

**Montana Board of Horse Racing
Draft Meeting Minutes
May 22nd, 2026
Via Zoom**

Roll Call of Board Members:

John Hayes - Present	Buckshot Nelson - Present
Janis Calton - Absent	Corey Jones – Present
Jody Smith – Present	Cindy Johnson - Present
Austin (“Bo”) Bevis – Present	Gary Koepplin (Executive Secretary) – Present

Montana Department of Commerce Staff Present:

Patrick Quinn, Legal Counsel	Jada Maynor, Paralegal
April Armstrong, Legal Counsel	Brenda Elias, Chief Legal Counsel
Amy Barnes, Legal Counsel	

Public Present:

Steve Smith	Robert Tooke
Sparky Kottke	Chad Swift

Call to Order/ Notice of Audio/ Video Recording/ AI Disclosure/ Roll Call/ Verification of Board Quorum

1:09 Presenter: John Hayes

Approval of May 5th, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

3:07 First Motion: Corey Jones – Approval of May 5th, 2026, meeting minutes
Second Motion: Bo Bevis
No discussion. Motion carries.

Opportunity for Public Comment

3:53 No public comment

Great Falls Request for Additional Funds

4:45 Presenter: John Hayes
First Motion: John Hayes – Table this discussion point for later on in the meeting
Second Motion: Cindy Johnson
No discussion. Motion carries.

Opportunity for Public Comment

6:00 No public comment

Great Falls Turf Club Request to Cancel 2026 Great Falls State Fair Race Meet

6:08 Presenter: Gary Koepplin
First Motion: John Hayes – Approve/ Accept request to cancel the 2026 GF ST Fair Race Meet
Second Motion: Corey Jones

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Discussion from Turf Club members: Chad Swift, Sparky Kottke and Steve Smith. Further discussion from Board Members. Buckshot Nelson opposes. Motion carries.

Discussion of Possible Violation of rule 8.22.2701

33:58 Presenter: Gary Koepplin

First Motion: John Hayes – Not finding GF Turf Club guilty for cancelling race. No \$500 fine.

Second Motion: Buckshot Nelson

No discussion. Motion carries.

Opportunity for Public Comment

38:44 No public comment

Great Falls Turf Club Request to Pay Outstanding Bills

39:24 Presenter: Gary Koepplin

First Motion: John Hayes – Great Falls Turf Club request to Board to pay outstanding bills.

Second Motion: Buckshot Nelson

Discussion from Turf Club members: Chad Swift and Sparky Kottke. Further insight from legal. All opposed. Motion fails.

First Motion: Buckshot Nelson – Give GF Turf Club 10-day timeframe limit to produce further documentation (receipts, invoices, etc.) prior to the Board paying the outstanding bills by the GF Turf Club.

Second Motion: Cindy Johnson

No discussion. Motion carries.

Opportunity for Public Comment

1:21:58 No public comment

Great Falls Request for Additional Funds

1:23:08 Presenter: Gary Koepplin

First Motion: John Hayes – Resurrect Additional Funds request from earlier on in the agenda

Second Motion: Buckshot Nelson

No discussion. Motion carries.

First Motion: John Hayes – Denial of request for additional funds

Second Motion: Corey Jones

No discussion. Motion carries.

Discussion of Race Track Award Contract Amendment #25-78-MBOHR-01B

1:26:00 Presenter: Gary Koepplin

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Opportunity for Public Comment

1:29:28 No public comment

Adjournment

1:31:09 Meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

DRAFT

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

Text of Motion: Approval of May 5, 2026 Meeting

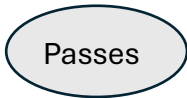
Motion made by: Corey Jones

Seconded by: Bo Bevis

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:

Motion



Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

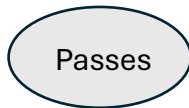
Text of Motion: Great Falls Request for Additional Funds – Table for later on in agenda

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Cindy Johnson

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:
Motion



Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

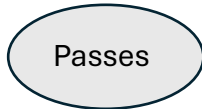
Text of Motion: Great Falls Turf Club Req. to Cancel 2026 Great Falls State Fair Race Meet

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Corey Jones

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson		X	
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:
Motion



Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

Text of Motion: Discussion of a possible violation of rule 8.22.2701 and possible fine.
No Fine and found not guilty for not having the race.

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Buckshot Nelson

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Austin "Bo" Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:
Motion

Passes

Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

Text of Motion: Great Falls Turf Club Requests MBOHR to pay the Outstanding Bills, with no documentation provided.

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Buckshot Nelson

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones		X	
Buckshot Nelson		X	
Jody Smith		X	
Bo Bevis		X	
Cindy Johnson		X	
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total		5	

Circle One:

Motion

Passes

Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Text of Motion: Give Great Falls Turf Club 10 day timeframe limit to produce further documentation (receipts, invoice, etc.) prior to MBOHR to paying GF Turf Club Outstanding Bills

Motion made by: Buckshot Nelson

Seconded by: Cindy Johnson

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:

Motion

Passes

Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Montana Board of Horse Racing
Record of Motion and Vote

Date: 5/22/2026

Meeting location: Zoom only

Text of Motion: Resurrect Additional Funds request from earlier on in the agenda

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Buckshot Nelson

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:

Motion

Passes

Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor

Text of Motion: Denial of request for additional funds

Motion made by: John Hayes

Seconded by: Corey Jones

Name	Yes	No	Abstain
Corey Jones	X		
Buckshot Nelson	X		
Jody Smith	X		
Bo Bevis	X		
Cindy Johnson	X		
Janis Calton	Absent		
Vote Total	5		

Circle One:

Motion

Passes

Fails

Motion and vote recorded by: Jada Maynor