

On Thursday, July 30, the Working Group on Greyhound Race Dates met at the Texas Racing Commission. In attendance were Sammy Jackson and Chuck Trout of the Commission, Sally Briggs of Gulf Greyhound Park and Gulf Coast Racing, Andrea Young of Valley Race Park, Harlyn Goebel and Diane Whiteley of the Texas Greyhound Association, Steve Gilster representing the NGA, Ken Turner and Don Burke, kennel owners at last year's Valley meet and Garret Burke. The meeting was recorded.

The meeting began with Mr. Jackson reporting the minutes from the last Working Group meeting and statistics on purses for the three greyhound tracks. Commissioner Gloria Hicks then joined the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Diane Whiteley of the TGA on the proposed race dates schedule for 2010-2011. The presentation started with the economics of greyhound racing for the greyhound owner, kennel owner and racetrack and the economic relationships between the three groups. It then gave the history of the discussions between the racetracks, TGA and Commission on a racing circuit. Finally, it concluded with the proposal for Gulf Coast Racing (Corpus Christi) and Valley Race Park holding a short (5-10 day) meet in 2010 and 2011, respectively, and allocating the simulcast purses to Gulf Greyhound Park.

It was an open meeting and many questions were asked, as well as input given by Mr. Gilster, Mr. Turner and Mr. Burke. Andrea Young stated that Valley Race Park had not requested race dates for 2010. Mr. Gilster stated that some NGA Board members felt that Valley should be closed if it would not run its live meet. The TGA's position is that Valley simulcast so as to gain about \$200,000 in purse money, which could be used to increase purses at Gulf Greyhound and keep one track live in Texas with good purses.

Mr. Jackson suggested that Gulf Coast Racing and Valley Race Park talk together to determine if Valley would run for two months (December, 2009-February 14, 2010) and Gulf Coast pick up the next two months (February 15-March, 2010) instead of Valley running alone. Ms. Briggs said she would take up the matter with the owners of Gulf Coast. Ms. Young said she would consider it.

A follow-up meeting for the Working Group was set for August 5 at 1:30 at the Texas Racing Commission, prior to the full Racing Commission meeting on August 18.