AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING

November 29, 2018
Gambling Control Board Conference Room
Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine
Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions: Michael Timmons, Chair

2. Review and Approval of Minutes
   Review and Approval of Decision and Orders

3. Approval of the 2019 Sire Stakes Schedule. CMR 01-017, Chapter 9, Section 1.3 requires the Commission to approve the annual sire stakes schedule. The Sire Stakes Advisory Committee has developed a proposed 2019 schedule. The Commission will review the proposed schedule and determine whether to approve it or amend it.

4. Final Adoption of Amendments to CMR 01-017, Chapter 5, 9 and 11. On August 1, 2018, a Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal was published in Maine’s five daily newspapers, which began the comment period on proposed amendments to Chapters 5, 7, 9, 11, and 17 of the Commission rules. A public hearing was held on August 22, 2018 and the deadline for written comments ended at the close of business on September 7, 2018. At its September 19, 2018, the Commission reviewed and responded to all of the comments for these three chapters, and it directed the staff relative to the composition of the final rule language. The Commission will now consider whether to finally adopt the amended rules, the responses to comments, the basis statements and the statements of impact on small businesses.

5. Review of Draft Revisions to Proposed Amendments to CMR 01-017, Chapter 7. On August 1, 2018, a Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal was published in Maine’s five daily newspapers, which began the comment period on proposed amendments to Chapters 5, 7, 9, 11, and 17 of the Commission rules. A public hearing was held on August 22, 2018 and the deadline for written comments ended at the close of business on September 7, 2018. The Commission reviewed the comments at its September 22, 2018 meeting and made several decisions about the proposed amendments. The Commission will now review the last couple of undecided sections and determine the content of the final rule.

6. Request to Provide Additional Financial Support to Maine’s Pari-mutuel Fairs. The costs of hosting a harness racing meet have risen steadily over the decades while the revenues have dropped precipitously since the advent of casinos in Maine. As a result, Maine’s agricultural fairs are finding the economics of continuing harness racing challenging, and in some cases impractical. At the same time, Maine’s agricultural fairs provide geographically diverse exposure of the sport, coupled with a loyal fan base and venues steeped in history and tradition. The staff is requesting that the Commission consider providing additional financial support to Maine’s pari-mutuel fairs.

7. Discussion about Potential Harness Racing Statute Changes. 8 M.R.S. § 263-B charges the Department with maintaining an ongoing review of the harness racing
statutes and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the need for changes to improve the condition of the harness racing industry. The Commission has already discussed certain desirable changes, and will continue the discussion about whether additional changes are advisable.

8. **Overview/Update of 2018 Prohibited Substances Positive Tests.** Miles Greenleaf will give an overview/update of the prohibited substance positive test results that have been reported for the 2018 race season.

9. **Other Business**

10. **Public Comment**

11. **Schedule of Future Meetings:**
    December 13, 2018

12. **Adjourn**