

NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Date: April 27, 2026

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 Senior Paralegal David Dominguez.

<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. There were no changes.	Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
IV. Unfinished/New Business and/or Action Items:	Chief Financial Officer Amber Trujillo presented the FY27 operating budget, as was passed in the	Motion to approve the FY27 Operating

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<p>A. Request for Approval of FY27 Operating Budget</p>	<p>most recent legislature. The agency's overall budget is going to be 7,948,500.00, with the general fund from that amount being \$3,648,500.00. The other state funds from the overall budget, which includes the HISA and Jockey Exercise Rider's Fund is \$4,300,000.00. Ms. Trujillo was open to any questions.</p> <p>Chairman Smith asked if the agency's overall budget included the 336 bill. Ms. Trujillo affirmed that it does, and it is money the agency generates from each one of the racetracks that sends the agency 1.2% and will be the only use for the money at this point in time.</p> <p>Regarding comparison with the current FY26 budget, FY27's budget had a slight decrease in the 200 category that the legislature did not fund the agency. Additionally, there were increases that occurred from the GSD risk rate and the DoIT. More specifically, the agency's risk rate, used for the agency's high risk for any kind of litigation occurring with the agency, increased. It doubled from FY26 at approximately \$200,000.00 to FY27 at approximately \$400,000.00.</p> <p>Commissioner Buffington asked if there was additional funding for the increases or if it's a reduction in the budget from FY26 to FY27. Ms. Trujillo answered that there was no additional</p>	<p>Budget was made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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	<p>funding for the increases, but legislature gave some special appropriation. However, the special appropriation is for the 200 category. Chairman Smith added that the agency may have to place some of the expense on the racetracks for one or two veterinarians.</p> <p>Director Trejo stated the agency is currently looking into creating a new model for the testing procedures. The agency is going to review the rules and statutes with the veterinary board to perhaps utilize a veterinarian technician in the test barn to perform the extraction of blood samples. A veterinarian technician's salary should be a modest rate in comparison to a veterinarian's high salary rate.</p> <p>Additionally, Director Trejo stated the approximate \$3.6 million includes \$700,000.00 from the equine test fund, resulting in the agency having some positive appropriation.</p> <p>In-House Counsel Bustamante asked if there has been an increase in the HISA assessment fees compared to last year. Ms. Trujillo confirmed the increase in those fees.</p>	
<p>V. Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned after completion of items on the agenda.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion.</p>

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		Motion passed unanimously.



Chairman Billy Smith



Executive Director Ismael Trejo