

NORTH DAKOTA RACING COMMISSION
Quality Inn, Meeting Room E
1030 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck ND
Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 10:30 a.m., Central Time

Minutes

Present: Chairman John Hanson, Commissioner Shane Martin, Legal Counsel Mike Mahoney, Director Jack Schulz, Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth, Safety Steward/Investigator Brian Burkett, and Breed Fund Administrator Tammy Holm

By Phone: Commissioner Linda Bata and Commissioner Tim Kreidt

Others Present: Leon Glasser, Leigh Backhaus, LJ Harsche, Doug DeMontigny, Joyce DeMontigny, Greg Boschee, Jamie Herman, John Bubel, Dean Meyer, Steve Herman Jr., Robert Wilson, and Avery Erfle

Others by Phone: Wendy Reuer and Scott Horst

Call to Order: Chairman Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2020 & January 19, 2021 Meetings**
2. **New Racing Opportunities in North Dakota**
 - a. McKenzie County Fairgrounds
 - b. Wells County Fairgrounds
 - c. Marketing
 - d. Formally Invite Legislators to Race Meets
 - e. Funding for New Tracks
 - f. Open Discussion
3. **Legislative Update**
 - a. Budget
 - b. Other Legislation
4. **Promotion & Purse Fund Requests**
 - a. Conditions for Promotion & Purse Funding Requests
 - b. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - c. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - d. Jockey Incentives
 - e. Horsemen's Associations (ND Thoroughbred Association & ND Quarter Horse Racing Association)
 - f. Other Promotion Requests
 - 1) Horsemen's Banquet
 - 2) Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) Dues

5. **Breed Fund**
 - a. Fund Financial Report
 - b. Breed Fund Administrator
 - c. Six-horse minimum requirement for eligibility of North Dakota Certified Breed Fund Awards
6. **2021 Race Season Director Authorizations**
7. **Next Meeting Date**
8. **Any other business which may properly come before the Commission**
9. **Adjournment**

1. **Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2020 & January 19, 2021 Meetings**
Previously, all Commissioners had received a copy of the minutes to review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bata and seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept the minutes of December 3, 2020 and January 19, 2021, as presented. All Commissioners voted aye and hearing no negative vote, the motion passed.

2. **New Racing Opportunities in North Dakota**
 - a. McKenzie County Fairgrounds
 - b. Wells County Fairgrounds
 - c. Marketing
 - d. Formally Invite Legislators to Race Meets
 - e. Funding for New Tracks
 - f. Open Discussion

Director Schulz provided an update on the various new racing opportunities in North Dakota. The Commissioners asked questions which Director Schulz answered.

No motions needed.

3. **Legislative Update**
 - a. Budget
 - b. Other Legislation

Director Schulz gave an update on the agency bills.

No motions needed.

4. **Promotion & Purse Fund Requests**
 - a. Conditions for Promotion & Purse Funding Requests

Director Schulz read the recommended conditions for funding the Promotion and Purse Fund requests for 2021 and asked for approval from the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bata and seconded by Commissioner Martin to accept the conditions for funding as presented from the Promotion and Purse Fund requests for the 2021 race meets. Bata – Y, Martin – Y, Hanson – Y, and Kreidt – Y. Motion passed.

- b. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)

Director Schulz stated that ORDA requested \$250,000 from the Promotion Fund for five weekends of racing at Chippewa Downs for 2021. His recommendation was to pay \$27,500 per day for 8 days for a total of \$220,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bata and seconded by Commissioner Kreidt to approve \$220,000 from the Promotion Fund to ORDA for 8 days of racing at Chippewa Downs in 2021. Bata – Y, Kreidt – Y, Hanson – Y, and Martin – Y. Motion passed.

c. HRND (ND Horse Park)

Director Schulz stated that HRND requested \$300,000 from the Promotion Fund for five weekends of racing at the North Dakota Horse Park for 2021. His recommendation was to pay \$27,500 per day for 8 days for a total of \$220,000.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bata and seconded by Commissioner Martin to approve \$220,000 from the Promotion Fund to HRND for 8 days of racing at the North Dakota Horse Park in 2021. Bata – Y, Martin – Y, Hanson – Y, and Kreidt – Y. Motion passed.

f. Other Promotion Requests

1) Horsemen's Banquet

Director Schulz stated that the ND Thoroughbred Association requested \$5,000 from the Promotion Fund for the Horsemen's Banquet. He recommended providing \$2,500 from the Promotion Fund to the NDTA for the Horsemen's Banquet.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Bata to approve \$2,500 from the Promotion Fund to the ND Thoroughbred Association for the Horsemen's Banquet. Martin – Y, Bata – Y, Hanson – Y, and Kreidt – Y. Motion passed.

d. Jockey Incentives

Director Schulz recommended \$1,250 per day for a total of \$10,000 from the Promotion Fund for the jockey incentives at both racetracks if they each run 8 days.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Kreidt to approve \$1,250 per day for a total of \$10,000 from the Promotion Fund for the jockey incentives at both racetracks if they run 8 days. The combined total for both racetracks is \$20,000. Martin – Y, Kreidt – Y, Hanson – Y, and Bata – Y. Motion passed.

2) Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) Dues

Moved to Item 6. 2021 Race Season Director Authorizations.

e. Horsemen's Associations (ND Thoroughbred Association & ND Quarter Horse Racing Association)

Director Schulz stated that his recommendation for the Purse Funds will be to give to both racetracks but not to the Horsemen's Associations.

Director Schulz stated that ORDA requested \$240,000 from the Purse Fund. His recommendation was \$176,000 for 8 days of racing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Kreidt to award \$176,000 from the Purse Fund to ORDA for 8 days of racing at the 2021 race meet. Martin – Y, Kreidt – Y, Hanson – Y, and Bata – Y. Motion passed.

Director Schulz stated that HRND requested \$200,000 from the Purse Fund. His recommendation is \$176,000 for 8 days of racing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kreidt and seconded by Commissioner Bata to award \$176,000 from the Purse Fund to HRND for 8 days of racing at the 2021 race meet. Kreidt – Y, Bata – Y, Hanson – Y, and Martin – Y. Motion passed.

Director Schulz stated that the ND Thoroughbred Association asked for \$24,000 from the Purse Fund and the ND Quarter Horse Racing Association asked for \$20,000 from the Purse Fund. His recommendation was not to award either one as the money was awarded to the racetracks directly.

Not motions needed.

5. Breed Fund

- a. Fund Financial Report
- b. Breed Fund Administrator
- c. Six-horse minimum requirement for eligibility of North Dakota Certified Breed Fund Awards

Director Schulz updated the Commissioners on the financial status of the Breeders Fund.

Director Schulz introduced the two new temporary employees for the Racing Commission. Tammy Holm was hired as the Breed Fund Administrator as Sally Dasinger retired. Brian Burkett was hired as the Safety Steward/Investigator.

No motions needed.

6. 2021 Race Season Director Authorizations

Director Schulz asked for authorization to pay the following expenses for 2021 out of the Promotion Fund:

- State Veterinarian;
- State Steward;
- Internships;
- CHRIMS;
- ARCI;
- Industrial Laboratories;
- Marketing;
- Racing Symposium;
- Other expenses as required.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Bata to authorize the expenses listed to be paid out of the Promotion Fund for 2021. Martin – Y, Bata – Y, Hanson – Y, and Kreidt – Y. Motion passed.

7. Next Meeting Date

Director Schulz asked for the next meeting to be held close to one of the racetracks. It was decided to hold the next meeting, June 4, in Belcourt.

No motions needed.

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

- Leon Glasser asked for a review of the agreements between the ADW's and charities. Director Schulz asked for the Associations to send their financials as part of the review.
- Director Schulz indicated that Leigh Backhaus asked for an appeal for the registration of his 2019 colt out of Eighteen Belowe. He recommended that the foal application be approved with a late fee of \$250.

A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Bata to approve the registration of Leigh Backhaus' 2019 colt out of Eighteen Belowe with a late fee of \$250. Martin – Y, Bata – Y, Hanson – Y, and Kreidt – Y. Motion passed.

- Chairman Hanson stated that he had talked to an individual in the Governor's office regarding the vacant Commissioner position.

9. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.