

NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Date: July 17, 2025

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 Investigator Liz Garcia.

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
Public Session 1: I. Call to Order and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Smith. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.	No Action Taken.
II. Pledge of Allegiance		Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
III. Approval of Agenda	Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda today. There were no changes.	Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
IV. Approval of Minutes:		

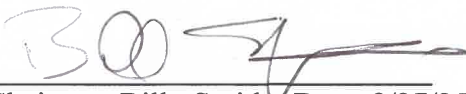
<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
June 26, 2025 – Regular Commission Meeting	Chairman Smith asked if the minutes for the June 26, 2025, regular meeting were reviewed and if there were any changes. There were no changes.	Motion to approve the June minutes made by Commissioner Buffington; Second by Commissioner Pitre. Motion passed unanimously.
V. VI. Commissioners' Reports and Agency Director Reports	No comments.	No Action Taken.
	<p>Director Trejo acknowledged the unfortunate situation in Ruidoso Downs community and the track. He thanked all the industry stakeholders for their support and assistance to Ruidoso Downs, and to the Downs at ABQ for its agreement to host the All-American trials and finals.</p> <p>Mary Barber presented the Race-A-Day Report for Ruidoso Downs through Sunday, July 6, 2025, stating it ran 74 NM Bred Races in 22 days. In overnight races, the NMHBA contributed \$352,000 which was \$395,500 less than in 2024. It averaged 8.92 NM Bred per day, +8 for three a day.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p> <p>No Action Taken.</p>

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VII. Executive Session	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.
VIII. Unfinished Business, Action Items		
A. Request to Ratify Approval of Addition of Eqias Labs (Equine Integrity and Anti-Doping Sciences-Lexington to NMRC list of approved split sample labs	Director Trejo requested the addition of Eqias Labs to the NMRC approved split sample labs.	Motion by C. Buffington, seconded C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.
B. Request for Approval of Stewards for Downs at ABQ 2025 Race Meet	Director Trejo requested Julie Kagno as Presiding Steward, Elizabeth Garcia and Ronald Frazier as Stewards, Leasa Johnson, Violet "Pinkie" Smith and Geoff Waxler.	Motion by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.
C. Request for Approval of Payment of Purses for Downs at ABQ Race Meet Pursuant to Rule 15.2.3.8(D)(4)(a)	Director Trejo addressed the NMRC and requested approval pursuant to the administrative rule.	Motion by C. Buffington made, seconded by Comm.

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D. Decision on Hearing Officer Recommendation IMO Salvador Soto re 2023-RUI-101	The Commissioners were presented with the Hearing Officer's Report and Recommendation in Executive Session.	Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion to adopt Hearing Officer Report noting licensee had already served the period of suspension made by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous roll call vote in favor of adoption.
E. Request for Approval of Six-Month Grace Period for Rule 15.2.6.9(B)(5) (Out of Competition Testing Penalties for Hair Violations)	Director Trejo addressed the Commission seeking a delay in the implementation of the new Rule for disciplinary action stemming from violations in OOC.	Comm. Buffington made motion to adopt, seconded by Comm. Pitre. Passed unanimously.
F. Approvals and Announcement of Race Days Calendar for 2025-25	The Commission considered the tracks' requested race days and announced the race days for 2025-26 which are posted on the NMRC website. Sunland: 55 days of live racing Zia Park: 31 days of live racing Ruidoso Downs: 49 days of live racing ABQ: total of 37 days of live racing	Comm. Buffington made separate motions to approve, Comm Pitre seconded. Roll call with unanimous approval.
G. Approvals for Sunland Park	Sunland Park requested approval to amend its 2025 simulcast import list to include Mountaineer Park.	

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H. Approvals for SunRay Park	Downs at ABQ's Don Cook requested on behalf of SunRay Park the ratification of approval to amend its 2025 import list to include Wyoming Downs.	Comm. Buffington made motion to approve, seconded by Comm. Pitre. Passed unanimously.
I. Approvals for Ruidoso Downs	<p>Rick Baugh requested the following:</p> <p>Approval of amendment to 2026 primary license due to the flooding at Ruidoso Downs</p> <p>Approval of amendment to 2025 Stakes Schedule</p> <p>Approval to Distribute Purses Equally for Contestants in Rainbow Futurity, Rainbow Oaks, Rainbow Derby, Rainbow Invitational, Rainbow Juvenile, Zia Futurity, and Zia Derby and all overnight races for July 11, 12, and 13, 2025.</p>	<p>Comm. Buffington so moved, seconded by Comm. Pitre. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Comm. Buffington made separate motions, seconded by Comm Pitre. Individual roll call votes and all passed unanimously.</p>
J. IMO: Race Review of Licensee Jill Giles, Race # 1, SunRay Park, May 2, 2025	Licensee Jill Giles presented her case and Commission Steward Kagno presented on behalf of the Stewards.	
K. IMO: Race Review of Licensees Robert Driggers, Del Rae Driggers	Licensee Robert Driggers presented his case and Commission Steward Kagno presented on behalf of the Stewards.	The Commission deliberated in closed session and in open session unanimously voted to overturn the SunRay Park Board of Stewards.

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<p>and Ben Ivey, Race # 10, SunRay Park, May 25, 2025</p> <p>L. IMO: Race Review of Licensee Oscar Carrete, Race # 8, SunRay Park, April 20, 2025.</p>	<p>Licensee Oscar Carrete presented his case and Commission Steward Kagno presented on behalf of the Stewards.</p>	<p>The Commission deliberated in closed session and in open session unanimously voted to affirm the SunRay Park Board of Stewards.</p> <p>The Commission deliberated in closed session and in open session unanimously voted to overturn the SunRay Park Board of Stewards.</p>
<p>X. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned after completion of items on the agenda.</p>	


 Chairman Billy Smith Date: 8/27/25


 Executive Director Ismael Trejo Date 8/27/25