

**IOWA RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 2025**

The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) met on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino (PMRC) in Altoona, Iowa. Commission members present were Daryl Olsen, Chair; Mark Campbell, Vice Chair; and members Julie Andres, Amy Burkhart and Alan Ostergren.

**APPROVE AGENDA:** Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**APPROVE MINUTES:** Chair Olsen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the minutes as printed. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Olsen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the minutes as printed. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**WELCOME:** Gary Palmer, CEO & President, welcomed everyone to Prairie Meadows and said he was glad we could be there given the weather. He then introduced Brian Ohorilko who will become CEO when Mr. Palmer retires. Chair Olsen congratulated Mr. Ohorilko.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Tina Eick, Administrator, announced the next scheduled meeting would be April 24, 2025 at the Ameristar in Council Bluffs. Submissions for that meeting are due April 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be no meeting in May and then the next meeting will be June 19, 2025 at Q Casino in Dubuque.

Nancy Ballenger, Vice President and General Manager of Isle of Capri Bettendorf, recognized Wes Ehrecke, President and CEO of Iowa Gaming Association. She took a moment to recognize, thank and honor him on his dedication, vision, and the lasting impressions he's made on the state of Iowa and beyond. She said he has been the face of gaming for 25 years and she congratulated him on all of his achievements. She said he will be greatly missed and wished him all the best in his next chapter. Ms. Ballenger then presented him a plaque with a \$25 chip from each of the 19 casinos to honor his 25 years of service.

Mr. Ehrecke said he is grateful, honored and humbled for having the opportunity to work in an industry that is considered to be a viable part of Iowa's economy. He said it is a tremendous industry and will be a tremendous industry for years to come. He said the Commission is one of the most respected regulators in the country for what they do and how they do it, and he is honored to have worked with the Commissioners and administrators over the years. Mr. Ehrecke said he also wanted to applaud the industry for how they interact with the qualified sponsoring organizations (QSOs) as they are the heart of their communities. Mr. Ehrecke quoted an old adage

“some people make things happen, some people watch things happen and some people wonder what happened”. He said in this industry everyone is making things happen in a proactive and positive way and it’s so exciting to see.

Chair Olsen congratulated Mr. Ehrecke on a job well done and said he really represented the industry well.

**NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH:** Chair Olsen introduced Katrina Bee, Project Manager of Problem Gambling, Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS).

Ms. Bee stated March is National Problem Gambling Awareness Month. She presented a brief PowerPoint presentation covering gambling behaviors and the prevention and treatment services available in the state of Iowa.

She defined what problem gambling is, and discussed the various media outlets that are placed to help make Iowans aware of problem gambling and encourage them to reach out for help if they or their loved ones are experiencing problems due to gambling.

Ms. Bee discussed at a very high level the prevention services available in all 99 counties in the State. She also discussed the outpatient counseling services available, stating there are 13 providers covering all 99 counties.

She referenced the Your Life Iowa website and said it contains a plethora of information including a chat and text option. In SFY24 there were 1,363 calls to 1-800-BETS OFF and 74,002 visits to the yourlifeiowa.org/gambling website. A total of 149,292 Iowans were served with a problem gambling individual-level or population-level prevention service. A total of 1,434 Iowans received an evaluation and were recommended to gambling treatment. A total of 7,112 direct hours were provided towards problem gambling community outreach, engagement, family education, or crisis services. And, a total of 12 hours of collaborative training opportunities were provided.

Ms. Bee introduced the Your Life Iowa Recovery Page, which she said many were probably not familiar with. She said this is a page where you can read about recovery stories, learn about the warning signs of problem gambling, find a local provider, and put in a request for a treatment professional to contact you.

Ms. Bee ended by thanking the Commission for allowing her to present on this topic and thanked the facility staff for updating the information and promoting 1-800-BETS OFF.

### **DUBUQUE RACING ASSOCIATION, LTD.:**

Request for Approval of Development Agreement with City of Dubuque: Brian Rakestraw, Chief Operating and Financial Officer, presented a request for approval of a development agreement between the City of Dubuque and Dubuque Racing Association (DRA). This agreement is

regarding the economic development grant payments that the City of Dubuque will pay to DRA based off real estate tax generated by capital investments made to the Q Hotel, which is scheduled to open later this year.

Request for Approval of Second Amendment to the Amended and Restated Lease Agreement with the City of Dubuque: Mr. Rakestraw also presented the request for approval of the second amendment to the amended and restated lease agreement between the City of Dubuque and DRA. He said this is primarily regarding the first agreement and its funding, and how they allocate those funds.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve both the development agreement and the second amendment to the amended and restated lease agreement as presented by Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**IOWA GAMING ASSOCIATION:** Wes Ehrecke, President, presented the Annual Report of Qualified Community County Foundation Projects. He said it was his 20<sup>th</sup> year of providing this grant report. He explained that a portion of tax revenue goes to each of the qualified community foundations in non-casino counties. This year they were able to provide 1,830 grants for a total of \$11.6 million. Over the 20 years the program has been around they have provided 38,745 grants totaling \$160 million. Mr. Ehrecke said it is a very impressive program and they like to think that every single citizen is benefiting from it in some way. He said each of the counties has a board of directors that determines how best to spend that money for their area.

Chair Olsen said it is really impressive and for the other counties it really means a lot, it is a great program.

**EXCURSION GAMBLING BOAT AND GAMBLING STRUCTURE LICENSE RENEWALS (OSV = OUT OF STATE VENDOR; RP = RELATED PARTY):** Chair Olsen stated we would be having some people join the meeting by Zoom due to weather related travel issues. He said there were 17 license renewals and they want to hear about all the great things they have going on in 2025, but if they could keep their comments between 3-5 minutes it would be greatly appreciated.

Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation/Casino Queen Marquette, Inc.: Robin Corbeil, General Manager, Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. and Dan Kuempel, Executive Director, Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation respectfully request their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Kuempel said that in 2024, Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation was able to fund 39 grants for a total of \$630,500. He said \$26,500 of that was for the Dollars for Scholars program helping 106 students at five local high schools. He said there is a high demand to fund public safety operations. Last year 26% of their funds were allocated to local fire departments, emergency services and police departments for equipment upgrades. Mr. Kuempel said in 2025 they are

focused on the completion of the new land based casino in Marquette. They see this as a chance to increase the number and size of grants in Clayton County.

Ms. Corbeil said 2024 was a challenging year for Casino Queen. They experienced lower attendance which resulted in decreased revenues. However, the revenue per person remained flat compared to the previous year. She said they continue to have difficulty in finding dealers and anticipate this being more of a problem when they add three more table games. To address this issue, they are hiring and training for those positions now. They have also started a dealer training program which includes the property's first paid dealer school and that starts on Monday.

Ms. Corbeil said they continue to prioritize Iowa vendors with \$11.6 million dollars in Iowa spend, which accounts for 96% of their expenditures. They also helped organize the first annual Christmas in Marquette event, which raises donations for the food bank. This year they collected 2,120 pounds of food as well as \$5,738 in cash donations for the local food bank. Numerous other donations were raised through guest ticket donations and employee donations. Ms. Corbeil also touched on their commitment to raising awareness for problem gaming and said they have various media throughout the facility about problem gambling assistance.

Ms. Corbeil then gave an update on their landside project. She said the work has been started, and they have come up with ways to shuttle guests to and from their vehicles during the construction process. She said after some challenges with their contractor they decided to change contractors. With that change they discovered and addressed issues with unsuitable building soil which resulted in significant excavation of the site. After a third sample was taken it was found that the current direction would need to be changed for the foundation. They have a company that is doing a plan and will test some columns to see if they will work. Ms. Corbeil also stated that Alliant Energy would be out next week to move power from the existing transformer to the temporary transformer. She said power would be out anywhere from two to six hours. They will start at four o'clock AM to minimize disruption.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the foundation challenges were going to delay the project. Ms. Corbeil said it would push it back a little. Commissioner Campbell asked what she meant by a little. Ms. Corbeil said she is not sure as they won't know until the columns are put in the ground to see how they do. She said as soon as they get that information they will share that.

Commissioner Burkhart said she mentioned that payroll had been down and she was curious roughly how many positions that was for. Ms. Corbeil said they will be adding about 35-40 positions with the new casino. Commissioner Burkhart asked how many positions they decreased by. Ms. Corbeil said she thinks about 15-20.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation, renew the license to operate Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. as an excursion boat that will not cruise, that will automatically be converted to a gambling structure license upon completion of the landside structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Casino Queen Marquette, Inc.,

and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation/Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C.: Steve Cody, General Manager, Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C., Rick Gilson, Vice President of Operations, Wild Rose Entertainment, Brian Bormann, out-going President, and Gretchen Reichter, in-coming President, Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation respectfully requested their licenses be renewed. Mr. Cody, Ms. Reichter and Mr. Bormann attended the meeting virtually due to weather.

Mr. Cody said they are honored to operate in Emmetsburg and Palo Alto County. He touched on a couple of things that they do at their facility. They encourage their senior managers to be involved in community organizations and commissions such as, economic development, Humane Society, 4H Club, school boards, and parent organizations. He said they have or had city council members and a mayor from their staff. Mr. Cody said they also take problem gambling very seriously every day. The security managers have periodic meetings to go over new programs and opportunities.

Ms. Reichter talked about the few of the grants that Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation is able to fund throughout the year. She said in 2024 their total community funding was \$1,918,885.36. Mr. Bormann addressed some of the other ways that they are able to help out the community. He said in 2024 the City of Spencer had significant flood damage and they made a \$50,000 donation to help with that. He said in 2025 they will be funding emergency medical services in their communities.

Commissioner Campbell asked Mr. Gilson for an update on getting the restaurant back open. Mr. Gilson said right before Covid they invested in a new eatery that is open and has remained open. He said they have really struggled with employment and getting enough staff to open the other restaurant back up. He said they have also looked into other options as far as renting the space to an outside vendor. He said that comes with challenges as far as trying to split the payments for gas, electric, etc. Mr. Gilson said they have hired a new director of food and beverage. He started in Jefferson and once he finishes there he can move on to Clinton or Emmetsburg. Commissioner Campbell asked that in the next 90 days they provide an update on getting that back open. Mr. Gilson responded that Wild Rose would do so.

Commissioner Burkhart commented that capital expenditures for this facility were low, and she asked what might have caused that. Mr. Gilson said it was definitely the hotel. They had planned on remodeling the hotel but the vendor they selected was working on the Wild Rose Clinton hotel and that project took longer than expected. He said now they need to work on getting back on the schedule. Commissioner Burkhart asked if they anticipate being back on the schedule in 2025. Mr. Gilson said he couldn't say for sure but he predicts it will be 2026 and that even then they might do a floor at a time and so it could take a couple years. Mr. Gilson said they did the casino floor last year and it looks great. He said they also redid the exterior of the building and it looks better than when it was brand new.

Commissioner Andres asked what the expectation is for profitability of the restaurant. Mr. Gilson said he would love for it to make a profit, but he doesn't believe it ever did. Commissioner Andres then asked what the goal is, and are they willing to change it, rebrand it or what the plan is. Mr. Gilson said if they rent it out, then it would likely be rebranded. He said the look would be the same but as for the menu it would be focused on what they are good at doing. He said if they can get the staff, they will reopen it. If they make a profit great, but if not, they will just try to minimize their losses. He said profit is not the goal.

Chair Olsen asked how many other restaurants they have. Mr. Gilson said they have one other restaurant. Chair Olsen asked what the hours of that restaurant are. Mr. Gilson said he thinks it opens around noon and closes around ten o'clock. Chair Olsen asked if that was every day. Mr. Cody said they are open Wednesday through Sunday, closed on Monday and Tuesday. Chair Olsen asked if there were any food options then on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Cody said they do have some food options at the bar that is located on the casino floor.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the hours of operations were 10AM-12AM Sunday-Thursday and 10AM-2AM Friday and Saturday. Mr. Gilson confirmed that is correct.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation, renew the license to operate Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C., and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Mr. Cody presented a contract with Black Hawk Roof Company for repairs to the facility following a hailstorm.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contract as submitted by Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Clinton County Development Association/Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C.: Mr. Gilson and Joel Dieckmann, President, Clinton County Development Association respectfully requested the licenses be renewed.

Mr. Gilson stated he was presenting on behalf of Steve Nauman, General Manager, as his father-in-law had passed away. He started by discussing the remodel at Clinton. He said it was projected to be a 90 day project but probably lasted twice that long. He said they got all new carpet, new paint, as well as got the last of the hotel rooms finished up. Mr. Gilson also talked about their partnership with the City and a company called TNT to sponsor one of the largest outdoor music concerts in Eastern Iowa. He then stated how proud the company is of what they do for problem gambling. He said they upload and download their list every business day as well as work with a local vendor for gaming awareness who sets up on property several times a year.

Mr. Dieckmann attended via Zoom and apologized for not being able to be there in person. He started by thanking Ms. Eick for her help in finding a new audit firm this year. He said in 2024 they were able to award a little over a million and half dollars in grants to about 60 different organizations. He then thanked IRGC and Wild Rose Clinton for their partnerships and said he appreciates their efforts.

Commissioner Burkhart said their distribution total was just about half of what it was the previous year and she wanted to know why that was. Mr. Dieckmann said coming off of Covid they were a bit behind and they awarded several big projects to make that up. He said they didn't have as many big "special requests" for funding.

Commissioner Campbell paid the facility a compliment for taking the time to get their projects done and completed. Commissioner Burkhart also complimented the first three properties (Casino Queen Marquette, Wild Rose Emmetsburg, and Wild Rose Clinton) on having no Commission level fines in 2024.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Clinton County Development Association, renew the license to operate Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Mr. Gilson presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Citizens First Bank – Bank Services & Credit Cards
- Lashier Graphics & Signs – Purchases & Install Digital Signage

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation/Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C.: Ian Wilkinson, Assistant General Manager, Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C. and Bob Allen, Treasurer, Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation respectfully request their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Wilkinson said Wild Rose Jefferson continues to make a significant impact in Jefferson and Greene County. He said March is problem gaming awareness month and they take that very seriously. They have signage and gaming brochures distributed throughout the facility and for guests that reach out they sit down with them, give them support and make sure they have the contact information they need to get help. They also require staff to download the self-exclusion list at least twice a week instead of the required once a week. Mr. Wilkinson also touched on some new things going on at the property. He said in the summer of 2024 they went through a facelift

in the restaurant and bar. In December 2024 they also hired a food and beverage director and they are currently undergoing some changes to their menu.

Mr. Allen started by thanking Prairie Meadows for setting up the Zoom for them. He said in 2024 they were able to award 39 grants. He touched on some of the grants they awarded and mentioned their smallest was to Paton Churdan Community School for a backpack program and their largest was to fund a pickleball court. He said in total they awarded \$1,934,000, giving them a total of nearly \$18 million since inception. He thanked IRGC for all they do for them and the state of Iowa and also thanked Wild Rose Jefferson on a great partnership.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation, renew the license to operate Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission/Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC: Rob Higgins, General Manager, Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC and Justin Pieper, President, Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission (SIRRC) respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Pieper said he was happy to be there and to report another fantastic year and partnership with Catfish Bend Casino. He said he was also happy to report cash flows to the Des Moines County Charitable Fund were activated in 2024. He mentioned some of the projects they were able to help with through the year and said probably the most transformational change in Southeast Iowa in 2024 was the opening of their Fort Madison Marina project. He said it was a great asset for their community.

Mr. Higgins started by saying they have a great and unique relationship with SIRRC in the fact that they help with three different counties. He said they had a lot going on in 2024 and it was an exciting year. He said their revenue continues to be strong. He also discussed some of the remodeling they did in 2024 and said that is continuing to move right along, and they are really excited about how it will look once it is all completed. Mr. Higgins also touched on the fact that they are the franchisee for the local Coldstone location, and that the manager of Coldstone is going to a national convention in Arizona in June to receive three awards, so they are very proud of her. He said they hope to be done with the remodel in the next 30-60 days. They continue to grow and are always trying to do things better.

Commissioner Burkhart said they had a small, ten percent decrease in employment and she was wondering if those were open positions. Mr. Higgins said he would say they are open positions but not because they can't find people. He said they are taking their time to hire the right people and trying to be more efficient.



Commissioner Campbell said their projected capital expenditures were around \$5.3 million and they came in around \$3.5 million. He asked if that was due to efficiencies. Mr. Higgins said he believe some of it is due to efficiencies but some of that expenditure will move forward and happen in 2025. He said as they finish the remodel this coming year, some of that will filter over.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission, renew the license to operate Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Mr. Higgins presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Dave Bessine Electric – Electrical Work for Casino Remodel
- The Printer Inc. TPI – Marketing/Printing Services

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dubuque Racing Association, LTD: Mr. Rakestraw and Mike Donohue, past chair, Dubuque Racing Association, LTD (DRA), respectfully requested their license be renewed.

Mr. Donohue, who was attending the meeting via Zoom, said the DRA remains committed to strengthening the community through strategic grant making, key development initiatives, and significant financial investments that drive economic growth and enhance the quality of life. He said in 2024 the DRA awarded \$1,331,003 in grants to 58 different organizations. He touched on some of the grants they awarded included a few of their largest grants to Dubuque Air and the Dubuque School District as well as their smallest grant of \$2,956 to the Monticello Police Department for active threat response equipment. He said by reinvesting in their city they continue to build a stronger and more vibrant Dubuque.

Mr. Rakestraw took a minute to comment on problem gambling and how they prioritize that at Q Casino. He discussed all the things they do not only in March, but also throughout the year to show they are committed to making this a year round priority. From brochures, pamphlets and signage placed around the property to the training that all new team members receive during their onboarding process, he said they take this very seriously. Mr. Rakestraw then said 2024 was filled with challenges, changes and ultimately rewarding results. He said the year began with a major remodel of the casino and he commented on the opening of Island Social, a premier entertainment center. He said 2024 was a year of transformation and he is excited to carry that momentum into 2025.

Commissioner Campbell asked for an update on the hotel. Mr. Rakestraw said they plan to open up in late November, early December, but the rooftop restaurant probably won't open until January.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd., renew the license to operate Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd., and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Clarke County Development Corporation/HGI-Lakeside, LLC: David Monroe, General Manager, HGI-Lakeside, LLC and Andrew Clark, Executive Director, Clarke County Development Corporation respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Monroe said 2024 was a challenging but productive year for Lakeside. He said quite a bit of bad weather during the first quarter wasn't good for business. However, he said they spent \$11,000,000 in property improvements and capital expenditures to set them up for a very good 2025. In 2024 they returned to being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They also made strides in improving their staffing retention. He said they still have a lot of work to do but staffing is up higher than it's been since before Covid. Mr. Monroe said from a responsible gaming standpoint, they do all the things they are expected to do, as well as download the self-exclusion list at least three times per week. He said they also card everyone at the turnstiles who is forty and under, which has helped them catch thirteen people in the past two months. They also reward staff for bringing anyone looking underage to their attention.

Mr. Clark said Clarke County Development Corporation partners with Lakeside Casino not only to improve quality of life and spur economic development, but also to answer in times of need. He said 2024 was definitely a period where South Central Iowa saw the need for help so they focused a lot of their grants toward answering a lot of the crisis's that popped up. He said more than \$400,000 of grant funds went to assisting in the water crisis. Mr. Clark talked about the many different grants they were able to help with and all the ways they gave back to the community. He said their partnership with Lakeside is truly more than just fulfilling economic development wishes and needs for non-profits, it is truly life changing and it really helps everything Clarke County Development Corporation gets to do.

Commissioner Campbell asked Mr. Monroe to explain why the predicted capital expenditures were \$3 million and the actual spend was \$7 million. Mr. Monroe said most of that was due to some hail damage they experienced as well as securing the barge.

Commissioner Burkhart asked about their plans for sports wagering in 2025. Mr. Monroe said the company is exploring its options but he doubts anything will happen in 2025.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Clarke County Development Corporation, renew the license to operate HGI-Lakeside, LLC as a moored barge, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to HGI-Lakeside, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Burkhardt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Scott County Regional Authority/Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C.: Nancy Ballenger, Vice President and General Manager, Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C. and Lee Marbach, Treasurer, Scott County Regional Authority respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Marbach said in 2024 there was \$2.7 million in grants awarded to 92 projects split between fund cycles, one in the spring and one in the fall. He highlighted five of the 92 grants that they funded in 2024. He said in 2024, they surpassed the \$100 million mark in total grants and he stated their relationship with Isle of Capri Bettendorf remains strong.

Ms. Ballenger said March is problem gambling awareness month and they are committed to responsible gaming year round. She said this commitment started for Caesar's in 1989 as they created the first responsible gaming program in the nation. Over the years they have made that a priority and recently they won the award for National Council on Problem Gaming Award for Corporate Social Responsibility. She touched on the different ways they make sure to prioritize problem gaming awareness. Ms. Ballenger also talked about the different ways they continue to invest in their property to advance customer satisfaction and help compete with the growing competition. She also mentioned their total Iowa spend for 2024 was 97.4%.

Commissioner Andres said that the information shows they led in the largest decrease in door swings, in terms of attendance. She asked if they attribute that to the competition. Ms. Ballenger said she thinks it is somewhat of a mixed bag. Some of it has to do with the economy as well as the additional competition.

Commissioner Burkhardt asked what initiatives they are pursuing to increase those attendance numbers for 2025. Ms. Ballenger said she is excited for 2025. She said they are putting more into their marketing efforts, as well as doing things on property such as adding another restaurant option. They also have a plane of players' club members coming from Pittsburgh and she thinks they will have no problem filling it. Commissioner Burkhardt also acknowledged their Iowa spend and said it was particularly impressive.

Commissioner Campbell asked about capital expenditures. Ms. Ballenger said right now they are going through a \$1,000,000 investment in upgrading the hotel towers. She said they will be upgrading carpet, getting new mirrors, and getting new furniture. Then she said they also have the restaurant project which she will discuss at a future meeting.

Commissioner Campbell then asked how they would be using the \$1,000,000 toward the hotel, as it would not go very far for a remodel of 500 hotel rooms. Ms. Ballenger said they try not to let

their hotel rooms go to the point of needing an entire remodel. She said they will keep them updated as things move along.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Scott County Regional Authority, renew the license to operate Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C., and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Ms. Ballenger presented a contract with Bright Power, Inc d/b/a One Roof Solution for Isle Center roof replacement and repairs on both hotel tower roofs. (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contract as submitted by Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Olsen called a quick five minute break and said meeting would resume at 10:30.

Iowa West Racing Association/Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC: Thomas Roberts, General Manager, Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC and Brenda Mainwaring, President and CEO, Iowa West Racing Association respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Ms. Mainwaring said that in calendar year 2024 they received about \$7 million from their casino partners and distributed about \$20 million in charitable contributions. She said in 2024 they awarded 121 grants totaling \$12.5 million. She then discussed their microgrants and how for less than \$6,000 in grant money they were able to get out and connect with the community as they had over 740 participants. She then touched on one particular effort they made. She said like other areas they were hit with tornadoes. They gave \$10,000 to any volunteer firefighter department that responded. No paperwork, no receipt, just indicate they helped and they received the money.

Mr. Roberts began by discussing their efforts for problem gambling awareness. He also talked about the many ways they are continuing to transform their property to battle the competition. Among other things he mentioned, he said they completely remodeled their sportsbook, opened a VIP lounge, and added a pantry to the front desk to give a 24-hour food option to guests. He also mentioned that next month they will have valet open to compete with their competitors. He said they continue to put their best foot forward and invest in their property.

Commissioner Campbell said it appears staffing has been a bit of a challenge, and he asked if they could discuss their plans for that. Mr. Roberts said they recently opened a dealer school. He said they also increased staff for security and housekeeping. He said they are actually up in head count which has always been a challenge. He said the competition is always trying to take their employees but their focus is on their team and to make sure they are happy. He said lately applications have started to increase.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Iowa West Racing Association, renew the license to operate Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC as a gambling structure, and renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Mr. Roberts presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Exela Enterprise Solutions – Copy & Print Services
- Nalco Water – Water Treatments

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dubuque Racing Association, LTD/Diamond Jo, LLC d/b/a Diamond Jo Casino: Wendy Runde, General Manager, Diamond Jo, LLC and Mr. Donohue, respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Donohue discussed a few additional ways that they have helped give back to their community. He said in addition to providing significant and meaningful grants in their community it is just as important that they are building capacity within their community. He said acting as a catalyst to private and public partnerships and reinvesting in their communities makes them stronger.

Ms. Runde said 2024 was a fantastic year for Diamond Jo. She said gross gaming revenue hit an all time high, just under \$79 million. She said the growth in revenue was driven exclusively by slots. She said non-gaming revenue was up 5.2% over the prior year and continues to be a huge source of revenue. She then touched on their commitment to problem gambling awareness and the ways they make this a priority. She also discussed the many ways her team gives back to the community.

Commissioner Campbell asked Ms. Runde for a quick update on their buffet space. Ms. Runde said the one big challenge is staffing. She said it's always been a challenge, but since Covid it's been an even bigger challenge, mostly with the culinary staff. However, they have come up with plans to move forward. She said it is likely that in the next 90 days she will be back in front of the Commission seeking approval for their new plans. Commissioner Campbell asked her to please bring a plan back to the Commission within 90 days. Ms. Runde responded that she would.

Commissioner Burkhardt stated that they were one of only two facilities that saw an increase in adjusted gross revenue in 2024 and she wanted to know why Ms. Runde thought that was. Ms. Runde said she believes that they are good at building relationships and taking care of people. However, she attributed most of that on the fact that the other casino in town was under

construction. She stated that when there is construction there is disruption and so some of the other facility's disruption was their advantage for a period of time.

Commissioner Burkhart then congratulated Diamond Jo Dubuque on having the highest Iowa spend at 99%.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd., renew the license to operate Diamond Jo, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Diamond Jo, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Ms. Runde presented a contract with Brunswick Bowling Products LLC for a Brunswick Scoring System (OSV).

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contract as submitted by Diamond Jo, LLC. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Black Hawk County Gaming Association/IOC Black Hawk County, Inc.: Chad Moine, Senior Vice President, IOC Black Hawk County, Inc and Emily Hanson, Executive Director, Black Hawk County Gaming Association respectfully request their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Moine said in 2024 they had a real focus on enhancing and improving the guest experience at their facility. He said they completed their \$6 million plus hotel refresh, added a patio to their restaurant, and added jackpot dispenser kiosks to their casino floor, making jackpot payouts faster and more efficient. Also, along with their sister properties they were the first to bring wide area progressive table games to the state and those have been very popular. He said heading into 2025 they just opened and debuted their Isle Oasis Lounge, which provides live entertainment on the weekends. Mr. Moine also spoke about their responsible gaming efforts and all the things they do to make sure responsible gaming is prioritized.

Ms. Hanson said their organization has the immense pleasure of serving Northeast Iowa by reinvesting funds provided by the Isle to make Cedar Valley a better place to live, work and play. She said in 2024 they distributed \$5.7 million to fund 37 different non-profit and government agencies in their eight-county service area. She discussed a few of the projects they have funded. She said since July 2007 Black Hawk County Gaming Association has given out over \$80 million to support 675 different projects. They remain the largest funder in Black Hawk County and know that their funding matters. Ms. Hanson said the promises they made to the Commission 18 years ago are being fulfilled. Their board remains committed to inspiring and supporting transformation, one project at a time.

Mr. Moine stated that they do request to amend their security plan to have police presence seven days a week from seven o'clock PM to three o'clock AM.

Commissioner Campbell congratulated them on being able to retain 100% staffing and also said it is very nice to see the changes they are putting into their facility.

Commissioner Burkhart said most of the facilities are 24 hours and she asked him to explain the reason they are not. Mr. Moine said part of that was the security issues in the past. He said it is something they have been discussing and they are taking it into consideration.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Black Hawk County Gaming Association, renew the license to operate IOC Black Hawk County, Inc. as a gambling structure, and renew the license to conduct sports wagering to IOC Black Hawk County, Inc. and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application, that does include police presence seven days a week. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Missouri River Historical Development, Inc./SCE Partners, LLC d/b/a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City: Doug Fisher, General Manager, SCE Partners, LLC and Sarah Kleber, President, Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Fisher said that construction on their \$2 million event center renovation is in full swing and all finishes have been approved by Hard Rock International and they are on target to hit their Q3 grand opening date. He said responsible gaming is something they are very passionate about and he discussed the efforts they take to make this a priority. He said Hard Rock continues to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to their community. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year that they have been a sponsor for Sioux City's outdoor premier event, Saturday in the Park. Mr. Fisher also discussed some of the ways that the staff gives back to the community through the various boards they serve on.

Ms. Kleber said in 2024 Missouri River Historical Development awarded \$3.4 million to 109 organizations made up of various local government, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations. She touched on some of the different projects they helped fund, including emergency grant distributions due to flooding in June 2024. She said they are very proud to have a great relationship with Hard Rock and they continue to provide invaluable support.

Commissioner Burkhart said they had the second highest admission in the state and she was curious what they would attribute that to. Mr. Fisher noted they have one million dollars of music industry collectables and that is something that people come in to see. He said he believes that has a lot to do with it.

Commissioner Burkhart said they also have the lowest in state spend. She said they are at 91% while most of their peers are 97% and higher Iowa spend. Mr. Fisher said it is something they are

aware of and they are working on. He said he believes the Commission will see that with this round of contracts they are looking for approval on.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Missouri River Historical Development, Inc., renew the license to operate SCE Partners, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to SCE Partners, LLC. and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Mr. Fisher presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- CTI – Audio Visual Equipment and Installation for Buffet Conversion, Plus Service Agreement
- L&L Distributing Co, Inc. – Beverage Supplier
- Nu Concepts Inc d/b/a USA Entertainment – Talent Agency
- Performance Food Groups, Inc d/b/a Reinhart Foodservice, LLC – Food Supplier
- Port Neal Welding Company, Inc. – Cage Bars, M+A Patio Railing, Floor Vent Rings and Other Miscellaneous Projects
- Power Promotions, LLC – Promotional Items
- Premier Glazer's Beer & Beverage LLC – Beverage Supplier
- Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center – Hotel Room-Night Stays
- The Claussen Group, LLC – Property Maintenance & Storage Rental
- The Printer, Inc – Printing Services
- USPS – Postage for US Mail
- Verde Outdoor Media, LLC – Billboard Advertising

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as presented by SCE Partners, LLC. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, Inc./Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC: Sharon Haselhoff, General Manager, Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC and Ken Kerkvilet, Executive Director, Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, Inc. respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Ms. Haselhoff joined the meeting via Zoom. She said 2024 was not a record year, but it was still a very good year with \$117.4 million in total revenue. She said gaming revenue, hotel revenue, food and beverage revenue and golf revenue continue to be strong. She said their amenities help drive tourism, and their unique events help drive businesses to their resort and the state of Iowa. She touched on three things that she's most proud of for 2024. Group sales had a record breaking year with \$2.2 million. Grand Falls was #1 in the state for the number of table games. And through their Giving Hands Program their employees volunteered over 9,000 hours in 2024 compared to only 4,000 in 2023. She said they increased their severe weather training significantly and are putting emphasis on documenting that training. Ms. Haselhoff said in reference to responsible



gaming, the one thing they did different this year is that they did that training earlier in February to make sure staff was ready for the increased traffic of March . She touched on a few other key things they do to show they take responsible gaming seriously.

Mr. Kerkvilet started by saying thank you for allowing them to share how they help the organizations in the Northwest tri-state area due to the great relationship they have with Grand Falls. He said in 2024 they awarded 101 grants totaling \$3.3 million. He then discussed some of the grants that were awarded and touched on some of the largest as well as their mini-grant ceremony where they gave out 50 grants of \$3,000 each. He said they appreciate what Grand Falls is able to provide to them.

Commissioner Burkhart asked if they picked 50 mini grants out of a hat, how many didn't get a grant. Mr. Kerkvilet said there were 125, so 75 didn't receive a grant.

Commissioner Burkhart said they had the largest admissions change of any facility and she wondered what they think attributed to that. Ms. Haselhoff said group sales was a portion of it as well as an increase in the number of concerts they had in 2024 compared to 2023.

Commissioner Burkhart said they had a large jump in employees, about ten percent and she was curious if that was an expansion or filling positions they weren't able to fill earlier. Ms. Haselhoff said it was definitely filling positions they weren't able to fill, mostly in food and beverage and table games.

Commissioner Campbell asked how they were able to find those employees. Ms. Haselhoff said they benefited from some layoffs in the Sioux Falls area.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, Inc., renew the license to operate Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Worth County Development Authority/Diamond Jo Worth, LLC d/b/a Diamond Jo Worth: Scott Smith, General Manager, Diamond Jo Worth, LLC and Deb Hanson, CFO, Worth County Development Authority, respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Smith said Ms. Hanson sent her apologies for not being able to make the meeting. He had her notes and was able to read those for the Commission. He said it was another great successful year for Diamond Jo Worth and he contributed that to the team they have and their dedication. He said gross gaming revenue was up \$106 million, which made them one of only two properties to have an increase. He said he attributes that to their focus on their guests and how their decision making creates a positive impact on their guests and employees. He said their economic impact was \$52 million and they had a 96.5% Iowa spend, which he said he was still very proud of given their proximity to the state border. Mr. Smith said they also experienced some staffing challenges but they have remained stable. In 2024 they were able to distribute \$6.3 million to Worth County

Development Authority. This is their 19<sup>th</sup> year as an operator in Iowa and in those 19 years they have distributed over \$95 million. Mr. Smith also touched slightly on their efforts in responsible gaming and said they take it very seriously.

Mr. Smith then read Ms. Hanson's letter. She said she is very grateful for their dedication and commitment. In 2024 they awarded 111 grants. She mentioned a few of those grants and said one million dollars went to their scholarship program. She said out of 86 students who received a scholarship, only four are attending college outside of the state. She also discussed a new tourism project, the Manly Junction Railroad Museum, which she said she is excited to see come to life and help grow Worth County.

Chair Olsen said he is really impressed with their lofty hotel goals.

Commissioner Campbell asked why they are currently still one of the few casinos that is not back to 24 hours. Mr. Smith said it's really about security and being able to keep the minimum standards for graveyard shifts. He was hoping by this meeting he could say they were back to 24 hours but he is hopeful by the June meeting that will be the case. He said it will happen in 2025.

Commissioner Burkhart commended their organization and his leadership on being one of the only properties to have an increase in attendance and adjusted gross revenue as well as an almost 50% decrease in calls to local law enforcement.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Worth County Development Authority, renew the license to operate Diamond Jo Worth, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Diamond Jo Worth, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Regional Development Authority/Rhythm City Casino, LLC: Mo Hyder, General Manager, Rhythm City Casino and Matt Mendenhall, President & CEO of Regional Development Authority, respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Hyder stated that they are proud of their working relationship with the Regional Development Authority (RDA) and they are grateful for the work that they do for the community. He said they saw declines in revenues due to recent competitive pressure from Illinois. Their goal is to continue to position themselves operationally to preserve their market share in the Eastern Iowa area. He said many people know them for their gaming and hospitality but there are several areas of their operation that might not be well known but are part of their success. He said one is their strong commitment in community involvement and another is the quality and variety of their entertainment offerings.

Mr. Hyder said they are committed to providing a safe and enjoyable gaming experience for their guests. He said they prioritize problem gaming awareness through employee training and new hire orientations. He said his team is educated in recognizing the signs of problem gaming, understanding the company policies and ensuring all guests have access to the necessary resources

should they seek help. He also said they maintain clear and visible responsible gaming signage throughout the property. In addition to training and awareness initiatives, they provide informational materials for guests to be able to notice their gaming habits and recognize potential risk early on. Mr. Hyder said they also host an online responsible gaming awareness site where players can speak directly with experts and have access to available support. He said with these on-going efforts they remain dedicated to maintaining compliance with all responsible gaming regulations and promote a safe and informed enjoyable gaming experience. He said for 2024 their economic impact was \$87 million. He said they had a 95% Iowa spend, and commented that that is usually higher but they had purchased slot machines which fell in the specialized category.

Mr. Mendenhall said they have a great partnership working together with Rhythm City Casino. He said in 2024 they awarded 151 grants totaling \$4.8 million. He discussed some of the grants, including two of their largest grants ever, each at \$1,000,000. He said both of those projects were game changers for their community and would not have happened without gaming dollars. He said they co-brand with Rhythm City in their social media posts which helps build more awareness for Rhythm City and gaming in Iowa. Mr. Mendenhall said they continue to be grateful for the opportunity to work with and support the local citizens.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Regional Development Authority, renew the license to operate Rhythm City Casino, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Rhythm City Casino, LLC. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Mr. Hyder presented a contract with Electric Rodeo for an entertainment act for the event center, Country Band – Midland (OSV).

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contract as presented by Rhythm City Casino, LLC. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Inc./Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC: Damon John, General Manager, Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC and Jim Hauth, President of Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Inc., respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. John said this is their 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation as the place to live it up in the corridor of Eastern Iowa. He said each year they find themselves fortunate to employ over 700 individuals, many of which give back in the Winning Hands Volunteer Program. This program won the governor's Give Back Iowa Challenge for the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year last year. In 2024 their 81 employees donated \$50,000 to various charities of their choice. Mr. John said 2024 was a decent year but they did finish behind 2023 in both gaming and non-gaming revenues. He said expenses ran high year over year but, despite that they were able to invest \$1 million in customer facing property improvements in 2024, and \$1 million in general property maintenance. He said they take responsible gaming efforts very seriously and foster an environment where responsible gaming occurs in order to

prevent it from becoming a problem. He said one thing he's particularly proud of is how well they know their customers at Riverside. He said this helps them address problem gambling as it is their job to recognize it and try to help. Mr. John said going into 2025 their operational goals and core principals are the exact same as they always have been: to provide first class amenities that are exceptionally clean and comfortable, provide first class guest service, provide exceptional food offerings and great entertainment that is fun for their guests, to give back to their community, and to continue to invest in the development and careers of their employees.

Mr. Hauth said as they go into 2025 they are pleased to announce the signing and extension of their operating agreement with Riverside. WCRF evaluated over 110 grant applications in 2024. He said they approved 24 grants in their spring cycle and an additional 9 in their fall cycle. In 2024 they approved grants in excess of \$6.5 million dollars. Mr. Hauth discussed some of the grants they approved. He said Riverside's support of nearly \$70 million has significantly impacted all of Eastern Iowa.

Commissioner Burkhart said they saw a large increase in employees and asked if that was an expansion of services or the filling of open positions. Mr. John said that was filling open positions, and they are right around where they were pre-Covid.

Commissioner Andres asked if they had a timeline for their hotel refresh. Mr. John said right now they have two rooms that are closed that they are remodeling. He said once those are done they will open them up and see how they work out and then they can go from there. Commissioner Burkhart asked if they were looking for guest feedback or durability of the products. Mr. John said both. Commissioner Andres asked how long it will take to phase in the remodel after that. Mr. John said they will likely do the rooms in groups of maybe four at a time. He said they have contracted groups out for several years, so it creates a challenge. He said it will likely take over a year or more. Commissioner Campbell said having the rooms contracted out for that long is a good problem to have.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Inc., renew the license to operate Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Mr. John presented a contract with PaulMolly Advertising for digital, TV and radio advertising.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contract as presented by Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chair Olsen called a short break.

Iowa West Racing Association/Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC: Paul Czak, General Manager, Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC and Ms. Mainwaring respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Ms. Mainwaring said she is very proud to be affiliated with the state's highest producing casino in 2024. She touched on a few more examples of Iowa West Racing Association's grants for 2024. She said they are the only community in Iowa that has a net in-migration from outside the state. Right now, more people are moving to Council Bluffs from Omaha and not the other direction. She said in the last 10 years they have spent tens of millions of dollars, maybe even hundreds of millions of dollars building amenities and attractions to bring people to Council Bluffs. One of their core missions is to create a place where people want to live.

Mr. Czak said 2024 was Ameristar's 29<sup>th</sup> year in operation and really one of their better ones. He said they finished essentially flat. Lodging revenue as well as food and beverage revenue were up, but slot machines and table game revenue were down. He said they finished with the highest full year market share in the property's history and it was the second consecutive year the property was awarded a performance award for being one of the top performing properties. Mr. Czak said their commitment to responsible gaming continues throughout the year and talked about a few ways they make this a priority. He then discussed a number of ways that the employees give back to the community. He said his most impressive number however is three. He said War Horse opened in 2024, just ten minutes from them and employed over 500 people. He said even though they made lots of promises, they only lost three team members to that property and as a team they are very proud of that.

Commissioner Burkhart said that the agreement between Iowa West Racing Association and Ameristar is about a year out from expiring and she was curious if talks had been started in regards to that. Mr. Czak said yes, they are completed and they will be presenting them at the April meeting when they are back at their home base.

Commissioner Campbell and Chair Olsen commended them on the impressively small number of employees lost with the opening of the other casino. They said it could have been much worse and it wasn't, which speaks to the team they have.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Iowa West Racing Association, renew the license to operate Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC as an excursion boat that will not cruise, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC, and approve the facility's revised security plan included in the application. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**IOWA WEST RACING ASSOCIATION D/B/A HORSESHOE CASINO COUNCIL BLUFFS**: Mr. Roberts presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Exela Enterprise Solutions – Copy and Print Services

- Nalco Water – Water Treatments

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as presented by Horseshoe Casino Council Bluffs. Commissioner Andres seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**PRAIRIE MEADOWS RACETRACK & CASINO, INC.:** Mr. Palmer presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Murphy Tractor – Track Equipment
- Skinner & Paschke – Lobbyist Related Activities

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to approve the contracts as presented by Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino, Inc. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**CEDAR RAPIDS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC:**

Request for Approval of the Purchase, Sale and Development Agreement with The City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Dustin Manternach, Chief Financial Officer for Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, presented the Development Agreement between The City of Cedar Rapids and Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the Purchase, Sale and Development Agreement as presented by Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract Approvals: Mr. Manternach presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Anderson-Bogert Engineers & Surveyors, Inc. – Engineering and Land Survey Services
- Brown Winick Law – Legal Services/Law Firm
- Grefe & Sidney, P.L.C. – Legal Services/Law Firm (RP)
- R2Architects, LLC – Architecture and Engineering Core and Shell Services (OSV)
- Ryan Companies US, Inc. – Preconstruction and Construction Services
- Various Sellers (Skogman Realty – Realtor) – Acquisition of Various Land Parcels

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**HEARINGS:**

Rhythm City Casino, LLC: Ms. Eick presented the Stipulated Agreement for two counts for violations of Iowa Code § 99F.9(5). Both counts were for underage individuals gaining access to the gaming floor.

Mr. Hyder, said this is certainly not their proudest moment. He said they take compliance of their regulatory responsibilities very seriously and they fully acknowledge these two incidents. He said they do have procedures in place to prevent underage patrons from accessing the gaming floor and they continually reinforce those, but in these cases their team failed to follow the established procedures. Mr. Hyder said as a result of these incidents they have taken corrective action, including retraining their team members and reinforcing accountability to ensure the procedures are strictly followed at all times. He said they remain committed to compliance and responsible gaming.

Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement with an administrative penalty of \$20,000 for count 1 and an administrative penalty of \$20,000 for count 2. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ostergren noted that typically they have been using 30 minutes as the time for a fine of that amount however, the fact that she was only 16 years old escalated this incident to that level.

PointsBet Iowa LLC: Ms. Eick presented the Stipulated Agreement for violations of Iowa Code § 99F.3, 491 IAC 13.3(1) and 491 IAC 13.2(3). PointsBet Iowa LLC allowed wagering on tennis markets, which are impermissible.

Michael Levine, Director/Senior Regulatory Counsel, stated he was not a part of PointsBet Iowa at the time of this incident and neither were any of the individuals from the FBG staff. He said when FBG acquired PointsBet Iowa they transitioned from PointsBet's legacy platform to the Fanatics platform and at that time their trading team identified these impermissible markets on the PointsBet platform. They immediately let commission staff know and started an investigation. He said all customers have been made whole. If they won, they got to keep their winnings. If they lost they got their money back. There were 13 individuals who they were unable to send money to through the app for self-exclusion reasons or various other reasons. Of the 13 they had to write checks to, they have three who have not cashed their checks. Mr. Levine said FBG now has controls in place to prevent repeat violations. They have a permissible markets policy, which includes the permissible markets in each jurisdiction as well as noting the disciplinary action should a mistake be made. They also have weekly and monthly impermissibility training. He said the entire platform is different and they are able to proactively gate off impermissible markets. He said this is something they have worked tirelessly on and he is happy to say since the change they have had zero incidents of impermissibility in the state of Iowa.

Commissioner Andres said it is great to hear that they have not had any issues since the change and should not have to be in front of the Commission again for these same issues.

Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Andres moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement with an administrative penalty of \$20,000. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF IOWA RACE HORSE AFTER CARE FUND:** Ms. Eick advised there is approximately \$34,739 available for distribution. Ms. Eick stated there was one application for the funds, Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds (HART), which met the requirements and requested approval of the distribution of funds to HART.

Hearing no comments for discussion, Vice Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the distribution of the Iowa Race Horse After Care Fund to Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no public comments.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

**Review of Year-to-Date Economic Impact Reports:** Ms. Eick advised Iowa Code requires that a substantial amount of all resources and goods used in the operation of the casinos emanate from or are made in Iowa, and that a substantial amount of all services and entertainment are provided by Iowans, which is why the Commission focuses on the utilization of Iowa vendors when they are reviewing the contracts presented for approval. Ms. Eick reported that \$1.1 billion was spent in calendar year 2024 with Iowa vendors, or 89.88% of all spending by the casinos. If items that are not available in Iowa such as slot machines and related products are excluded, the spend with Iowa vendors is 96.22%.

**Notice of Horse Racing Promotion Fund:** Ms. Eick advised there is \$1,985.70 available in the Horse Racing Promotion Fund. Qualified applicants should submit their request for the funds to the Des Moines Commission office by 3:30 PM on April 9, 2025. More details about how to apply will be on the IRGC website.

**Notice of Purse Amounts pursuant to Iowa Code § 99F.6(4)a(3):** Ms. Eick announced the purse amounts for the racing industry for 2025 as reported by Prairie Meadows are as follows:

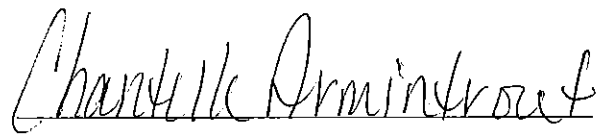
- Thoroughbreds - \$18,669,206.18
- Quarter Horses - \$3,746,123.61
- Standardbreds - \$2,149,415.19

Any questions regarding the calculations should be directed to the Commission office or Prairie Meadows.



**ADJOURN:** Chair Olsen thanked Prairie Meadows for welcoming everyone and the extra work in connecting everyone due to the weather. He adjourned the meeting at 12:45 PM.

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chantelle Armintrout". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CHANTELLE ARMINTROUT