



MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING

Minutes of Board Meeting: ZOOM CALL

Tuesday - April 1, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS ON ZOOM CALL:

Chairman: John Hayes, Great Falls
Vice Chairman: Dale Mahlum, Missoula
Member: Gary Koeplin, Florence
Member: Jody Smith, Miles City
Executive Secretary: Tom Tucker, Corvallis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Member: Shawn Real Bird, Hardin
Member: Barry Stang, Helena
Member: Ralph Young, Columbus

PUBLIC ON ZOOM CALL:

Robert Tooke, Neil Peterson, Jessica Blumberg

CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman John Hayes called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. He welcomed all those on the zoom call and explained how the meeting would work. The Chairman then asked for a roll call. Four board members were present with Shawn Real Bird, Barry Stang and Ralph Young absent. Minutes from the previous meeting were not compiled as of yet and will be reviewed along with April 1 minutes at the next meeting.

No financials were discussed.

House Bill-704 was then presented to the board by Chairman Hayes. After a meeting with some legislators, Chairman Hayes heard an idea of how the board of horse racing might generate some revenues by working with the Montana Lottery. Representative Ed Buttrey did a lot of the heaving lifting on this bill and is the sponsor. The original bill generated some concerns by the Montana Lottery regarding set amounts for payouts. After an amendment to HB-704, the Montana Lottery stated they would not oppose the bill and the Department of Commerce and the Governor's office gave the board of horse racing permission to support the bill.

The bill proposes a 50/50 partnership between the Lottery and the Montana Board of Horse Racing regarding a lottery game. Executive Secretary Tucker added that in a conversation with acting Montana Lottery Director Bryon Costigan, the Lottery is willing to look at all the possible ways they can help the board and would also like to review the future of the Fantasy Sports game.

Chairman Hayes told the members that support for this legislation is very good and that many people think this is a win-win for the industry as well as the idea of working with the lottery.

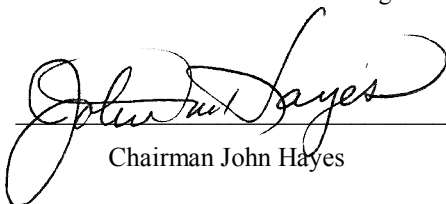
In public comment, Neil Peterson supported Chairman Hayes claim that there was good support for HB-704. He thinks he has an excellent chance of getting through the legislature and helping the horse racing industry.

After a few more comments, Member Koeplin moved that the board support HB-704. Member Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Members thanked Chairman Hayes for jumping on this idea and working directly with Representative Buttrey.

No public comment was heard. No old or new business was discussed.

Member Mahlum moved the meeting be adjourned. Member Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.


Chairman John Hayes

July 13, 2021

Date

