

KENTUCKY HORSE RACING COMMISSION

JULY 17, 2013

AGENDA

**Location: 702 Capitol Avenue
Annex Room 129
Frankfort, KY**

Time: 1:30pm

I. Call to order and roll call

II. New Business

- 1. Approve minutes of June 5, 2013 Commission Meeting.**
- 2. Approve Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Membership.**
- 3. Approve Rapid Response Substance Testing Program.**
- 4. Approve Research Request from Dr. John Timoney.**
- 5. Amendments to 811 KAR 1:215. Kentucky Standardbred Development Fund and Kentucky Standardbred Breeders' Incentive Fund.**
- 6. Amendments to 811 KAR 1:220. Harness racing at county fairs.**
- 7. Approve Churchill Downs' Roster of Racing Officials for the 2013 Fall Meet.**
- 8. Approve Kentucky Downs' Roster of Racing Officials for the 2013 Meet.**
- 9. Approve The Red Mile's Roster of Racing Officials for the 2013 Meet.**
- 10. Approve The Red Mile's request to approve wagering format.**
- 11. Approve The Red Mile's request to offer superfecta with carryover wager.**
- 12. Approve Churchill Downs' September meet KTDF allotments.**
- 13. Reports**
 - a. Thoroughbred Rulings**
 - b. Standardbred Rulings**
 - c. Veterinary Division**
 - d. Pari-Mutuel Wagering Division**
 - e. Regulations and Litigation**

III. Other Business

- 1. Report from Chris Clark, Director of Enforcement**

IV. Executive Session

V. Adjournment

STEVE BESHEAR
GOVERNOR



ROBERT D. VANCE
SECRETARY

PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

ROBERT M. BECK, JR.
CHAIRMAN

KENTUCKY HORSE RACING COMMISSION

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TO: Kentucky Horse Racing Commission
FROM: Dr. Mary Scollay, Equine Medical Director
DATE: July 15, 2013
RE: Request for Approval of Research Proposal; Dr. John Timoney

On June 12, 2013, the Equine Drug Research Council voted to recommend funding of the following project:

Potency and Efficacy of a Novel Leptospira Vaccine In Pregnant Mares

Principal Investigator: Dr. John Timoney Amount requested: \$ 52,043 Timeline: 18 months

Project Summary:

Infection with *Leptospira* can cause a range of disease conditions in the horse but is most notably associated with ophthalmic disease and with late term abortions and stillbirths. Currently, no equine vaccine exists, and the use of other-species vaccines has not resulted in protection against infection. Dr. Timoney's laboratory has identified *Leptospira* proteins that are expressed when the organism is present in the horse, but not when in laboratory culture. The absence of these proteins in commercially available vaccines may explain their lack of efficacy in preventing equine disease.

In Aim I of the project, Dr. Timoney proposes to produce a vaccine using a suspension of inactivated *Leptospira* and supplemented with three of the equine specific proteins. The vaccine will be administered to a group of mares (determined to have not been previously exposed to the organism), and blood samples will be collected and assayed to evaluate the immune response generated. The health of the mares, post-vaccination, will be monitored for adverse events. If a satisfactorily robust immune response, as measured by antibody titer

developed post-vaccination, the efficacy of the vaccine against *Leptospiral* abortion will be tested (Aim 2).

In Aim 2, eight previously-unexposed, pregnant mares will be vaccinated. Antibody titers will be measured. Immunity will be challenged by intravenous administration of a measured amount of *Leptospira*. Mares will be monitored for clinical signs of infection and subjected to blood testing to directly detect the presence of the organism. Each mare will be monitored to the end of her gestation (delivery of live foal, or aborted fetus). The results in the vaccinated/exposed mares will be compared to those generated from a like number of unvaccinated/exposed control mares.

Comments:

Leptospiral abortions occur in Kentucky every year. While the incidence of diagnosed leptospiral abortion is relatively low, when compared to the total number of mares bred, the impact can be significant to the affected breeders. Local veterinarians have voiced support for the development of an efficacious vaccine.

External reviews, performed by qualified experts, provided strong support for the project. The research team is well-qualified and has substantial relevant experience. The scientific method is sound—although reviewers did question if the number of case mares (8) was sufficient.

Aim 2 is contingent upon the success of Aim 1. Funding, if recommended by the EDRC, should be disbursed with the completion of each aim as a benchmark event.

The Research Advisory Working Group (Drs. Andy Roberts, Mary Scollay, Johnny Mac Smith, Ed Squires, and Neil Williams) having met on April 10, 2013, recommends funding of this project.

Approval is recommended.

COMMISSION ACTION

_____ Approved

_____ Denied

_____ Deferred