Tracks had an adequate horse supply to run some eight horse fields which was promising. The Commission accepted Mr. Bacon's testimony and there was no opposing testimony.

CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence in the record, the Commission concludes that the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on assigned race dates. Accordingly, it is ORDERED that no changes shall be made to the dates and dashes previously awarded to licensees for the conduct of horse racing in this state for the remainder of the 2023 racing season.

RECORD VOTE

After a motion was made and seconded, the Commissioners voted unanimously, 5-0, that the horse supply has been adequate for the number of dashes conducted on assigned race dates.

Dated: September 20, 2023



Harry B. Center II, Chair
Maine State Harness Racing Commission