

**North Dakota Racing Commission Meeting**  
**State Capitol Building, Peace Garden Room**  
**600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND**  
**Thursday, November 14, 2024 – 10:30 a.m., Central Time**

**(701) 328-7850 Meeting ID: 16122114#**

**Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Tracy Hanson called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

**Present:** Chairman Tracy Hanson, Commissioner Richard LaFromboise, Commissioner Jessica Benson, Commissioner Mike Schmitz, Executive Director Bruce Johnson, Administrative Officer Gail Allensworth, and Legal Counsel Steve Hanson

**Others Present:** Hugh Drexler, Pete Bushey, Jay Alsop, Lorilee Goodall, Deb Trickel, John Bubel, Jim Pettie, Robby Wilson, Scott Horst, Leon Glasser, Patrick Neely, and Emily King

**AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2024, Meeting**
- 2. Reduced Licensing Fees for 2025**
- 3. License Renewals for 2025**
  - a. **Service Providers/ADWs**
    1. 123 Gaming, Inc.
    2. AmWest Entertainment, LLC
    3. Colossusbets, Ltd.
    4. eBet Technologies, Inc.
    5. The Elite Turf Club, N.V.
    6. Game Play Network, Inc.
    7. Hartlane, LLC
    8. Horse Racing Labs, LLC

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9. Lien Games Racing, LLC
10. MegaTote, LLC
11. PariBet, LLC
12. Skyland Pacific, LLC
13. StableDuel, LLC
14. US Off-Track, LLC
15. WatchandWager.com, LLC
16. Xpressbet, LLC

b. **Totalizator Providers**

1. AmTote International, Inc.
2. Global Tote US, LLC
3. I-Neda Ltd.
4. Las Vegas Dissemination Company, Inc.
5. Sky Racing World, LLC
6. United Tote Company

c. **Site Operators**

1. Development Homes, Inc.
2. Horse Race North Dakota
3. North Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Association
4. North Dakota Thoroughbred Association
5. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Sky Dancer Casino)

4. **2025 Live Race Date Requests**

- a. Outdoor Recreation Development Association (ORDA) - Chippewa Downs
- b. Horse Race North Dakota (HRND) - North Dakota Horse Park

5. **Breeders Fund 2025**

- a. In-State Awards
- b. Out-of-State Awards

6. **Horsemen's Advisory Group & 2025 Recommendations**

7. **2025 Executive Director Authorizations**

8. **2025 Internship Program**

9. **Scheduling 2025 Commission Meetings**

- a. February 20 in Bismarck
- b. May 15 in Belcourt
- c. September 18 in Bismarck
- d. November 20 in Bismarck

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

11. **Adjournment**

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## **1. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2024, Meeting**

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to accept the minutes of September 19, 2024, as presented. All Commissioners voted aye and hearing no negative vote, the motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson asked to add an item to the agenda.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Benson and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to add the item to the agenda. Benson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

Executive Director Johnson asked for authorization to buy shirts for the race meet for the racing staff adding that he does not know how much they will cost.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Benson and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to authorize the purchase of shirts for the racing staff at an open-ended amount. Benson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

## **2. Reduced Licensing Fees for 2025**

Executive Director Johnson asked for authorization to offer a reduced licensing fee schedule for racetrack occupation fees, as it's been done in previous years, as an incentive to try to get horsemen to license early to help reduce congestion in the racing office on opening day.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Schmitz to authorize the reduced licensing fee schedule. LaFromboise – Y, Schmitz – Y, Hanson – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

## **3. License Renewals for 2025**

### **a. Service Providers/ADWs**

1. 123 Gaming, Inc.
2. AmWest Entertainment, LLC
3. Colossusbets, Ltd.
4. eBet Technologies, Inc.
5. The Elite Turf Club, N.V.
6. Game Play Network, Inc.
7. Hartlane, LLC
8. Horse Racing Labs, LLC
9. Lien Games Racing, LLC
10. MegaTote, LLC
11. PariBet, LLC
12. Skyland Pacific, LLC
13. StableDuel, LLC

14. US Off-Track, LLC
15. WatchandWager.com, LLC
16. Xpressbet, LLC

Executive Director Johnson listed all the applicants and recommended approving the relicensing for the sixteen Service Providers.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to approve the relicensing of the sixteen Service Providers/ADWs. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and LaFromboise – Y. Motion passed.

**b. Totalizator Providers**

1. AmTote International, Inc.
2. Global Tote US, LLC
3. I-Neda Ltd.
4. Las Vegas Dissemination Company, Inc.
5. Sky Racing World, LLC
6. United Tote Company

Executive Director Johnson listed all the applicants and recommended approving the relicensing of all the Totalizator Providers.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to approve the relicensing of all the Totalizator Providers. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and LaFromboise – Y. Motion passed.

**c. Site Operators**

1. Development Homes, Inc.
2. Horse Race North Dakota
3. North Dakota Quarter Horse Racing Association
4. North Dakota Thoroughbred Association
5. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Sky Dancer Casino)

Executive Director Johnson listed all the applicants and recommended approving the relicensing of all the Site Operators.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve the relicensing of all the Site Operators. Schmitz – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

**4. 2025 Live Race Date Requests**

- a. Outdoor Recreation Development Association (ORDA) - Chippewa Downs

Executive Director Johnson stated that ORDA requested five weekends in June for 10 days of racing in 2025. The recommendation is for ORDA to have the days between June 7 and July 6, available to them so they can have 8 days of racing. There would be one open weekend for any weather issues.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve ORDA's requested days, June 7 through July 6, for the Chippewa Downs race meet in 2025. Schmitz – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, and Benson – Y. Motion passed.

b. Horse Race North Dakota (HRND) - North Dakota Horse Park

Executive Director Johnson stated that HRND requested four weekends in July & August for 8 days of racing in 2025. The recommendation is for HRND to have the days between July 12 through August 3, available to them so they can have 8 days of racing.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner LaFromboise and seconded by Commissioner Benson to approve HRND's requested days, July 12 through August 3, for the North Dakota Horse Park race meet in 2025. LaFromboise – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

**5. Breeders Fund 2025**

- a. In-State Awards
- b. Out-of-State Awards

Executive Director Johnson stated that after meeting with the Horsemen's Advisory Group, he recommends the following:

- In-State Racing
  - \$225,000 available to provide breeders awards for 2025 for in-state racing;
- Standardbreds
  - Due to the lack of racing opportunities in North Dakota, Standardbreds have been awarded the following eligible in-state dates for 2025: June 7 through August 3, 2025, at Running Aces in Minnesota.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to accept the recommendation of \$225,000, for in-state breed fund awards for 2025. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and LaFromboise – Y. Motion passed.

- Out-of-State Racing
  - \$25,000 available from the ND Breed Fund to provide breeders awards for ND-breds racing in out-of-state races. The following rules apply:
    - Points will be awarded January 1 through June 6, and August 4 through December 31, 2025;
    - No out-of-state points will be awarded for races held June 7 through August 3, 2025;
    - Distributions shall be in accordance with current in-state rules;
    - It is the responsibility of the foal/mare/stallion owner to provide the Commission with the out-of-state race results;
    - Only official race results from Equibase, Daily Racing Form, or Trueform Racing Services will be accepted and must be mailed to the ND Racing Commission office;
    - All results must be postmarked no later than January 3, 2026.

- Double and Triple Points
  - Historically the Racing Commission has offered double breed fund points to those races worth \$10,000 or more and triple breed fund points to those races worth \$25,000 or more. This will be the same for 2025.
- Eligibility for "Back-to-Back" Racing
  - Any horse that is eligible for breed fund points in a race may not again be eligible to receive points for a period of four (4) days from that race. For example, horses racing Saturday would not again be eligible until Thursday. This is an equine welfare rule implemented by the Commission to dis-incentivize "back-to-back" racing. This rule is applicable to in-state and out-of-state racing for all breeds.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to accept the recommendation of \$25,000, for the out-of-state breed fund awards for 2025. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and LaFromboise – abstained. Motion passed.

## **6. Horsemen's Advisory Group & 2025 Recommendations**

Executive Director Johnson stated that the horsemen asked for a 5-horse requirement instead of a 6-horse requirement. The Director said that he would like a variance and would have more information for a discussion at the February 20 meeting.

No motions needed.

## **7. 2025 Executive Director Authorizations**

Executive Director Johnson asked for authorizations to approve Promotion Fund expenditures, authorizations, and licensing approvals for the 2025 calendar year including but not limited to the following:

- All NDRC live race meet staff including the State Veterinarian, State Steward, Industrial Laboratories, and the State Internships;
- All required track authorizations including condition books (**60 days in advance**) of the first race day, first race time, Tote, Photo Finish and all Race Official contracts;
- All required inspections and testing of equipment, grounds, track, barns, and buildings;
- All required submissions and documents for live racing events.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Schmitz and seconded by Commissioner Benson to accept the recommendations from Executive Director Johnson for the authorizations needed for the 2025 calendar year. Schmitz – Y, Benson – Y, Hanson – Y, and LaFromboise – Y. Motion passed.

## **8. 2025 Internship Program**

Executive Director Johnson stated that he would like to continue the Internship Program for 2025. The recommendation is up to three interns.

**A motion was made** by Commissioner Benson and seconded by Commissioner LaFromboise to approve hiring up to three interns for the 2025 race season. Benson – Y, LaFromboise – Y, Hanson – Y, and Schmitz – Y. Motion passed.

**9. Scheduling 2025 Commission Meetings**

- a. February 20 in Bismarck
- b. June 6 in Belcourt
- c. August 1 in Fargo
- d. November 20 in Bismarck

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

**11. Adjournment**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.