

North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting
State Capitol, Peace Garden Room
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND
Thursday, September 14, 2023 – 10:30 am, Central Time

Minutes

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

Present: Chairman Tracy Hanson, Commissioner Jessica Benson, Commissioner Mike Schmitz, Executive Director Bruce Johnson, Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth, and Legal Counsel Josh Amundson

Not Present: Commissioner Michael Nason, and Commissioner Richard LaFromboise

On the Phone: Wendy Reuer, Lorilee Goodall, and Deb Trickel

Others Present: Robert Wilson, Jay Alsop, Hugh Drexler, James Pettie, John Bubel, Leon Glasser, Leland Davis, and Leigh Backhaus

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes – July 28, 2023 Meeting**
2. **Marketing & Advertising**
 - a. LaRoy Kinglsey LLC
 - b. Live Racing Industry
 - c. Threat Assessment & Planning
3. **TRPB / ADW Review Audits**
 - a. Lien Games, etc.
 - b. Additions
4. **Chippewa Downs Meet Review**
 - a. Robbie Wilson (ORDA)
 - b. What's Next?

5. **North Dakota Horse Park**
 - a. Hugh Drexler (HRND)
 - b. What's Next?

6. **2022 Breed Fund Audit Results**

7. **North Dakota Bred / Breed Fund**
 - a. Program Update
 - b. 2023 Progress Update
 - c. 2023 Horsemen's Advisory Meeting(s)

8. **Administrative Rule Change(s) Update**
 - a. 19 Rule Changes 2023
 - b. Trial Races 2024

9. **2023 Race Live Race Meets Violations**
 - a. Safety / Security
 - b. Licensee Conduct
 - c. Medication List
 - Bute
 - Lasix
 - Hair Testing
 - Tequila

10. **2024 Staff**
 - a. Veterinarians
 - b. Stewards
 - c. ORDA / HRND

11. **Global Symposium on Racing**
 - a. December 4-5-6
 - b. NDRC Goals
 - c. Travel & Expenses

12. **Next Meeting Date** – November 16

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

14. **Adjournment**

1. **Approval of Minutes – July 28, 2023, Meeting**

Chairman Hanson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of July 28, 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. **Marketing & Advertising**
 - a. LaRoy Kingsley LLC
 - b. Live Racing Industry
 - c. Threat Assessment & Planning

Executive Director Johnson explained the need for marketing and advertising for the live racing in North Dakota and introduced LaRoy Kingsley.

Mr. Kingsley provided his ideas on how he believes the Racing Commission should move forward with advertising and marketing and explained some of the various aspects for a statewide campaign.

Executive Director Johnson explained that the next step would be utilizing procurement. Legal Counsel Amundson explained the procurement process and advised the Commission on how to move forward.

The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Kingsley answered.

No motions needed.

3. **TRPB / ADW Review Audits**
 - a. Lien Games, etc.
 - b. Additions

Executive Director stated that the Thoroughbred Racing Protective Bureau (TRPB) indicated that some of the currently licensed ADW's are up for additional review.

No motions needed.

4. **Chippewa Downs Meet Review**
 - a. Robbie Wilson (ORDA)
 - b. What's Next?

Executive Director introduced Robbie Wilson of ORDA who presented some of the changes/improvements that are going to be put into place at Chippewa Downs before the 2024 race season.

The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Wilson answered.

No motions needed.

5. **North Dakota Horse Park**
 - a. Hugh Drexler (HRND)
 - b. What's Next?

Executive Director introduced Hugh Drexler with HRND who presented some of the issues/challenges at the ND Horse Park and stated the changes that are going to be put into place before the 2024 race season.

Mr. Drexler also provided statistics for the 2023 race meet and improvements that will be in place before the 2024 race meet. The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Drexler answered.

No motions needed.

6. 2022 Breed Fund Audit Results

Executive Director Johnson stated that the audit for the 2022 Breed Fund was completed and that there were no findings.

No motions needed.

7. North Dakota Bred / Breed Fund

- a. Program Update
- b. 2023 Progress Update
- c. 2023 Horsemen's Advisory Meeting(s)

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the new database that NDIR is working on for the Racing Commission. There are additional programming needs which will require additional funding in the range of \$7,000-\$8,000, which Exec. Director Johnson recommended.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to increase the budget for the Breed Fund database to cap at \$8,000. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, and Hanson – Y. Motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson stated that he would like to have a Horsemen's Advisory meeting before the November meeting and will get it organized.

No motions needed.

8. Administrative Rule Change(s) Update

- a. 19 Rule Changes 2023
- b. Trial Races 2024

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the Administrative Rule change from 2023. He stated that these rules will go through another update to fix the trial race change.

Legal Counsel Amundson advised that it is a great time to review all the rules, not just the trial race section, as it is a costly change, and suggested that it would be good to have them ready to review at the November meeting by the Commissioners so that the rule change could be done before the 2024 race season.

No motions needed.

9. 2023 Race Live Race Meets Violations

- a. Safety / Security
- b. Licensee Conduct
- c. Medication List
 - Bute

- Lasix
- Hair Testing
- Tequila

Executive Director Johnson reviewed some of the concerns regarding safety, security, and conduct that he had at the two racetracks in 2023. He also reviewed the process of medication testing.

No motions needed.

10. 2024 Staff

- a. Veterinarians
- b. Stewards
- c. ORDA / HRND

Executive Director Johnson stated that the Racing Commission will go back to only having one State Steward. There will be two Association Stewards at each racetrack as was previously done before this year. Also, the Safety Steward position will be eliminated.

No motions needed.

11. Global Symposium on Racing

- a. December 4-5-6
- b. NDRC Goals
- c. Travel & Expenses

Executive Director Johnson advised the Commissioners that the Racing Symposium will be held December 4-6 in Tucson. The ARCI meeting will be held the same week. He asked for approval to attend the Racing Symposium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Chairman Hanson to approve the Executive Director to attend the Racing Symposium in Tucson. Schmitz – Y, Hanson – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

12. Next Meeting Dates – November 16

13. Any other business to come before the Commission

14. Adjournment

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

Meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.