

North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting
Expressway Suites Meeting Room
4303 17th Avenue South, Fargo, ND
Friday, July 28, 2023 – 2:30 pm, Central Time

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Present: Chairman Tracy Hanson, Commissioner, Commissioner Richard LaFromboise, Commissioner Mike Schmitz, Executive Director Bruce Johnson, and Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth

Not Present: Commissioner Jessica Benson

On the Phone: Commissioner Michael Nason, and Legal Counsel Josh Amundson

Others on the Phone: Lorilee Goodall and Deb Trickel

Others Present: Robert Wilson, Leigh Backhaus, Lexon Backhaus, Doug DeMontigny, Joyce DeMontigny, Wendy Reuer, Scott Horst, Jay Alsop, Hugh Drexler, James Pettie, Jamie Herman, Andrea Herman, John Bubel, Leon Glasser, Mitch Goehring, Doug Plummer, and Rod Smith

AGENDA - Amended

1. **Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2023, Meeting**
2. **Fiscal Year Report 2022-2023**
 - a. Review
 - b. Pay Raise for Executive Director
3. **ADW News & Notes**
 - a. Grey2K
 - b. HISA
4. **Chippewa Downs Meet Review**
5. **Administrative Rules Change Update – QH Trials**

6. North Dakota Bred / Breed Fund

- a. Program Update
- b. 2023 Issues
- c. Moving Forward

7. Next Meeting Date – September 14 in Bismarck

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

9. Adjournment

1. Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2023 Meeting

Chairman Hanson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of May 18, 2023, as presented. Hearing none, the Chairman called for a vote. All Commissioners voted aye and hearing no negative vote, the minutes were approved.

2. Fiscal Year Report 2022-2023

- a. Review
- b. Pay Raise for Executive Director

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the recently concluded fiscal year.

Executive Director Johnson stated that the Legislature provided for a Legislative performance increase in the agency budget. There was discussion amongst the Commissioners and questions were asked and answered.

No motions needed.

3. ADW News & Notes

- a. Grey2K
- b. HISA

Executive Director Johnson stated that Grey2K, and what they are trying to do in North Dakota. Executive Director Johnson spoke about HISA and the effect on racing in North Dakota.

No motions needed.

4. Chippewa Downs Meet Review

Executive Director Johnson gave his analysis of the Chippewa Downs meet. Feedback was provided on ways to improve in various areas for an improved racing experience. The following recommendations were suggested, including protocols for accidents on the track, improved security, racetrack evaluation, utilizing In-Compass in the Racing Secretary's office.

No motions needed.

5. Administrative Rules Change Update – QH Trials

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the status of the QH Trials. The Governor's office is not able to provide a variance to give the Commission approval to not follow their rules. Exec. Director Johnson stated that he would work on getting the Administrative Rules changed back to what they were previously.

No motions needed.

6. North Dakota Bred / Breed Fund

- a. Program Update
- b. 2023 Issues
- c. Moving Forward

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the feedback from the horsemen regarding the service provided for the Breed Fund.

No motions needed.

7. Next Meeting Date – September 14 in Bismarck

Recess

8. Any other business to come before the Commission

- Robby Wilson stated some of the positive aspects of the Chippewa Downs race meet.
- Leigh Backhaus asked to discuss the following: ND-bred certified races; back-to-back racing; bringing the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association to North Dakota; merge HRND and the ND Horse Park Foundation; and purse money given to horsemen for horses that didn't run in a race.
- Chairman Hanson stated that track security is too lax. Security is the responsibility of the racetrack and not the State.
- Jim Pettie stated that the Stewards need an office at the racetracks.
- Chairman Hanson welcomed and introduced the new Commissioner, Mike Schmitz.
- Commissioner Nason asked for an executive session. Legal Counsel Josh Amundson stated that it couldn't happen since no notice was posted to the agenda.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 pm.