



## MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING

### Minutes of Board Meeting: ZOOM CALL

Tuesday - March 9, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

---

#### MEMBERS ON ZOOM CALL:

Chairman: John Hayes, Great Falls  
Vice Chairman: Dale Mahlum, Missoula  
Member: Gary Koepplin, Florence  
Executive Secretary: Tom Tucker, Corvallis

Member: Shawn Real Bird, Hardin  
Member: Jody Smith, Miles City  
Member: Barry Stang, Helena  
Member: Ralph Young, Columbus

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

#### PUBLIC ON ZOOM CALL:

Dan Fuchs, Raleigh Swensrud, Brenda Wahler, Mark Baker, Beth Deganhart, Cindy Johnson, Sparky Kottke, Diane Kottke, Jeff Franklin, Deron Hunsberger, Jessica Blumberg, Robert Tooke, Dr. Kelly Manzer, Ronda Wiggers, Neil Peterson, John Iverson

#### CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman John Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. He welcomed all those on the zoom call and explained how the meeting would work. The Chairman then asked for a roll call. All board members were on the zoom call. Minutes from the February 15, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Member Koepplin moved to accept the minutes. Member Real Bird seconded the motion. Motion passed.

No financials were discussed.

Senate Bill-189 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> item on the agenda. Chairman Hayes ask Dan Fuchs to update the board on SB-189. Mr. Fuchs told the board that Fleetwood Gaming from Billings was ready to be a vendor of these machines and had approximately 45 letters of support from locations around the state. Mr. Fuchs has been meeting with John Iverson from the Montana tavern owner's association to try and work out parts of SB-189 that the association has issues with. They have made changes to the original legislation to allow smaller locations to be able to pay out larger sums of money over a few days. Member Koepplin asked Mr. Fuchs if tavern owners were more receptive to SB-189 with the changes. Mr. Fuchs said he would be finding out as they were meeting in a few days. Vice-Chairman Mahlum commented that it is a good move to try and work with all the groups that are affected by the legislation.

Other questions came from board members in regards to how the tavern owners will be approached, that Nebraska is looking at historical horse racing machines, and how will the HHR's be implemented. Mr. Fuchs noted that Exacta gaming would take the lead with Fleetwood Gaming in developing the roll-out strategy. On the zoom call from Las Vegas was Darren Hunsberger who added some comments about the competition for the historical horse racing market and that his company was planning installation into the Wyoming market. He is available if there are additional questions about HHR's.

During public comment, Cindy Johnson asked if the tracks supported this legislation. Director of Racing from Great Falls, Sparky Kottke mentioned that they have a number of live meet supporters that are against this bill and the Great Falls Turf Club is in a 'wait and see mode'. Mr. Fuchs responded that it was important for the tracks to support this legislation. Director of Racing from Miles City, Robert Tooke took the same position as Great Falls in that the group from Miles City was undecided. After some more discussion from the public on the zoom call, Member Young pointed out the large amount of money that has gone back into the industry in Wyoming from HHR machines and without them, Wyoming would not have horse racing.

Member Smith asked if SB-189 and LC-2291 (Sports Wagering) could both pass? Could the board support both of the bills? LC-2291 has not been introduced as of yet. Ronda Wiggers from the Coin Operators of Montana stated that LC-2291 is still in flux and they are trying to work out some more of the details. After a little more discussion, Member Young moved that the board support SB-189. Member Mahlum seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous from the 6 board members.

It was discussed if the board members should be on the zoom call supporting SB-189, but it was decided that Executive Secretary Tucker would be the one to present to the committee during the upcoming hearing.

Agenda item number 5 - LC-2291 was discussed earlier.

Agenda item number was for public comment. None was heard.

Agenda item number 7 was discussion on a possible rule change when it came to the digital ID process currently being used in other racing jurisdictions regarding Thoroughbred registration. It was determined that the board would not need to consider a rule change at this time as the digital ID still is considered a tattoo in the Thoroughbred industry.

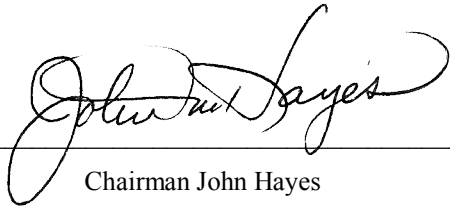
Agenda item 8 was another rule discussion but Tucker explained to the board that the stewards will evaluate the riding crop rule during this summer and report back to Tucker in the fall.

No old business was discussed.

No new business was discussed.

Vice Chairman Mahlum moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Young seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:54 a.m.



---

Chairman John Hayes

April 1, 2021

---

Date

