

NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

Date: August 21, 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, CFO Amber Trujillo, and Investigator Elizabeth 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 9:00 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. Director Trejo requested the removal of item (D)(3) (stall application approval, NMRC no longer approves), and tabling of item (D)(9) (gaming and breakage approval), to be dealt with at a later time.	Motion to amend agenda made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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VII. Executive Session	for time in order for the industry to improve and grow.	C. Buffington moved to go into Executive Session. Seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous vote to approve.
Second Open Session		
VIII. A. Ken Goetz – Licensing	Having received a background check from officials of the Gaming Control Board, the issue before the Commission was the approval of Mr. Goetz, the new Director of Racing at Zia Park, regarding his secondary license application	Motion to approve Mr. Goetz's secondary license application by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous roll call vote in favor.
B. John L. Bobroff – Licensing	The Commission considered Mr. Bobroff's request to be permitted to apply for licensure as a groom with the NMRC.	Motion to permit Mr. Bobroff to apply for licensure by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.
C. Request for Approval of FY 2027 NMRC Budget	CFO Amber Trujillo requested Commission approval of the FY 27 budget, including \$248 approved supplemental funds. For FY 27, DFA advised of flat budget. Therefore, general fund is \$3,799.000, not including supplemental.	Motion by C. Buffington to approve, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.

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D. Approval for Sunland Park	Represents increases in insurance costs and DoIT, costs set by other agencies. Overall, total budget approximately a 9% increase from last year due to increased costs. Total FY 27 NMRC budget is \$8,347,000 including the supplemental funding. Should provide funding for additional limited personnel. Sunland's Dustin Dix requested the following: 1. Request for Variance to Continue Simulcasting on July 7, 2025, through September 1, 2025, despite the cancellation of the bulk of the remainder of the Ruidoso Downs race meet 2. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend Simulcast Import List to Include Northfield Park 3. Request for Approval of 2025-2026 Stall Application 4. Request for Approval of 2026 Shue Fly Nomination Blank 5. Request for Approval of 2026 West Texas Derby Nomination Blank 6. Request for Approval of 2026 West Texas Maturity Nomination Blank 7. Request for Approval of 2026 New Mexican Spring Futurity Nomination Blank 8. Request for Approval of 2026 West Texas Futurity Nomination Blank 9. Request for Approval of Gaming and Breakage	Motion to approve all requests by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous approval vote.

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E. Approvals for SunRay Park	SunRay Park requested a Variance to Continue Simulcasting on July 7, 2025, through September 1, 2025, despite the cancellation of the bulk of the remainder of the Ruidoso Downs race meet	Motion to approve by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous approval.
F. Approvals for Ruidoso Downs	Ruidoso Downs requested Ratification of the Approval of the Distribution of Purses Equally for Contestants in the 2025 Zia Juvenile	Motion to approve by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous approval.
G. Approvals for Zia Park	1. Request for Variance to Continue Simulcasting on July 7, 2025, through September 1, 2025, despite the cancellation of the bulk of the remainder of the Ruidoso Downs race meet 2. Request for Approval of Payment of Purses for the 2025 Zia Park Race Meet Pursuant to Rule 15.2.3.8(D)(4)(a) 3. Request for Approval of the 2025 Zia Park Condition Book # 1	Motion to approve all matters by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous approval
H. Approvals for the Downs at ABQ	DAA requested a Variance to Continue Simulcasting on July 7, 2025, through September 1, 2025, despite the cancellation of the bulk of the remainder of the Ruidoso Downs race meet, and also requested to Amend 2025 Downs at Albuquerque Stake Schedule to Add Cox Ranch Distaff Challenge	Motion to approve by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous approval.

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I. Presentation by Equine Management Group and Associates	Representatives from Equine Management Group, (Joe Carr, Tom Sage) gave a presentation on track surfaces, a critical and important part of horse racing and its impact on the safety of the equine athlete. Compaction, moisture, depth, analysis of cushion and base are the areas this organization analyzes over the course of days, ultimately producing an extensive report for the track of approximately 75 pages in length.	No Action Taken.
J. IMO: Race Review of Licensee Saul Duarte, Race # 2, Ruidoso Downs, June 6, 2025	Commissioners heard presentations by the licensee and the NMRC Steward regarding the race at issue and watched the replay of the race as well.	After closed deliberations, Commissioners voted unanimously in open session to uphold the decision of the Stewards.
K. IMO: Race Review of Licensee Brenda Pinon Alvarez, Race # 2, Ruidoso Downs, July 5, 2025	Commissioners heard presentations by the licensee and the NMRC Steward regarding the race at issue and watched the replay of the race as well.	After closed deliberations, Commissioners voted unanimously in open session to uphold the decision of the Stewards.
L. Amending 2025 NMRC Meeting Schedule	Date change to the September NMRC meeting to Tuesday, September 16 th .	Motion to approve date change by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre.

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		Unanimous votes to approve.
IX. Adjournment		Motion to adjourn by C. Buffington, seconded by C. Pitre. Unanimous vote in favor.


 Chairman Billy Smith

 11-20-25
 Executive Director Ismael Trejo