

**North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting**  
**Derrick Dixon Event Center**  
**1210 William Hardesty Street, Belcourt, ND**  
**Friday, June 6, 2025 – 10:30 a.m., Central Time**  
**(701) 328-7850 Meeting ID: 16127676#**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

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

**On the Phone:** Legal Counsel Steve Hanson

**Not Present:** Commissioner Mike Schmitz

**Others Present:** Zac Hoffner, Robbie Wilson, Jim Pettie, Lukas Fleming, Jevlyn Medina, Ryan Roshau, Skip Anderson, Hugh Drexler, Pete Davis, John Bubel, Jamie Herman, and Leon Glasser

**Others On the Phone:** Ben Hayes, Lorilee Goodall, Deb Trickel, Jay Alsop, and Wendy Reuer

**AGENDA**

1. **Approval of Minutes – February 20 & May 5, 2025, Meetings**
2. **Welcome New Commissioners**
  - a. Jack Schulz
  - b. Shadd Piehl
3. **ADW Proposed Ownership Statement of Change – US Off-Track, LLC**
4. **2024 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback**
  - a. ORDA
  - b. HRND

5. **2025 Live Race Meets**
  - a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
  - b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
6. **WDAY- TV 2025 Advertising & Marketing Campaign**
  - a. Zac Hoffner Update
  - b. WDAY-TV Sports
7. **2025 Internship NDRC Team Update**
  - a. Jevlyn Medina (Intern)
  - b. Lukas Fleming (Licensing Staff)
8. **Legislative Update** – 2025 Legislative Session Updates
  - a. HB 1342
  - b. SB 2312
  - c. SB 1525
  - d. SB 2224
  - e. SB 2347
  - f. SB 2384
9. **Budget Items - SB 2023**
  - a. New Copier/Printer
  - b. Executive Director Salary
10. **Jockey School Proposal**
  - a. Pete Davis
  - b. Simulator
11. **Executive Director Presentation**
  - a. Pari-Mutuel Wagering
    - Live Racetrack
    - Advance Deposit Wagering
    - Historic Horse Racing
    - Where is North Dakota?
12. **Next Meeting Dates and Locations**
  - a. August 1 in Fargo at Expressway Suites
  - b. November 20 in Bismarck at the State Capitol
13. **Any other business to come before the Commission**
14. **Adjournment**

**1. Approval of Minutes – February 20 & May 5, 2025, Meetings**

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Benson and seconded by Commissioner Piehl to accept the minutes of February 20 & May 5, 2025, as presented. All Commissioners voted aye and hearing no negative vote, the motion passed.

**2. Welcome New Commissioners**

- a. Jack Schulz
- b. Shadd Piehl

Executive Director Johnson introduced the new Commissioners, Shadd Piehl and Jack Schulz, and asked them to say a little bit about themselves. Commissioner Piel and Schulz introduced themselves to the rest of the Commission.

No motions needed.

**3. ADW Proposed Ownership Statement of Change – US Off-Track, LLC**

Executive Director Johnson stated that US Off-Track had a proposed ownership change. Ben Hayes of US Off-Track explained the ownership change to the Commissioners.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to accept the ownership change by US Off-Track, LLC. Schulz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and Piehl – Y. Motion passed.

**4. 2024 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback**

- a. ORDA
- b. HRND
  
- a. ORDA

Executive Director Johnson explained that ORDA had met the requirements regarding the conditions for the 2024 Promotion Grant holdback and recommended releasing the funds.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to release the holdback from 2024 for ORDA. Schulz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and Piehl – Y. Motion passed.

- b. HRND

Executive Director Johnson explained that HRND had met the requirements regarding the conditions for the 2024 Promotion Grant holdback and recommended releasing the funds.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Piehl and seconded by Commissioner Benson to release the holdback from 2024 for HRND. Piehl – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and Schulz. Motion passed.

**5. 2025 Live Race Meets**

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

Executive Director Johnson covered the status of the upcoming race meets at both racetracks.

State Steward James Pettie asked to be heard regarding Administrative Rule 69.5-01-04-18, as it pertains to having an ambulance on the grounds during training hours. Mr. Pettie stated that Chippewa Downs is not always in compliance with this rule.

There was discussion between Mr. Pettie, Executive Director Johnson, Robbie Davis with ORDA, and the Commissioners.

No motions needed.

**6. WDAY- TV 2025 Advertising & Marketing Campaign**

- a. Zac Hoffner Update
- b. WDAY-TV Sports

Executive Director Johnson introduced Zac Hoffner from WDAY-TV who provided a marketing/advertising update. The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Hoffner answered.

No motions needed.

**7. 2025 Internship NDRC Team Update**

- a. Jevlyn Medina (Intern)
- b. Lukas Fleming (Licensing Staff)

Executive Director Johnson introduced the 2025 Intern, Jevlyn Medina and the Licensing Staff team member, Lukas Fleming.

No motions needed.

**8. Legislative Update – 2025 Legislative Session Updates**

- a. HB 1342
- b. SB 2312
- c. SB 1525
- d. SB 2224
- e. SB 2347
- f. SB 2384

Executive Director Johnson provided a summary of the Legislative session to the Commissioners.

No motions needed.

**9. Budget Items - SB 2023**

- a. New Copier/Printer
- b. Executive Director Salary

a. New Copier/Printer

Executive Director Johnson stated that the Legislature did approve funding for a new copier/printer in the next biennium.

No motions needed.

b. Executive Director Salary

Executive Director Johnson stated that it is time for raises and that he wanted a 5% raise and he thought he deserved it.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schulz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to give Executive Director Johnson a 5% increase for the next fiscal year. Schulz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and Piehl – Y. Motion passed.

**10. Jockey School Proposal**

- a. Pete Davis
- b. Simulator

Executive Director Johnson introduced Pete Davis who gave a presentation to the Commissioners regarding his jockey school proposal. Mr. Davis asked for \$47,500 from the ND Racing Commission to purchase an MK10 Racehorse Simulator, which would be 70% of the cost.

The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Davis answered. Executive Director Johnson will follow up with the Commissioners at the August 1 meeting.

No motions needed.

**11. Executive Director Presentation**

- a. Pari-Mutuel Wagering
  - i. Live Racetrack
  - ii. Advance Deposit Wagering
  - iii. Historic Horse Racing
  - iv. Where is North Dakota?

Executive Director Johnson gave a Power Point presentation regarding Pari-mutuel wagering.

No motions needed.

**12. Next Meeting Dates**

- a. August 1, 2025, meeting in Fargo at the Expressway Suites
- b. November 20, 2025, meeting in Bismarck at the State Capitol

**13. Any other business which may properly come before the Commission**

- Executive Director Johnson stated that there had been an AQHA chip issue. There was discussion between the horsemen and the Commissioners.

#### **14. Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.