

North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting
Expressway Suites Meeting Room
4303 17th Avenue South, Fargo, ND
Friday, August 1, 2025 – 10:30 a.m., Central Time
(701) 328-7850 Meeting ID: 16128955#

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

On the Phone: Commissioner Jessica Benson, and Legal Counsel Steve Hanson

Others Present: Robbie Wilson, Jim Pettie, Cora Champagne, Mark Allery, Jeff Charbonneau, Leigh Backhaus, Hugh Drexler, Jay Alsop, Wendy Reuer, Scott Horst, Donald Dolphus Jr., and Jamie Herman

AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2025, Meeting**
- 2. 2025 Live Race Meet – Chippewa Downs**
 - a. Weather
 - b. Pari-Mutuel Handle
 - c. Runners per Race
 - d. Blood Testing
 - e. Stewards Review
- 3. WDAY-TV – Zac Hoffner Update**
- 4. ADW Rules**
 - a. White Label Approvals
 - b. Role of TRPB

5. Pari-Mutuel ADW Figures

- a. Year Overview
- b. What to Expect

6. Administrative Rules

- a. Major Clean Up
- b. Pari-Mutuel Rules
- c. Updated Rules

7. Trainer's Test

- a. Comprehensive Review
- b. State Steward

8. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. November 20 in Bismarck at the State Capitol

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

10. Adjournment

1. Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2025, Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to accept the minutes of June 6, 2025, as presented. All Commissioners voted aye and hearing no negative vote, the motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson stated that Zac Hoffner from WDAY will not be able to attend today's meeting, so item #3 on the agenda will not be addressed today.

2. 2025 Live Race Meet – Chippewa Downs

- a. Weather
- b. Pari-Mutuel Handle
- c. Runners per Race
- d. Blood Testing
- e. Stewards Review

Executive Director Johnson reviewed the various categories as they pertained to Chippewa Downs.

State Steward Jim Pettie reviewed areas that he said needed improvement and areas where there was improvement.

A Horsemen's Advisory Committee meeting will be arranged before the November meeting by Executive Director Johnson.

No motions needed.

3. ~~WDAY-TV~~ – Zac Hoffner Update

4. ADW Rules

- a. White Label Approvals
- b. Role of TRPB

Executive Director Johnson explained to the Commissioners what white labels are and how they work within ADWs. The role of the TRPB was also explained as they provide background checks for ADW's to the Racing Commission.

No motions needed.

5. Pari-Mutuel ADW Figures

- a. Year Overview
- b. What to Expect

Executive Director Johnson reviewed what the ADW handle was for the past year and what he anticipates for the next fiscal year.

No motions needed.

6. Administrative Rules

- a. Major Clean Up
- b. Pari-Mutuel Rules
- c. Updated Rules

Executive Director Johnson stated that he plans on cleaning up the Administrative Rules, especially the sections relating to Pari-Mutuel rules. He will come back to the Commission with more information later.

No motions needed.

7. Trainer's Test

- a. Comprehensive Review
- b. State Steward

Executive Director Johnson explained that the Commission needs a better trainer's test to offer potential new trainers. It was stated that the test should be more state-specific. The Director and State Steward will work on the test and bring it back to the Commissioners to vote on.

No motions needed.

8. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. November 20 in Bismarck at the State Capitol

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

- Commissioner Schulz stated that he's had calls from horsemen regarding a couple of items and he would like to have these items addressed by the horsemen's advisory board to see if they think it is worth looking into and make a recommendation to the Commission.
 - Should there be pee tests?
 - Why was a dead horse allowed to be entered into a race? This is an AQHA rule.
- Jamie Herman stated that he would like to have a gate crew incentive. Jamie was advised to fill out the proper paperwork and send the completed form into the Commission for consideration.
- Leigh Backhaus stated that the State Veterinarian and the Veterinarian giving Lasix should not be using the same vein on a horse.
- Hugh Drexler stated that he thought it would be beneficial to have a meeting between the Commission and the two track operators to explore the possibility of buying some machines.

Mr. Drexler also talked about improving communication between the tracks and how to make it better. TextCaster is what they used this year, and they plan on using it again next year.
- Scott Horst asked about Fair Circuit Board and whether they are still active.
- Chairman Hanson had some ideas for next season:
 - Thank VIPs at track
 - Start talking about the next Legislative session
- Leigh Backhaus if the rule can be changed regarding having an ambulance during training hours.

10. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.