



## MONTANA BOARD OF HORSE RACING

Minutes of Board Meeting: July 27, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.

Holiday Inn - Great Falls, MT  
1100 5<sup>th</sup> Street South, Great Falls, MT

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**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chairman: John Hayes, Great Falls  
Member: Shawn Real Bird, Hardin  
Member: Ralph Young, Columbus  
Member: Gary Koeplin, Florence  
Member: Jody Smith, Miles City  
Member: Barry Stang, Helena  
Executive Secretary: Tom Tucker, Corvallis

**MEMBERS ON PHONE:**

Vice Chairman: Dale Mahlum, Missoula

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sue Austin, Melissa Fraze, Ronda Wiggers, Toni Hinton, Don Richard, Dan Fuchs, Patrick Neely, Susie Egbert

**PUBLIC ON PHONE:**

Montana Representative Sharon Peregoy

**CALLED TO ORDER:**

Chairman John Hayes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed those at the meeting. The Chairman then asked for a roll call. Board members present were John Hayes, Shawn Real Bird, Barry Stang, Gary Koeplin, Jody Smith, and Ralph Young. Vice Chairman Dale Mahlum was on the phone. Chairman Hayes then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous conference call on May 28, 2019. Member Young moved to approve the minutes, Member Koeplin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Member Koeplin moved to nominate John Hayes for Chairman of the board for another year. Member Real Bird seconded the motion. Motion passed. Member Young moved to nominate Dale Mahlum for Vice Chairman of the board. Member Stang seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Executive Secretary Tom Tucker reviewed the financials. The current cash position of the board is \$365,000 with 1 remaining debt payment. Other financial information showed a drop in simulcast revenue due to fewer sites (3 remain), 5.7% increase in ADW revenues for this year and a 6% drop in Fantasy Sports revenues. After some discussion, Member Koeplin moved to accept the financial report and Member Young seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chairman Hayes then asked for public comment. Don Richard commented on Fantasy Sports and the need for large payouts but the odds seem to be very high. Discussion then turned to the new legislation on sports wagering. Comments were made in regards to rules that Montana Lottery might have to get into the statutes and the 2 other legislative bills that were presented during this past legislative period. Many comments were made in regards to what the sports wagering landscape should look like in Montana and how fast it will be up and running. It was also mentioned that the Board of Horse Racing needs to monitor the progress of the sports wagering as it impacts the horse racing industry.

After some discussion, Member Young moved to have Tucker, if possible, to attend Lottery hearings in regards to the rule making process. Member Koeplin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item 6 on the agenda was a discussion of the Miles City expenses for 1 day of racing. Two days were cancelled because of rain. The track was not safe for racing due to the rains and bucking horse activity. Don Richard from Miles City mentioned the amount of work they put into moving the finish line and the equipment they purchased. Tucker will have a breakdown of expenses for both horse race meets at the date hearing in November.

The board was made aware of the fact that Member Gary Koeplin worked as the racing secretary for the Miles City Race Meet as well as helped Great Falls in the race office.

Agenda item 8 was a discussion on the "Historical Horse Racing" - "Proposal for Implementation". Representative Sharon Peregoy was on the phone and Chairman Hayes asked for her input. She two issues: (1) the need to re-establish horse racing in Montana and (2) the use of historical horse racing machines to generate the revenues for complete #1. After her comments, the board discussed the ideas for moving forward. The general agreement was to try and work with Gambling Control / DOJ. Member Young commented that we

shouldn't lose site on sports betting. More discussion followed in regards to how to approach this proposal. Comments were made in regards to including a study in regards to the economics of horse racing. Tucker went through a rough timetable of things to put together for this presentation. It was moved to try and follow a general time table. Motion passed.

Next, Chairman Hayes asked for public comment. Dan Fuchs mentioned that an economic impact study would be very helpful to legislators decided to support some type of historical racing legislation. He felt there were a few companies around that have done something like this in the past few years. Patrick Neely from Exacta Systems gave to board an update on the progress of historical horse racing machines in Virginia and how the previously closed down Colonial Downs race track in that state plans to reopen.

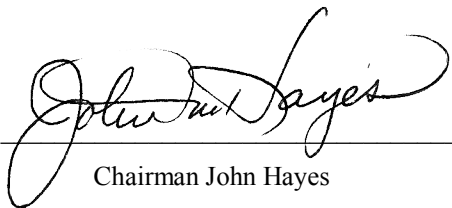
Representative Peregoy mentioned that some funds might be available at the Department of Commerce for some type of economic study.

Nothing was presented under Old Business.

Under New Business Tucker presented a letter to the board he received from Denise Linford in regards to the board amending rules to require tracks to supply a veterinarian in addition to the State Veterinarian. Also, review and possibly change rules in regards to horses eligible for Lasix medication. Tucker received this letter at 4:12 pm on July 26<sup>th</sup> and suggested to the board that this letter be discussed at the next board meeting in November. Member Young mentioned that the eligibility for lasix is an issue when it comes to racing in trials that are only 1 week away from the finals. The members agreed to have it on the next agenda to discuss.

It was decided to have the next meeting on November 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Helena. This meeting will be the allocation of race dates for the 2020 racing season.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

  
Chairman John Hayes

November 13, 2019  
Date

