

North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting
Derrick Dixon Event Center
1210 William Hardesty Street, Belcourt, ND
Thursday, May 18, 2023 – 1:00 pm, Central Time

Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman John Hanson called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Present: Chairman John Hanson, Commissioner Tracy Hanson, Commissioner Michael Nason, Commissioner Richard LaFromboise, Executive Director Bruce Johnson, and Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth

On the Phone: Commissioner Jessica Benson, and Legal Counsel Josh Amundson

Others on the Phone: Wendy Reuer

Others Present: Lorilee Goodall, Deb Trickel, Robert Wilson, Doug DeMontigny, Joyce DeMontigny, Junior Dolphus, Jay Alsop, Hugh Drexler, James Pettie, Jamie Herman, John Bubel, Leon Glasser, Terry Davis, Pete Davis, Lars Mathiason, Qals Ali, and Leland Davis

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes – January 20, February 11 & 16, 2023 Meetings**
2. **New Service Provider/ADW – License Application** – US Off-Track, LLC
3. **Legislative Update** – 2023 Legislative Session Updates
 - a. HB 1023
 - b. HB 1331
4. **2022 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback**

5. **2023 Live Race Meets**
 - a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - NIGC Violation
 - b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
 - c. Trials

6. **New Breed Fund Database Update**
 - a. Data Division Estimate
 - b. Software Development Division Estimate

7. **KK Bold Contract**

8. **Hardship Consideration for Horseman**

9. **Promotion Fund Grant Request** – Outdoor Recreation Development Association (ORDA)

10. **Safety Steward/Investigator & Internship Update**

11. **Appoint New Chairman**

12. **Next Meeting Dates and Locations**
 - a. July 28 in Fargo
 - b. September 14 in Bismarck
 - c. November 16 in Bismarck

13. **Any other business to come before the Commission**

14. **Adjournment**

1. **Approval of Minutes – January 20, February 11 & 16, 2023 Meetings**

Chairman Hanson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of January 20, February 11 & 16, 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. **New Service Provider/ADW – License Application** – US Off-Track, LLC

Executive Director Johnson introduced Lorilee Goodall and Deb Trickel from US Off-Track, LLC.

Lorilee Goodall provided additional information about their Service Provider/ADW license application. The Commissioners and Executive Director Johnson asked questions which Ms. Goodall answered.

Executive Director Johnson recommended approval of the US Off-Track application upon approval of the Attorney General's office.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Nason to approve the Service Provider/ADW application of US Off-Track, LLC, upon approval of the Attorney General's office. LaFromboise – Y, Nason -Y, J. Hanson -Y, T. Hanson – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

3. Legislative Update – 2023 Legislative Session Updates

- a. HB 1023
- b. HB 1331

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on HB 1023, the agency budget, which passed.
Executive Director Johnson provided an update on HB 1331, which failed.

No motions needed.

4. 2022 Promotion Fund Grant Holdback

Executive Director Johnson explained the process and the delay in providing the holdback (10%) of the 2022 Promotion Fund Grants to ORDA and HRND. Representatives from ORDA and HRND were asked to provide some feedback.

Robby Wilson and Doug DeMontigny provided an update for ORDA.
Hugh Drexler provided an update for HRND.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Hanson to pay the 10% holdback from the 2022 Promotion Fund Grants to ORDA and HRND. LaFromboise – Y, T. Hanson – Y, J. Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, and Benson – dropped off call. Motion passed.

5. 2023 Live Race Meets

- a. ORDA (Chippewa Downs)
 - NIGC Violation
- b. HRND (ND Horse Park)
- c. Trials

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the status of the two racetracks, Chippewa Downs, and the North Dakota Horse Park, being ready to run their race meets this summer. It was stated that they were ready and able to run their race meets this summer.

The discussion of the Trials no longer being eligible for Breed Fund money commenced. There were questions asked by the horsemen and Commissioners regarding this rule change from October 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Nason to obligate the Commission to ask the Governor's office for a variance for the change in Statute of 69.5-01-09-09. T. Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, J. Hanson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

6. New Breed Fund Database Update

- a. Data Division Estimate
- b. Software Development Division Estimate

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the new Breed Fund database. NDIT provided a new estimate to allow for the printing of the Breed Fund statements in the amount of \$7,500 - \$9,500, with a timeline of one to two months to complete. This is in addition to the previous estimate that was approved by the Commission, as the printing of statements were not included. The continuing monthly cost once completed will be \$638 per month, which includes maintaining the database and printing statements.

The software development division estimate would allow for the scanning of documents directly into the new database. The estimate is in the amount of \$18,870 - \$21,726, with a timeline of 2 months. The feel is that the cost is too high currently.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Nason to approve the estimate up to \$9,500, for the data division estimate from NDIT. T. Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, J. Hanson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

7. KK Bold Contract

Executive Director Johnson asked for authorization to work with LaRoy Kingsley of KK Bold. The Commissioners encouraged Director Johnson to proceed.

No motions needed.

8. Hardship Consideration for Horseman

Executive Director Johnson explained to the Commissioners the hardship consideration request from John Lewis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hanson and seconded by Commissioner Nason to approve the hardship consideration from John Lewis. T. Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, J. Hanson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

9. Promotion Fund Grant Request – Outdoor Recreation Development Association (ORDA)

Executive Director Johnson stated that Robby Wilson from ORDA requested a \$20,000 Promotion Fund grant request for the upcoming race meet.

Robby Wilson explained the request for the \$20,000 Promotion Fund Grant request which is to be used for horsemen's incentives. The Commissioners asked questions which Mr. Wilson answered.

A motion was made by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Hanson to approve the \$20,000 Promotion Fund grant request from ORDA for an out-of-state horsemen's incentive. LaFromboise – Y, T. Hanson – Y, J. Hanson – Y, Nason – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

10. Safety Steward/Investigator & Internship Update

Executive Director Johnson provided an update on the hiring of the Safety Steward/Investigator position and the Internship hiring for the race meets.

No motions needed.

11. Appoint New Chairman

Executive Director Johnson asked for discussion regarding the appointing of a new Chairman for the Commission as current Chairman John Hanson's term was ending.

There was discussion between the Commissioners and Executive Director Johnson. Commissioner Hanson was asked to become the next Chairman and he accepted.

No motions needed.

12. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

- a. July 28 in Fargo
- b. September 14 in Bismarck
- c. November 16 in Bismarck

13. Any other business to come before the Commission

- Pete Davis asked to speak to the Commission regarding his suspension and fine from 2022.
- Jamie Herman asked to speak to the Commission regarding having a trainer's license.
- Commissioner Hanson asked a question regarding the licensing process.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 pm.