

**NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

Date: June 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Place: NMRC Boardroom; 4900 Alameda Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM and on Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Chairman Billy Smith, Commissioner John Buffington, and Commissioner Bob Pitre.

NMRC Staff Participating: Executive Director Ismael Trejo, In-House Counsel Richard Bustamante and CFO Amber Trujillo.

<i><b>AGENDA ITEM</b></i>	<i><b>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS</b></i>	<i><b>ACTION TAKEN</b></i>
<b>Public Session 1:</b> <b>I. Call to Order and Roll Call</b>	Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Smith. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.	No Action Taken.
<b>II. Pledge of Allegiance</b>		Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
<b>III. Approval of Agenda</b>	Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda today. Director Trejo advised of the need to table all agenda items for each track regarding the approval of race days, which would be dealt with in a future meeting.	Motion to approve the agenda with amendments made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes:</b> May 15, 2025 – Regular Commission Meeting		Motion to approve the May minutes made by


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	Chairman Smith asked if the minutes for the May 15, 2025, regular meeting were reviewed and if there were any changes. There were no changes.	Commissioner Buffington; Second by Commissioner Pitre. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>V. VI. Commissioners' Reports and Agency Director Reports</b>	No comments.	No Action Taken.
	<p>Director Trejo did a brief introduction of the RG and E LLC organization and its "Analysis of the New Mexico Horseracing Industry" report on which it was to present later in the meeting, stressing how the report identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the state's horseracing industry.</p> <p>Mary Barber presented the Race-A-Day Report for SunRay Park through Sunday, May 25, 2025, stating it ran 58 NM Bred Races in 18 days. In overnight races, the NMHBA contributed \$506,500 which was \$76K more than in 2024. It averaged 3.23 NM Bred per day, +4 for three a day.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p> <p>No Action Taken.</p>

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<b>VII. Executive Session</b>	Commissioner Buffington called for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the items listed in the agenda, pursuant to Sections 10-15-1H(1), H(3) and H(7) of the Open Meetings Act authorizing closed sessions for matters related to issuance, suspensions, renewal or revocation of a license; deliberations on adjudicatory proceedings and pending or threatened litigation.	Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
<b>VIII. Unfinished Business, Action Items</b>	Director Trejo requested ratification of approval to add Ronald Fraizer (SunRay) and Chris Warren (Ruidoso Downs) as substitute Stewards.	Motion by C. Buffington, seconded C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.
<b>A. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend 2025 Substitute Stewards for SunRay and Ruidoso Downs</b>		
<b>B. Approvals for Sunland Park</b>	Dustin Dix requested the following: -approval of 2025-26 Primary License Application -approval of 2025-26 Simulcast License -approval of ratification of approval of Import List	Separate motions on the three matters made by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Individual roll call votes taken on each, all passed unanimously.
<b>C. Approvals for SunRay Park</b>	Lonnie Barber requested the following:	

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<b>D. Approvals for Ruidoso Downs</b>	<p>-approval of 2026 Primary License Application          -approval of 2026 Simulcast License          -ratification of approval to run 12 races on May 23, 24, 25, 2025          -ratification of approval to amend 2025 purse schedule          -ratification of approval to amend 2025 post times on Preakness Day, May 17, 2025</p> <p>Rick Baugh requested the following:          -approval of 2026 Primary License Application          -approval of 2026 Simulcast License          -ratification of approval to amend 2025 racing officials, , Chris Warren as placing judge replacing Robyne Draper, Rene Ibarra and Gilbert Silva as assistant starters, replacing Adrian Valdez and Jesus Barraza.</p>	<p>Comm. Buffington made separate motions on each, all seconded by Comm. Pitre. Individual roll call votes held on each and all passed unanimously.</p> <p>Comm. Buffington made separate motions on each, all seconded by Comm. Pitre. Individual roll call votes held on each and all passed unanimously.</p>
<b>E. Approvals for Downs at ABQ</b>	<p>Don Cook requested the following:          -approval of 2026 Primary License Application          -approval of 2026 Simulcast License          -approval of 2025 racing officials-approval to amend 2025 simulcast imports (Wyoming Downs)</p>	<p>Comm. Buffington made separate motions on each, all seconded by Comm. Pitre. Individual roll call votes held on each and all passed unanimously.</p>
<b>F. Approvals for NM State Fair</b>	<p>Don Cook requested approval of NMSF's primary license application.</p>	<p>Comm. Buffington made a motion to</p>



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<b>X. Adjournment</b>		

  
 Chairman Billy Smith Date 7/17/25

  
 Executive Director Ismael Trejo Date \_\_\_\_\_