

North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting
Derrick Dixon Event Center
1210 William Hardesty Street, Belcourt, ND
Thursday, May 21, 2026 – 10:30 a.m., Central Time

1-701-328-0950, Meeting ID: 596615214#

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Present: Chairman Tracy Hanson, Commissioner Jack Schulz, Commissioner Shadd Piehl, Executive Director Bruce Johnson, and Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth

On the Phone: Commissioner Mike Schmitz, Commissioner Jessica Benson, and Legal Counsel William Woodworth

Others Present: Alec Winmill, Robbie Wilson, Steve Herman Jr., Clayton Slater, Jim Pettie, Hugh Drexler, and Doug DeMontigny

Others On the Phone: Christian Hellmers, Jay Alsop, Janelle Mitzel, and Wendy Reuer

AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Minutes** – January 29, 2026, Meeting
- 2. ADW Proposed Ownership Change**
 - a. US Off-Track, LLC
 - b. TRPB LSX
 - c. White Label “Affiliates”

3. **New Service Provider/ADW Application** - Longshot Fantasy, Inc.
4. **State Auditor Report**
 - a. Findings
 - b. NDRC Response
 - c. LAFRC
 - d. Conclusion
5. **2025 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback**
 - a. ORDA - 10% of \$ 180,000 = \$ 18,000
 - b. HRND - 10% of \$ 180,000 = \$ 18,000
6. **2026 Live Race Meets**
 - a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - What to expect
 - b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - What to expect
7. **2026 Advertising & Marketing Campaign**
 - a. New Faces
8. **2026 Breed Fund**
 - a. Commissioner Jack Schulz
9. **NDRC Mission**
 - a. Mission Statement
10. **2026 NDRC Live Race Team Update**
 - a. Chief State Steward - James Pettie
 - b. Assistant State Steward - Robert Jeanotte
 - c. State Veterinarian - Lindy West, DVM (Chippewa Downs)
- Alexa Weyer, DVM (North Dakota Horse Park)
 - d. Licensing Staff - Jevlyn Medina (Internship)
- Lukas Fleming (Licensing Staff)
11. **Legislative Update** – 2027 Legislative Session Updates
 - a. NDRC Direction
 - b. Pari-Mutuel Wagering
 - c. Farm Bill
12. **Budget Items – 2026-27**
 - a. Executive Director Salary
 - b. Commission office relocation
13. **Executive Director**
 - a. Pari-Mutuel Wagering
 - b. Follow up on 2025 Presentation

14. Presentation from Vixio

- a. James Lee
- b. Vixio is an industry leader in Racing and Gaming Regulation

15. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. September 17, 2026, meeting in Bismarck at the State Capitol
- b. November 19, 2026, meeting in Bismarck at the State Capitol

16. Any other business which may properly come before the Commission

17. Adjournment

1. Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2026, Meeting

Previously, all Commissioners had received a copy of the minutes to review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Piehl to accept the minutes of January 29, 2026, as presented. Schulz – Y, Piehl – Y, Hanson – Y, Benson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson asked for agenda item 14 to move to number 3 on the agenda.

2. ADW Proposed Ownership Change

- a. US Off-Track, LLC
- b. TRPB LSX
- c. White Label “Affiliates”

Executive Director Johnson explained the proposed ownership change for US Off-Track, LLC. A limited scope will be conducted by the TRPB.

Executive Director explained white label “affiliates” and processes to the Commissioners.

No motions needed.

14. Presentation from Vixio

- a. James Lee
- b. Vixio is an industry leader in Racing and Gaming Regulation

Executive Director Johnson introduced Richard Heritage from Vixio.

Mr. Heritage provided the background of Vixio and what they can offer to the Racing Commission. Areas where Vixio could offer assistance to the Racing Commission if the Commission purchases a subscription to use their website platform are: 1) HHR, 2) Other State Legislative laws and regulations; and 3) New gaming models being introduced.

The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Heritage answered.

No motions needed.

3. New Service Provider/ADW Application - Longshot Fantasy, Inc.

Executive Director Johnson introduced Christian Hellmers from Longshot Fantasy, Inc. Mr. Hellmers provided information on his company and explained the process of his business.

Executive Director Johnson stated that the Racing Commission should explore the possibility of charging a fee for the game and other games that are similar in nature.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Piehl to approve the Service Provider/ADW license to Longshot Fantasy, Inc. Schmitz – Y, Piehl – Y, Hanson – Y, Schulz – abstained, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

4. State Auditor Report

- a. Findings
- b. NDRC Response
- c. LAFRC

Executive Director Johnson explained the findings of the Racing Commission audit completed by the State Auditor's office: 1) promotion fund grant conditions not being met; 2) improper breed fund awards; 3) promotion fund overspending, and 4) improper procurement.

The audit will be presented to the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee on June 17. The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Johnson answered.

No motions needed.

5. 2025 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback

- a. ORDA - 10% of \$ 180,000 = \$ 18,000
- b. HRND - 10% of \$ 180,000 = \$ 18,000

Executive Director Johnson told the Commissioners that both racetracks provided the proper documentation for their 10% 2025 Promotion Fund grant holdback. A recommendation was made to release the holdback to both racetracks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to approve the 10% holdback to ORDA. Schmitz – Y, Schulz – Y, Hanson – Y, Piehl – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to approve the 10% holdback to HRND. Schmitz – Y, Schulz – Y, Hanson – Y, Piehl – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

6. 2026 Live Race Meets

- a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - What to expect
- b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - What to expect

Executive Director Johnson stated that the condition books for Chippewa Downs and the North Dakota Horse Park are complete. Robert Wilson of ORDA stated that they are all set for racing. Hugh Drexler of the North Dakota Horse Park stated what they will be offering in 2026.

No motions needed.

7. 2026 Advertising & Marketing Campaign

- a. New Faces

Executive Director Johnson introduced Alec Winmill from AgWeek, which was awarded the Advertising and Marketing contract. Mr. Winmill provided a brief synopsis of what they will be providing to the Racing Commission.

No motions needed.

8. 2026 Breed Fund

- a. Commissioner Jack Schulz

Executive Director Johnson said that Commissioner Schulz asked for this subject to be brought up. Commissioner Schulz asked for the Breed Fund balance. Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth stated that the current balance was \$918,000. Commissioner Schulz asked if the balance should be brought down by offering more funds to the horsemen. There was discussion between the Commissioners and the horsemen.

No motions needed.

10. NDRC Mission

- a. Mission Statement

Executive Director Johnson asked the Commissioners if the mission statement should be updated or changed and stated that it will be brought up at a future meeting.

No motions needed.

11. 2026 NDRC Live Race Team Update

- a. Chief State Steward - James Pettie
- b. Assistant State Steward - Robert Jeanotte
- c. State Veterinarian - Lindy West, DVM (Chippewa Downs)
 - Alexa Weyer, DVM (North Dakota Horse Park)
- d. Licensing Staff - Jevlyn Medina (Internship)
 - Lukas Fleming (Licensing Staff)

Executive Director Johnson updated the Commissioners on the staffing for the upcoming race meets.

No motions needed.

12. Legislative Update – 2027 Legislative Session Updates

- a. NDRC Direction
- b. Pari-Mutuel Wagering
- c. Farm Bill

Executive Director Johnson provided an update for the 2027 Legislative session.

No motions needed.

13. Budget Items – 2026-27

- a. Executive Director Salary
 - b. Commission office relocation
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- a. Executive Director Salary

Executive Director Johnson stated that he was supposed to get a raise. Chairman Hanson asked what the legislative recommendation was for increases. It was stated the recommendation for the next fiscal year is 2%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to approve a 2% increase for Director Johnson. Schulz – Y, Benson – Y. Hanson – Y, Piehl – Y, and Schmitz – Y.

Motion passed.

- b. Commission office relocation

Executive Director Johnson mentioned that the Racing Commission office will be moving down the hall from the current office and that the suite number will remain the same as it is currently.

No motions needed.

Executive Director Johnson indicated that Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth will be retiring at the end of August.

There was discussion between the Director and the Commissioners about who will take over the job position.

No motions needed.

14. Executive Director

- a. Pari-Mutuel Wagering

b. Follow up on 2025 Presentation

Executive Director provided an update to the Commissioners.

No motions needed.

15. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. September 17, 2026, meeting in Bismarck at the State Capitol
- b. November 19, 2026, meeting in Bismarck at the State Capitol

16. Any other business which may properly come before the Commission

A motion was made by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Chairman Hanson to open the meeting to public input. Schulz – Y, Hanson – Y, Piehl – Y, Schmitz – Y, and Benson – Y.

Motion passed.

- Carey Thiel from Grey2K offered his opinion on the Federal Farm Bill
- Robby Wilson stated that he would like the Association Steward, Clayton Slater, to go to the Accreditation school

17. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.