

North Dakota Racing Commission Special Meeting
Phone Meeting
(701) 328-7850 Meeting ID: 16115103#
Friday, February 23, 2024 – 10:00 a.m., Central Time

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Executive Director Bruce Johnson, and Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth

On the Phone: Chairman Tracy Hanson, Commissioner Mike Schmitz, Commissioner Michael Nason, Commissioner Jessica Benson, Commissioner Richard LaFromboise, and Legal Counsel Allyson Hicks

Others Present: Scott Horst and Leon Glasser

Others On the Phone: Hugh Drexler, Terry Davis, and Jamie Herman

AGENDA

1. **Review of Funding from February 15, 2024, Meeting**
2. **Financial Updates**
 - a. Promotion Fund
 - b. Purse Fund
 - c. Breeders Fund
 - d. General Fund
3. **2024 Promotion & Purse Fund Requests**
 - a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - c. North Dakota Thoroughbred Association
 - d. North Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Association

4. **2024 Jockey Incentive Grants**
5. **No other business may come before the Commission**
6. **Adjournment**

1. **Review of Funding from February 15, 2024, Meeting**
2. **Financial Updates**
 - a. Promotion Fund
 - b. Purse Fund
 - c. Breeders Fund
 - d. General Fund

Executive Director Johnson went over the balances of the Promotion, Purse, and Breeders Fund. No motions needed.

3. **2024 Promotion & Purse Fund Requests**
 - a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - c. North Dakota Thoroughbred Association
 - d. North Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Association

Executive Director Johnson reviewed Promotion Fund Grants that were voted on at the February 15 Commission meeting. They were as follows:

- The Promotion Fund Grants to both racetracks in the amount of \$180,000 each. The Director stated that there was no problem with those grants.
- The 2023 Promotion Grant holdbacks for both racetracks in the amount of \$18,000 each. There was not any issue with these grants.
- The Promotion Fund Grant to the NDTA for \$1,000 for a Horsemen's appreciation banquet in Belcourt. There was no issue with this grant.
- The Promotion Fund Grant to the NDQHRA for \$5,000 which failed. The Director did not have an issue with this.
- The Promotion Fund Grant to ORDA for \$25,000 for the Horsemen's Incentive which failed.

Executive Director Johnson made the case that the Horsemen's Incentive and HRND's GM's salary are essentially marketing tools and encouraged the Commissioners to reconsider them.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Chairman Hanson to reconsider the request by ORDA for \$25,000 from the Promotion Fund for the Horsemen's Incentive. LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, Benson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Chairman Hanson to approve the request by ORDA for \$25,000 from the Promotion Fund for the Horsemen's Incentive. LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, Benson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Chairman Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Benson to reconsider the request by HRND for \$48,000 for a two-year commitment to help pay the GM's salary. Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Nason – Y, and Schmitz – N. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Chairman Hanson and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve the request by HRND for \$48,000 for a two-year commitment to help pay the GM's salary. Hanson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Benson – Y, Nason – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

4. 2024 Jockey Incentive Grants

Executive Director Johnson stated the Jockey Incentive Promotion Fund Grant was left off the agenda on February 15 and would like to address it now.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Chairman Hanson to approve a Jockey Incentive Grant from the Promotion Fund in the amount of \$12,000 to ORDA and \$12,000 to HRND. LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, Nason – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson moved onto the Purse Fund Grants that were voted on at the February 15 meeting. They were as follows:

- The Purse Fund Grants to both racetracks in the amount of \$168,000 each.
- The Purse Fund Grant to the NDTA in the amount of \$32,000.
- The Purse Fund Grant to the NDQHRA in the amount of \$25,000.

The Director stated that this ended up with going over the balance of the Purse Fund, so these amounts are going to have to be reconsidered. There was discussion between the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to reconsider the Purse Fund request of \$168,000 to ORDA. Schmitz – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, and Nason – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Schmitz to reconsider the Purse Fund request of \$168,000 to HRND. LaFromboise – Y, Schmitz – Y, Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Chairman Hanson and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to reconsider the Purse Fund request of \$32,000 to NDTA. Hanson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Benson – Y, Nason – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Schmitz to reconsider the Purse Fund request of \$25,000 to NDQHRA. LaFromboise – Y, Schmitz – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, and Nason – Y. Motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson recommended that both ORDA and HRND receive \$140,000 from the Purse Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve a \$140,000 Purse Fund Grant to ORDA. Schmitz – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, and Nason – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Schmitz to approve a \$140,000 Purse Fund Grant to HRND. LaFromboise – Y, Schmitz – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, and Nason – Y. Motion passed.

5. **No other business may come before the Commission**

6. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Nason to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye and hearing no negative vote the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.