

**IOWA RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2026**

The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) met on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino (PMRC) in Altoona, Iowa. Commission members present were Amy Burkhart, Chair; Daryl Olsen, Vice Chair; and members Alan Ostergren and Michael Boal.

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

APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Burkhart requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2026 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the minutes as printed. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Brian Ohorilko, President and Chief Executive Officer, said Prairie Meadows loves to host the March Commission meeting and getting to hear about the amazing impact gaming has on the state of Iowa. He said that impact is close to two billion dollars a year and it's approaching 35 years plus some for the racetrack. Mr. Ohorilko said they are grateful for the opportunity to operate in the state of Iowa and they understand that operating is a privilege not a right. He said they strive to maintain the highest standards to be good stewards of their license and to make their employees, community, and regulators proud to be stakeholders in this wonderful industry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tina Eick, Administrator, announced the next scheduled meeting would be April 23, 2026 at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs. Submissions for that meeting are due April 9th. There will be no meeting in May and then the next meeting will be June 11, 2026 at Diamond Jo Worth in Northwood.

NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH: Chair Burkhart 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 problem gambling, and discussed the various media outlets where ads 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. She also discussed ways to get people help if they have a problem.

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 19 licensed gambling treatment 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 SFY25 there were 1,230 contacts to 1-800-BETS OFF and 125,360 visits to the yourlifeiowa.org/gambling website.

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. She specifically recognized Prairie Meadows and said this was the first thing she noticed when she arrived at the facility for the meeting.

Commissioner Ostergren asked what happens if an Iowan calls another state's problem gambling helpline that they see advertised on a sports betting app. Ms. Bee said the number will be recognized as an Iowa number and the call will be routed to an Iowa service.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: David Ranscht, General Counsel, provided an update on the timeline for reviewing rules under Executive Order 10. Chapters 7, 8, and 10 related to racing have been mostly completed and are on the agenda today for final adoption. The remaining chapters to go through the process are chapters 1, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 14. These are chapters related to gaming and licensing, as well as some procedural rules that all agencies have.

Commission staff has already been reviewing the remaining chapters internally. The industry has been specifically invited to provide comments or suggestions by March 31, 2026. After that, staff will proceed with preparing specific reports required by Executive Order 10, along with regulatory analyses to begin the formal rulemaking process.

There is no action item on these remaining chapters today, but an estimated timeline is in place to complete this review and updates will likely appear on most of the commission meeting agendas for the rest of the year.

Mr. Ranscht then turned to the final adoption of chapters 7 (ARC 9800C), 8 (ARC 9801C), and 10 (ARC 9802C) for Executive Order 10 review, along with the change to the application fee for new casinos that is located in chapter 1 (ARC 9803C).

Chapter 7 (ARC 9800C) is proposed to be fully repealed as it contained former rules for live greyhound racing. The Notice of Intended Action was approved in November, and no comments were received during the comment period. No changes were made from the Notice.

Chapter 8 (ARC 9801C) contains rules related to advance deposit wagering and simulcasting. The Notice of Intended Action was approved in November. Some industry members submitted comments following the Notice, which staff considered and recommend that the Commission largely accept. The comments requested slight changes from the rules in the Notice but are within the character of those initially proposed rules. Mr. Ranscht walked through the comments and the proposed changes from the Notice, which are also contained within the formal rulemaking documents that will be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin. One specific comment requested grandfathering currently registered advance deposit wagering accounts from needing to

comply with the new Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements so those individuals would not have to re-register under the new requirements. Staff recommends accepting that comment and setting a grandfather clause for January 1, 2027 to line up with the license renewal for advance deposit wagering operators.

Chapter 10 (ARC 9802C) contains rules related to thoroughbred and quarter horse racing. The Notice of Intended Action was approved in November. Several comments were received on this chapter during the comment period. Staff has been considering those comments and recommends accepting most of them. Most comments requested or suggested slight changes that are within the character of the rules as initially proposed. A few were a little outside the original Notice and so staff recommends holding those back for a future rule making process. Mr. Ranscht walked through the comments, staff's recommended responses to those comments, and the proposed changes in rule language when compared to the Notice. These items are also contained within the formal rulemaking documents that will be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

ARC 9803C is not an Executive Order 10 review but is on the same timeline. This rulemaking is the proposed increase in the application fee for new gambling structures under chapter 1 of the rules. This would change the application fee from a nonrefundable \$25,000 fee to a refundable \$250,000 fee. It would also increase the up-front fee paid by license applicants for DCI backgrounding costs. The Notice of Intended Action was approved in November. No comments were received during the comment period and no changes are suggested from the Notice.

Chair Burkhart asked Mr. Ranscht about the proposed grandfathering clause for advance deposit wagering accounts, and specifically what potential protections might not be in place. Mr. Ranscht indicated that advance deposit wagering on horse racing has been authorized for a lot longer than mobile sports betting, and so there weren't as many requirements for setting up an account that is now potentially 15 or more years old. But going forward, new advance deposit wagering accounts would be subject to the same account registration requirements as mobile sports betting accounts.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved that the Commission approve final-adopt versions of ARC 9800C, ARC 9801C (with changes), ARC 9802C (with changes), and ARC 9803C. Commissioner Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXCURSION GAMBLING BOAT AND GAMBLING STRUCTURE LICENSE RENEWALS (OSV = OUT OF STATE VENDOR; RP = RELATED PARTY):

Chair Burkhart thanked staff for all their work putting together all the information needed for the license renewal portion of the meeting. She said they look at everything from capital expenditures to employment levels to Iowa spend and history of stipulations and more. She said each Commissioner does a comprehensive review of each facility so during this meeting they ask for specific comments. Each facility has been asked to speak for approximately five minutes about their efforts in terms of responsible gaming, something that is new or improved, training and compliance, and their goals for the coming year. Each QSO has been asked to limit their comments to three to five minutes and speak on three key areas, the total dollar amount of grants awarded

over the past year, including the largest and smallest, highlighting a particular grant that might have a big impact on their community, and any update on their QSO operator partnership including their contract. Chair Burkhardt said the order of presentations will be smallest to largest AGR.

Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation/Casino Queen Marquette, Inc.: Ed Winkofsky, an attorney with Greenberg Traurig, Luis Pinedo, General Counsel, Bally's Corporation, Mark Schlang, Vice President of Architecture, Bally's Corporation, Robin Corbeil, General Manager, Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. and Dan Kuempel, Executive Director, Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation (UMGC) respectfully request their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Kuempel said that in 2025, UMGC was able to fund 39 grants for a total of \$606,000, which was down slightly from the previous year, but he said the board remained disciplined in ensuring every dollar awarded addressed critical unmet needs. The largest grant awarded was for \$70,000 to a childcare center in McGregor for new playground equipment. The smallest grant awarded was \$728 to the American Legion Post in St. Olaf for cemetery signage. Mr. Kuempel said that 30% of all grant funds were allocated to the volunteer fire department and without these funds response times would increase, equipment would age, and the risk to residents would rise. Mr. Kuempel said the partnership between UMGC and Bally's Marquette has proven its value in Northeast Iowa communities and with the successful opening of the landside casino, they anticipate increased revenues that will directly translate into expanded grant funding for nonprofits across the region.

Ms. Corbeil said she is excited to announce the landside facility has officially opened. She said they had a soft opening on the February 27th with a few bumps along the way, but they have successfully opened the entire facility as of Tuesday, March 3rd. She said they have had great reviews from guests and they are excited to be in the new facility. She thanked the Commission for their patience as they made this transition. She said they are still doing some finishing touches on the exterior as they get ready for the grand opening on March 13th.

Ms. Corbeil said staffing has been a challenge this year. She said they struggled to get food and beverage workers and dealers. However, they were able to open both food venues which they did not think they would be able to do. She said they have had great reviews on the food and they are getting busier every day. They continue to do job fairs to try and hire more dealers.

Ms. Corbeil said Bally's Marquette actively promotes responsible gaming. She said during problem gaming month they bring someone in to have conversations with not only guests but also their team members. They also hold regular trainings to keep this in the front of the team members minds.

Ms. Corbeil said Bally's Marquette also takes pride in community development. They work with the City to collect food for the county food bank during the holiday season, they have donation boxes set up at the property, and they have jeans days where employees can donate to charities. She said they do these quarterly and in 2025 they donated to Special Olympics of Iowa, Clayton County Food Shelf, Little Bulldog Childcare, and Clayton County Woman Aid. She said they are

very proud to be part of this community and very excited to request a license for their landside facility this year.

Chair Burkhart noted that having a CFO on property is a license requirement, so she asked how the process of hiring one is coming. Ms. Corbeil said they are set to make an offer this week and also have some additional interviews set up for next week should this offer not go through.

Commissioner Olsen commended them on a job well done with continuing to fund money to the QSO while the landside conversion was going on and even with a rocky start. Ms. Corbeil said there were a few hiccups, mostly with the removal of the skywalk, but Tuesday was pretty seamless.

Chair Burkhart asked what the anticipated date is to have all the machines up and running. Ms. Corbeil said they have about 90% up already. She said when some of the machines were shipped, they were not shipped with all of the parts, so they are still waiting to receive those. She said a few of the machines also quit working after being moved from the vessel so they need to replace those. She said they are hoping to have all of them up by the grand opening on March 13th.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation, renew the license to operate Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. as a gambling structure, renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Clinton County Development Association/Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C.: Steve Nauman, General Manager, and Jenny Green, President, Clinton County Development Association respectfully requested the licenses be renewed.

Mr. Nauman said 2025 was a challenging year as a new casino opened in Rockford with which they share a market. He said due to this they started an initiative to enhance their guest experience. They rebranded their restaurant, hired a new executive chef, rolled out a new menu, and started breakfast buffets on the weekends. He said in addition to this they are concentrating on things they do best to set themselves apart from their competition and he mentioned some of the ways they are doing this.

Mr. Nauman said they have been at their property since 2008 so as they focus on their guest experience it is time to concentrate on the physical property. He said they have spent four years doing remodels from head to toe in the business but now they are getting to the bones. They plan to replace the roof as well as add a point-of-sale system to the hotel and restaurant.

Mr. Nauman announced that this year is meaningful because together with Clinton County Development Association they are celebrating their 35th anniversary. He said they have two employees who have been with them for the entire 35 years, and 30% of their team members have been with the casino for over 15 years.

Mr. Nauman also touched on their commitment to responsible gaming. He said they have implemented a new interactive training system where they highlight problem gambling as well as training tips. He then turned it over to Ms. Green.

Ms. Green said in 2025 they were able to award grants in the amount of \$800,000, split into two grant cycles, one in the spring and one in the fall. She said these grants range from \$68,000 to the Sawmill Museum to help boost Clinton tourism, to \$711 to the Central Community Historical Society in Dewitt to replace exhibit information tablets. Ms. Green highlighted a few multi-year grants that they were able to complete payment on as well as some grants that make a big impact on Clinton County. Ms. Green said Clinton County Development Association is fortunate to have a good working relationship with Wild Rose Casino.

Commissioner Olsen noted that the QSO agreement expires next March and asked where they are with negotiations. Mr. Nauman said they have not begun those yet but it is on their radar and negotiations will be starting soon. Commissioner Olsen asked if they anticipated any problems. Mr. Nauman said he doesn't anticipate any problems. Chair Burkhart asked Ms. Green if she felt the same way to which Ms. Green replied, yes, they have a great relationship.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen 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 Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Mr. Nauman presented a contract with CA Cummins Allison for the purchase of a new JetScan MPS for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen moved to approve the contract as submitted by Wild Rose Clinton, L.L.C. Commissioner Boal 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. and Gretchen Reichter, President, Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Cody gave an overview of their procedures related to problem gambling. He then said 2025 was a good year overall, but not without challenges. He said they are finally getting closer to their employment headcounts as they are continuing with aggressive recruiting to gain more food and beverage employees to be able to expand their hours. He said they are looking to enhance their guest experience by expanding their menu to include higher end entrees. They are also looking at ways to operate more efficiently by restructuring some of their regionalized operations for payroll and accounts payable. He also mentioned that one of the challenges they face is finding vendors that can complete some of their larger projects.

Mr. Cody said in Emmetsburg they have mainly a repeat trip clientele and they strive to give an exceptional guest experience which takes all of their team members to make happen. He said they do trainings and have good communication between staff and leadership so that everyone is on the same page to strive to make it a family atmosphere. He said in 2026 they are continuing with improvements to their facility such as new machines and new HVAC units. They are also restructuring their hotel operations. He said Wild Rose Emmetsburg and Palo Alto County Gaming Development Corporation will continue to partner to bring economic improvements to their county and surrounding areas.

Ms. Reichter announced that they are preparing for their annual grant ceremony the following evening where they will award over \$1.64 million in grants from 2025 to cities, schools, and nonprofits. She said in 2025 they granted 53 grant projects through their regular cycle, totaling about \$85,000. She said the largest was for a playground, transforming vacant green space into a family-friendly amenity for the core of the community. Ms. Reichter then discussed all of the other areas that the gaming revenue helps to fund. She said they are fortunate to be able to make significant investments year after year to make the Palo Alto communities more vibrant places to live, work and visit. She then thanked the Commission for their support of gaming in Iowa and said their communities would look tremendously different without the funding they receive from Wild Rose.

Commissioner Olsen asked about the hotel upgrades and said it has been on the list for a long time now. Mr. Cody said they have hired a consulting service. He said they have the money budgeted and they are currently working with the consultants on their recommendations for improving their product. He said they are also trying to find vendors but he said we could see some improvements in the third or fourth quarter of this year, possibly going into 2027.

Chair Burkhardt asked if the consultants were looking at the entire property or specifically the hotel. Mr. Cody said specifically the hotel. Chair Burkhardt asked if there were any plans in the works for utilizing some unused space on the second floor. Mr. Cody said nothing at this time.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhardt requested a motion. Commissioner Boal 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 Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Grow Greene County Gaming Corporation/Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C.: Ian Wilkinson, 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 monitoring problem gambling is not just a regulatory requirement, but it's a commitment and something they take very seriously. They have visible signage, marketing

brochures throughout the facility, and advertise the 1-800 hotline on all of their marketing material. They not only download the self-exclusion list once a week as required, but twice a week.

Mr. Wilkinson said 2025 was their 10th anniversary. He said they hosted five events in July and August to not only thank their guests but to also reinforce their commitment to the community. He said 2025 was a solid year overall but not without challenges. He said gross gaming revenue came in just a little under 2024, which was primarily due to road construction that limited access and impacted visitation.

Mr. Wilkinson said 2025 was also a year of transition. They changed leadership and refocused on overall guest experience. They hired a new food and beverage manager and a new executive chef. They refreshed their menu and gave their sports bar a more upscale feel. They also lowered beverage prices across the board and expanded their cocktail service to the casino floor. He said staffing continues to be a challenge, but he was pleased to announce that they are almost at pre-pandemic levels for staffing in most operational departments.

Mr. Wilkinson said they expanded their hours of operation on the weekends from 2:00 AM to 3:00 AM and expanded their food and beverage hours to better meet guest demands. He said all of these improvements have grown non-gaming revenue. In 2026 they plan to continue expanding on their food and beverage and continue to elevate their slots and table game offerings. He said they remain fully committed to regulatory compliance, responsible gaming, and a strong community partnership.

Mr. Allen said 2025 was a great year. He said they committed over \$2 million in their grant cycle. He touched on some of the larger grants they awarded and how these grants impacted their community. He said Wild Rose has been an outstanding partner and their collaboration and friendship over the years has been unmatched.

Commissioner Olsen said they are giving out over 100% continually. He said he doesn't know how they do it, but they just keep doing it. Chair Burkhart congratulated Mr. Wilkinson on being officially named General Manager.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart 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 Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission/Great River Casino Resort, LLC (dba Catfish Bend): Don Ostert, Vice President and General Manager, Great River Casino Resort, LLC and Justin Pieper, President, Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission (SIRRC) respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Ostert said their first five weeks they have been focusing on their employees and implementing their Elite five core principles. He said their goal is to make sure each employee has the appropriate tools to execute these principles. He said the Catfish Bend Casino Fun City name will be changed to Great River Casino Resort Fun City and he said they hope to have that accomplished around June. He said they are also excited to be joining in with the other Elite properties by bringing three or four national entertainment acts to the property in 2026. He said they look forward to building on the great relationship with SIRRC that had been established by Catfish Bend.

Mr. Pieper said in SIRRC's 25-year history they have distributed in excess of \$29 million to the communities of Burlington, Fort Madison, Keokuk and the surrounding rural areas. He said their distribution in 2025 was a little different. Only \$570,000 went out as they have a bit of a unique situation in a transition in Keokuk. He said Keokuk used 2025 as a period to allow the funds to develop so that they can take on meaningful grant opportunities. They look forward to launching their cycle and to be able to take on opportunities in 2026.

Mr. Pieper said their largest distribution in 2025 was a \$250,000 final installment payment to the beautiful riverfront marina project in Fort Madison. He said their smallest funding opportunity was \$10,000 to the Des Moines County CEO program. Mr. Pieper ended by saying he looks forward to developing the same long-standing trustworthy relationship with Elite as they have shared with Catfish Bend for many years.

Commissioner Olsen said he knows that surveillance had been a concern and asked them to address that. Mr. Ostert said they are seeing improvements. They have hired a new director to lead that team and also have the ability to bring in another director from one of the sister properties.

Chair Burkhart said that he had mentioned extending their operating hours, but based on their packet information they have one of the earliest closing times in the state for weekends. She asked if they are looking to the weekend in general or all days of the week and how soon that will happen. Mr. Ostert said they are looking at all hours. He said they need to look at staffing and getting people hired, but he thinks the opportunity is there.

Chair Burkhart asked about some capital expenditure upgrades that were on the list from the previous year that were not completed. She asked if these were still on the radar for 2026. Mr. Ostert confirmed they are.

Chair Burkhart then asked if they could explain the unique relationship in distributions as an overview. Mr. Pieper said going back to riverboat days, the boat was most often docked in Fort Madison but had sailings to Keokuk and Burlington. For a period of time Keokuk was the recipient of SIRRC's revenues but ultimately Keokuk was more interested in being able to take formal grant requests to stand up to the types of projects that Fort Madison and Burlington were able to complete. With the help of SIRRC and Catfish Bend they were able to convince the city of Keokuk that that's how it happened and formal changes were made in 2025.

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

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

- Carrier Access I.T. – Hardware/Software and Support
- Elite Casino Resorts, LLC – Goods and Services Cost Allocations (RP)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Great River Casino Resort, LLC. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Dubuque Racing Association, LTD (dba Q Casino): Anthony Williams, President and CEO, Dubuque Racing Association, LTD (DRA), Brian Rakestraw, Chief Financial Officer and Operations Officer, DRA and Lori Thielen, Board Chair, DRA, respectfully requested their license be renewed.

Ms. Thielen said she appreciated the opportunity to share a brief overview of the DRA's community impact due to their partnership with the casino operators. In 2025 the DRA awarded \$1.1 million to 54 nonprofit organizations across Dubuque and their surrounding areas. The largest grant was \$125,000 to the Dubuque Community School District. The smallest grant was \$4,000 to the Anamosa Lunches for the Youth to help ensure children have reliable access to meals. Ms. Thielen also discussed some other grants that they funded and said all of these examples reflect impacts their grants have from large transformational initiatives to targeted programs addressing immediate community needs. She said beyond grant making, the partnership between the DRA and Q Casino continues to create additional community impact. She said they have a shared commitment to supporting the communities they serve. Ms. Thielen said that the DRA remains committed to strong governance, regulatory compliance, and responsible stewardship of their gaming revenues.

Mr. Williams said he appreciated the opportunity to highlight how they continue to fulfill their licensing responsibilities. He said responsible gaming is something that remains a year-round priority for their organization. He said they maintain visible signage throughout the property and during the month of March have a representative on site to provide additional support and resources to their guests. In addition to this they have community billboards promoting responsible gaming and extensive training for all employees.

Mr. Williams discussed some of the achievements they have had over the past year including the opening of the Key Hotel in December, and this summer the opening of the Backwaters Amphitheater. He discussed new training strategies they are implementing and said workforce

continues to be an area of focus, particularly in hospitality and technical roles. He said they have experienced increased costs related to construction, vendor services and property improvements. He said despite these pressures they remain committed to reinvesting in their facility and maintaining high standards across the property.

Mr. Williams reported that they have invested more than \$87 million in renovations to their casino and restaurants to reflect their long-term commitment to growth and innovation. He said looking forward they will turn their attention outward to enhance safety, accessibility, and overall curb appeal. He said these projects together with the opening of the Backwaters Amphitheater position them to not only compete but to lead as a regional entertainment and hospitality destination.

Chair Burkhart asked about the capital expenditures. She said last year's projections were around \$84 million and they came in at \$35 million. She said she believed some of that was related to the existing hotel refresh, but she asked how that particular project was coming. Mr. Rakestraw said that project was done in multiple phases and due to delays and prices that timeline has shifted. He said right now all floors of the Key Hotel are open except the sixth floor. They are opening the sixth on March 16th. Then the rooftop restaurant is scheduled to open in May. He said the rest of that expense will be for the façade which they will start next week. Commissioner Olsen asked if they were just shifting that expense from 2025 to 2026 and Mr. Rakestraw said that is correct.

Chair Burkhart congratulated them on their 2025 accomplishments, as they were one of the few casinos in Iowa that did see an increase in attendance numbers and AGR.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Boal 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 Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Brian Rakestraw, Chief Operating and Financial Officer presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Conlon Construction – Landscaping and Parking Improvements
- Pepper Entertainment / Mammoth, Inc. – Entertainment Agency (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. Commissioner Boal 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. Clark said that the Clarke County Development Corporation restructured their granting process to be more of a funding program. The goal was to align funding with the strategic community needs to ensure a measurable impact for all of the South-Central Iowa organizations. Over the past year, the Clarke County Development Corporation awarded two dozen grants totaling over one million dollars in direct community investments. Mr. Clarke said the funds supported infrastructure, housing, business development, child care, public safety, and technology improvements with the largest grant of over \$191,000 going to the City of Murray to help support critical infrastructure throughout the city. He said the smallest grants were two for \$5,000 each for the Osceola Firefighters Association for new communication equipment and Clarke County for food banks across the county. Mr. Clark said that they plan to focus in the future on housing development in the area. He said in 2025, six houses in the \$250,000 to \$400,000 range were built with plans for as many as ten in 2026.

Mr. Monroe said 2025 was a very good year for the property with six percent growth in admissions and an eight percent growth in gaming revenues. He said 2026 is off to an even better start with double digit growth in both admissions and gaming revenues. Mr. Monroe said the number one priority is continuing the improvements on the gaming floor with the addition of new slot and table games products. He said they are also going to get the long overdue hotel and event center projects going. They have a contractor working on design concepts and believe the project will be started this year. Mr. Monroe said the hotel is now officially a Travelodge by Wyndham hotel property and they feel the brand awareness will bring incremental business to the hotel.

Mr. Monroe said they take responsible gaming very seriously and are most proud in the approach they take to checking identification of patrons. They card everyone who looks under 40 years old every single time they enter the gaming floor. Additionally, they have Zion Behavioral Services come in twice a year for training with all employees.

Mr. Monroe said they are proud of their relationship with Clarke County Development Corporation. They do amazing work in the community and both parties are excited about continuing a long-term relationship.

Mr. Olsen and Chair Burkhart both congratulated them on a great year with all the increases. Chair Burkhart said they did have one of the lowest percentage of Iowa spend at 89%. Mr. Monroe said that was mostly due to approximately a half a million dollars spent on a promotion with gift cards that cannot be purchased in Iowa. He said the gift cards are being spent in the community but the purchase of the cards is from an out of state vendor. Mr. Monroe said they continue to attempt to find an Iowa vendor who will sell the cards but have been unsuccessful.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to renew the license to conduct gambling games to Clarke County Development Corporation and renew the license to operate HGI-Lakeside, LLC as a moored barge. Commissioner Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Iowa West Racing Association/Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC (dba Harrah's): 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 stated that in calendar year 2025, they received approximately \$7.5 million from their casino partners and distributed about \$19.5 million in charitable contributions. She mentioned that in 2024, they awarded 92 grants totaling \$12.5 million. They accept grant applications from 14 Iowa counties. The largest grant was \$2.5 million to the county fair for West Pottawattamie County. The fair hasn't made significant updates in 50 years and is in need of some upgrades.

Ms. Mainwaring said that she and the board are most proud of their support for expanding housing security in the region. Their goals are to increase both the number and livability of housing, as well as to ensure that families and individuals can find and maintain housing. Last year, \$1 million was reserved to purchase rental housing held by investor landlords. Additionally, half a million dollars went to Front Porch, an organization that provides very low-interest gap financing to startup developers.

They are also partnering with Spark Academy to create a training program for new housing developers and entrepreneurs in Council Bluffs who want to enter the business but need some training. They partnered with the city, Lutheran Family Services, and private developer Arch Icon to secure EFA funds to complete a capital stack for building low-income and affordable apartments on a particularly challenging piece of property.

Additionally, they allocated \$150,000 to an organization that provides housing assistance, particularly when federal and state funds do not cover emergencies. For about \$1,400 per family, they can help keep someone in their home. This amount is comparable to the cost of eviction. When someone is threatened with eviction, less than \$1,500 can often prevent it.

Last month, they awarded another \$250,000 because the program is highly effective, helping approximately 200 families and individuals stay housed who otherwise would not have been able to remain in their homes. They continue to support our community housing coalition, which greatly informs their work.

They made a \$4 million pledge to the city of Council Bluffs a few years ago to help increase housing. They have now released the second \$1 million of that pledge. The goal is to develop 1,300 houses over ten years. In just three years, the city of Council Bluffs has 3,000 units either in development, approved, under construction, or ready for lease and sale. The current focus is on ensuring these units are fully occupied.

Ms. Mainwaring said that their gaming partners are a very important part of their work. Harrah's, in particular, participated in community discussions as one of their largest employers. They collaborate to explore grant opportunities and address legislative issues.

Mr. Roberts said that 2025 was a successful year. One of their biggest challenges is competition. While it isn't impacting their ability to staff the casino, it is gradually eroding the retail market. They have been able to increase revenue with players who have loyalty cards.

Mr. Roberts mentioned several initiatives they've implemented to encourage loyal players to return, including opening their valet service, launching a VIP lounge, and using the Laurel VIP lounge for concert viewing. Table game revenue has increased by 11.5% year over year. They redesigned their pit, expanded table game hours, and added new types of games. Electronic tables have also been introduced to expand their e-table footprint.

On the non-gaming side, they completed hotel renovations in the previous year and finished the lobby in 2025. Hotel revenue grew by 23%. They hosted over 73,000 concert visitors, representing a 36% increase from last year. Mr. Roberts is pleased to report that there were no responsible gaming issues in 2025. They are actively supporting Heartland Family Services through both financial contributions and event attendance. Mr. Roberts said that as they move into 2026, they have invested half a million dollars in new slot machines, replacing chairs and wallpaper. Mr. Roberts concluded by saying they have an amazing team of 381 members, ranked 16th in the company, and he is proud of them.

Chair Burkhart then opened the floor to questions. She commended Mr. Roberts for their proactive approach regarding the Nebraska competition, noting that the very slight decrease in attendance and the nearly flat AGR over the year demonstrate their resilience despite increased competition.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen 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:

- Caesars Entertainment Operating Company – Inter-Company Allocations and Benefit Expenses (RP)
- Cintas Corporation – Uniform Vendor
- Doll Distributing – Alcoholic Beverage Distributor
- Ecolab – Pest Control
- Grainger – Maintenance Supplies
- Hockenberg's – Kitchen Equipment
- Liberty Fruit – Food Supplier
- Pepsi Bottling Group – Beverage Vendor
- Pinnacle Construction – Construction Vendor
- RR Donnelly and Sons Co. – Marking Collateral

- Rotella's Bakery – Food Supplier
- Staples Advantage – Office Supplies
- The Printer, Inc – Printer for Marketing Collateral

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Harveys Iowa Management Company LLC. Commissioner Olsen 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 noted that for 2025, \$2.9 million in total grants were awarded. One of the largest grants was for \$90,000, awarded to Bettendorf Community School District for replacing instruments for band and orchestra. Similarly, they gave \$78,000 to Davenport for the same purposes. On the smaller grant side, he stated that they provided money for language and literacy support and hot meals on holidays to living well centers. He also detailed a \$4 million commitment over 12 years to the new pool and aquatic center in Bettendorf. He closed by stating that they have a steady relationship with Isle of Capri Bettendorf, and the Scott County Regional Authority looks forward to a continued partnership.

Ms. Ballenger opened by stating that in 2025, they saw market growth overall, and that it translated to Isle of Capri Bettendorf as well. She said one of their focuses is bringing revenue from out of state into Iowa. In 2025, they opened a new restaurant to try to provide increased options to their hotel guests. She noted that they made the transition to 24/7 operations in the casino. Ms. Ballenger also stated that as part of the renewal, they have included the \$900,000 renovation of the North Tower of the hotel, which is well underway.

Ms. Ballenger stated that beyond infrastructure and upkeep for the facility, which is important, they are also working on the riverfront restaurant. They are working with a third party to lease out the space, and they hope to bring something back to the Commission soon with details. In addition, they are looking at a large purchase of new slot machines to keep their gaming operations fresh for their customers.

Commissioner Olsen noted that Isle of Capri had a high increase in adjusted gross receipts, and questioned whether that was mostly due to the switch to 24/7 operations. Ms. Ballenger confirmed that was part of it, but that different marketing and leveraging the Caesars' player database also played a role, along with partnering with some of their sister property promotions.

Chair Burkhart noted that of all the licensees, Isle of Capri Bettendorf had the fewest fines in 2025. There were no Commission level fines, and only a single \$1,000 Gaming Board fine for the entire calendar year.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Boal 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, and renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Ms. Ballenger presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Atlantic Bottling Company – Coca-Cola Product Vendor
- C3 Booking LLC – Entertainment Booking Service
- Doors Inc – Door Repairs and Replacement
- Ecolab – Provides Dishwashing Equipment and Supplies and Pest Control Services
- Edward Don – Restaurant Supplies and Equipment
- JKR LLC dba Another Round Liquors – Liquor Vendor
- Keg 1 Iowa LLC – Beer Vendor
- King Food Service – Food Vendor – Provides Steaks, Poultry and Seafood
- Myers-Cox Company – Tobacco Vendor
- Performance Food Group – Food Vendor
- Shaw Contract Flooring Services Inc – Hotel Carpet (OSV)
- Sonifi Solutions Inc – Hotel In-Room TV
- Sysco Food Services of Iowa – Food Vendor
- Treiber Construction – General Construction and Concrete Repairs
- Ulster Carpet Mills – Banquet Space Carpet (OSV)
- Vibrant Arena – Purchase of Event Tickets, Luxury Box and Sponsorships
- Wilson Restaurant Supply LLC – Restaurant Supplies and Equipment

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

Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd./Diamond Jo, LLC: Wendy Runde, General Manager, Diamond Jo, LLC and Ms. Thielen, respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Ms. Runde said 2025 was a solid year for the Dubuque market. Gross gaming revenue was up 2.5% over 2024. Diamond Jo finished relatively flat compared to 2024, but 2024 was a record year. 2025 was still the second-highest year in Diamond Jo's history for gross gaming revenue, coming in at \$78.5 million.

Outside of gaming revenue, Ms. Runde noted non-gaming amenities continue to be great assets with most outlets seeing growth compared to 2024. From a responsible gaming perspective, the property is accustomed to two formal refresher trainings each year. In March and September, all team members get responsible gaming packets and pass quizzes. Training is done to educate every team member that keeping minors off the floor is everybody's responsibility. Select positions are

retrained periodically on responsible alcohol service and how to detect and handle intoxicated patrons. Additional measures to keep responsible gaming top of mind include annual online training required enterprise-wide across Boyd properties; a responsible gaming tip in the weekly communication to all team members; bulletin boards several times a year; and partnering with local substance abuse service centers to provide a booth twice a year with additional information and resources.

Ms. Runde also highlighted a newer initiative on the responsible gaming front: the property upgraded from a non-forensic based ID scanner to Veridocs in March 2025. The investment in that system has been positive for the security team and resulted in a decrease in incidents on the casino floor.

Ms. Runde noted another top accomplishment for the property. In October 2025, weapons detectors were installed at all three guest entrances and at the team member entrance. During the first three months after that, 294 weapons (8 guns and 286 knives) were stopped from being carried onto the casino floor. In addition, although stabilizing food and beverage offerings is a work in progress, the lights are on at all outlets and those outlets are working their way back, which Diamond Jo hasn't been able to say for several years.

Ms. Runde indicated she thinks the QSO partners have inspiring stories to tell and is very proud of the approximately \$4 million Diamond Jo gives back to DRA each year. She is also particularly proud of the Diamond Jo team for stepping up personally and exceeding a goal of personal contributions for the Giving the Boyd Way initiative. Diamond Jo Dubuque exceeded the goal by so much that it is at the top of the list of giving per capita within Boyd Gaming.

Ms. Runde also discussed reinvestments in the property. The Bell Street Eatery is now complete, which was a nearly \$3 million investment in the former buffet space. 2025 also saw investment of just under \$3 million in property improvement and gaming equipment, and over \$5 million in capital expenditures is forecasted for 2026.

Finding and keeping good employees, especially for housekeeping and security positions, continues to be an operational challenge. However, the property has important goals for the year ahead: growing revenue, driving traffic to the property, and remaining relevant and fresh while providing a clean, safe, and fun environment. Ms. Runde emphasized that Diamond Jo does not take today's opportunity for granted and it is an honor and privilege to hold a casino license.

Ms. Thielen then noted the DRA continues to steward gaming revenues responsibly, reinvesting funds into projects and nonprofit organizations to strengthen the community. The partnership between DRA and Diamond Jo remains strong, and leadership and team members actively engage with the DRA on their own initiative. The volunteer efforts demonstrate the relationship between the QSO and operator extends beyond financial contributions and reflects a shared commitment to the community. And it's great that the community sees a team in this together, growing the unity of the region. Ms. Thielen then invited Mr. Williams back to the podium on behalf of DRA. Mr.

Williams highlighted the unique operating model with the partnership between DRA and Diamond Jo and indicated he is very appreciative of the collaboration.

Commissioner Burkhart congratulated Diamond Jo Dubuque on having the highest Iowa spend at 99% and thanked the property for their commitment to utilizing a substantial amount of Iowa goods and services.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren 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 Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Ms. Runde presented a contract with Trane US Inc for a chiller refurbishment for Commission approval.

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

At 10:57 AM Chair Burkhart called for a ten-minute break. The meeting resumed at 11:07 AM.

Missouri River Historical Development, Inc./SCE Partners, LLC (dba Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City): Doug Fisher, General Manager, SCE Partners, LLC and David Bernstein, President, Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD) respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Fisher opened by noting that Hard Rock Hotel & Casino had a strong financial year in 2025, with solid revenue and attendance despite increased competition from Nebraska. He credited Churchill Downs' continued investment in the property, including \$3.7 million in capital improvements during 2025, such as the transition of the World Tour Buffet and Hall, new sound equipment for Anthem, new slot products, and replacement of all slot, pit, and Main & Abbey chairs. Total capital investment since opening has now exceeded \$40 million. Looking ahead to 2026, the property plans to reinvest in refreshed gaming products, new table game bases and pit stands, surveillance upgrades, new seating for Anthem, updated TVs, and a new elevator cab for the hotel.

Mr. Fisher highlighted the completion of Encore Hall as one of the year's major accomplishments. The venue has already hosted business, holiday, and community events, including an upcoming Safe Place gala featuring Joe Petito. The hall has also enhanced the property's ability to serve high-end players, with a notable increase in VIP visits from July through December. Hard Rock again retained its AAA Four Diamond Award for the eleventh consecutive year and the AAA Inspected Clean Award for the third year.

Mr. Fisher emphasized the company's ongoing community commitment, including serving as the presenting sponsor of Saturday in the Park for the eleventh year, raising over \$25,000 through the Hard Rock Heals golf tournament for the Sioux City Conservatory of Music, and supporting the Food Bank of Siouxland's Kentucky Derby fundraiser with donated grand prize tickets. Mr. Fisher noted that team members support both the Hard Rock and Churchill Downs brands and that the property once again passed Hard Rock's brand compliance evaluation.

Mr. Fisher reviewed safety and compliance improvements made in 2025, including upgrading 70 surveillance cameras, implementing weekly leadership walkthroughs focused on compliance and security reporting, adding license plate recognition and blind-spot cameras, increasing parking lot patrols, installing weapon detection systems at all casino entrances, and reinforcing cage security. Mr. Fisher also reported that Iowa spend increased from 91.2 to 93.5 percent, with additional spending in the state by other Churchill Downs properties. Ongoing challenges include staffing and rising costs, but the property remains focused on enhancing amenities and strengthening retention for both guests and employees. Mr. Fisher also emphasized the strong partnership with MRHD, noting regular communication, participation in merchant meetings, and hosting MRHD grant awards in Encore Hall.

Mr. Bernstein emphasized the strong and collaborative relationship between MRHD and Hard Rock, noting that both organizations work closely together and consistently leverage their partnership for community benefit. Mr. Bernstein reported that MRHD awarded more than \$4 million in grants over the past year to 87 tax-exempt organizations, local governments, and educational institutions throughout Woodbury County and the broader Siouxland region. Mr. Bernstein highlighted major grants, including \$550,000 to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and a \$450,000 economic development grant to support the launch of a childcare center in Merville, as well as smaller community-based awards such as a \$2,500 grant for a local ice cream event in Cushing. He noted that MRHD expanded its scholarship programs to additional colleges in Iowa and Nebraska, awarding \$40,000 in scholarships as part of \$425,000 in total educational funding. Mr. Bernstein expressed appreciation for Hard Rock's work on Encore Hall, which MRHD now uses for awards and planning events, and mentioned recent collaboration with the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation. Mr. Bernstein concluded by reaffirming MRHD's satisfaction with the partnership and its commitment to a long-term relationship with Hard Rock.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen 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 Ostergren 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 Randy Waagmeester, President, Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, Inc. respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Ms. Haselhoff indicated 2025 was a strong and stable year with \$112.4 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. This strong performance occurred even with ongoing road construction affecting main routes in the area, which forced guests driving to the property to detour through residential areas for about a month. While this was a short-term challenge, the road construction represents a long-term infrastructure improvement that will ultimately benefit the property and the state.

Ms. Haselhoff touched on a few proud accomplishments from 2025. First, she noted a continued focus on improving guest satisfaction through shorter jackpot payout times (now under 7 minutes) and food ticket times across all outlets. Second, employees logged a collective 8,067 volunteer hours in local communities, and Grand Falls placed second (to Riverside) in the Governor's Give Back Challenge in April and May.

Ms. Haselhoff also noted training and compliance remain top priorities, with a full range of trainings including guest service, leadership development, alcohol refresher trainings, and department-specific trainings. Leadership involvement in these trainings strengthens accountability and reinforces expectations.

With respect to investments in the property, more than \$1.3 million was spent on improvements, maintenance, and gaming equipment in 2025, including an updated golf cart fleet. IT infrastructure also saw significant investment with a new server rack and an updated hotel door lock system. With a 15-year anniversary of operations approaching, investment will continue to focus on necessary infrastructure and on keeping the gaming floor updated. The entertainment budget will double in 2026 to support that 15-year anniversary celebration.

Ms. Haselhoff then introduced Mr. Waagmeester. Mr. Waagmeester highlighted that the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation has distributed more than \$30 million to charitable and civil organizations since 2011. In 2025, they distributed over \$4 million, including \$1.7 million to cities, towns, and school districts in Lyon County. Revenue for 2025 was comparable to prior years and the Foundation truly appreciates the longstanding cooperative relationship with Grand Falls.

Mr. Waagmeester then discussed some of the grants that were awarded, including their mini-grant program where they awarded grants of \$3,000 each. The 2025 program resulted in awarding \$151,000 to 51 organizations across northwest Iowa, southwest Minnesota, and southeast South Dakota. Rock Rapids, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota each had seven organizations that received mini-grants. These grants have become a marketing tool because of the unique geographic location of LCRF in the northwest corner of Iowa.

Mr. Waagmeester also noted some larger grants awarded over the past year, including \$350,000 to the City of Inwood to rebuild its community center and \$150,000 to West Lyon Community School for an inclusive playground that contains equipment designed for more accessible

participation and use by children with disabilities. Overall, the competitive grant program resulted in \$1.4 million awarded to 18 organizations in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. And one continuing organization receiving funding is the Midwest Honor Flight to transport veterans to Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Olsen mentioned that he has noticed several recent incidents at the property involving ID screening. He asked Ms. Haselhoff to walk through what the facility is doing to address those. Ms. Haselhoff indicated they have added training for security personnel on ID checking, and they have also updated the Veridocs scanning system.

Chair Burkhart asked Ms. Haselhoff about staffing numbers, noting there were 494 employees last year and 455 now. Ms. Haselhoff indicated housekeeping and maintenance teams continue to see turnover, especially in a competitive Sioux Falls market. The property is also working to hire more table games dealers. They anticipate exceeding 500 employees during the summer with seasonal positions including golf course employees and lifeguards.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Boal 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 Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Ms. Haselhoff presented the following contracts for Commissioner approval:

- Heinemann Restoration Inc – Exterior Building Caulking (OSV)
- MWI Pumps – Replacement Waterfall Pumps (OSV)
- Turfwerks – Replacement Golf Course Greens Mowers
- William Morris Endeavor Entertainment – Talent Management Agency (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren 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 requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. Moine said 2025 was a great year as admissions were up nine percent and non-gaming revenue was up 19 percent. He said along with the sister properties in Bettendorf and Council Bluffs, they had the first in Iowa table games wide area progressive involving multiple properties. The jackpot got to over a million dollars and created a lot of buzz. Mr. Moine said on the slot side they focused on keeping the games new and exciting for guests. They opened the Isle Oasis cocktail lounge offering live music on the weekends. He said they have attempted to capitalize on the parks in the area and have those guests stay in the hotel, eat in the restaurant, and partake in gaming activities.

They have also partnered with the local event center to make Isle the preferred hotel as well as offer a shuttle from the facility to the event center. Mr. Moine said they have seen increased traffic during typically slower times such as Fourth of July.

Mr. Moine said they have responsible gaming ambassadors who are on property at all times. These individuals are available for questions from guests or team members who may have questions. He said staff members can report concerning comments from guests to the ambassadors who will then speak with the guests. They also have a responsible gaming committee which meets quarterly to discuss processes.

Mr. Moine said they finished the hotel refresh project a couple of years ago and are now focused on the casino floor. He said they spent half a million dollars to replace all the chairs and plan to spend a million dollars on new carpet, wall coverings, and reimagining some spaces on the casino floor.

Ms. Hanson said in 2025 the Black Hawk County Gaming Association distributed over \$6.2 million to fund 44 different non-profit and government entities in the area including 14 different cities. She said the grants focus on two main areas: supporting capital improvement projects and capacity building grants for organizations addressing real community needs. Ms. Hanson said one of the largest grants was for \$1 million to Hawkeye Community College for a skilled trades program. She said the Black Hawk County Gaming Association provided one of their smallest grants of \$250 to the Waterloo Public Library to purchase additional audio and electronic books. Ms. Hanson said their board partnered with Mr. Moine and other members of the property's leadership to volunteer at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Mr. Moine said he wanted to amend the license renewal request to maintain the certified peace officer schedule of 7 pm to 3 am daily. Commissioner Ostergren said he was glad to hear the initially requested change was removed as he would not have been in favor of a change. Commissioner Ostergren said the Commission issued a very large fine in October of 2023 and has required certified peace officer coverage since that time. He said officer presence is the most effective way to maintain peace.

Mr. Moine said they work closely with Waterloo PD. He said that the officers are working at the facility in addition to their regularly scheduled shifts. Also, Waterloo PD works with several other businesses and events in the community to provide additional police coverage. Mr. Moine said they are trying to find a balance between the facility's needs for security and safety and the needs of the community.

Commissioner Ostergren said that DCI indicated to commission staff that they have concerns about reducing the Waterloo PD coverage at the facility. Commissioner Ostergren said he wanted to receive clarity on the amendment to the submission regarding the security plan and certified peace officer coverage. He said he would vote yes on the license renewal if the current approved security plan remains in place and would want to see a document for review before approving any security plan changes.

Chair Burkhart asked if there were other changes to the security plan that are being requested along with the license renewal. Mr. Moine said there were some training items as well. Chair Burkhart

said it would be best to remove any changes to the security plan from the license renewal request and submit those at a future meeting.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren 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. with the facility's existing security plan to remain in effect. Commissioner Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Hyder stated that they are proud of their working relationship with RDA and they are grateful for the work that they do for the community and introduced Stacey Braden to share.

Mr. Braden thanked the IRGC staff and commissioners for their continued commitment and shared that the RDA is approaching a major milestone of \$100 million in total grants awarded. In 2025, the RDA distributed 143 grants totaling \$4.4 million, with awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Braden emphasized the board's careful review process and highlighted the strong and growing partnership with Rhythm City Casino.

Mr. Braden outlined several notable grants from 2025, including \$375,000 to the City of Davenport for Riverside Park, \$100,000 to the YMCA in Le Claire, \$50,000 to the Hilltop Campus Village initiative, \$25,000 to the Princeton Volunteer Fire Department, and \$10,000 to the City of Eldridge for park restrooms. Several multi-year funding projects were also highlighted, such as \$600,000 for affordable housing initiatives, \$600,000 for a human services campus, and \$480,000 to expand the local food bank. Mr. Braden emphasized the RDA's unique role as a QSO capable of investing across multiple layers of community and economic development and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to make these investments possible.

Mr. Hyder reported that both gaming and non-gaming amenities saw increases in 2025, though competitive pressure from Illinois continues to challenge revenue growth and margins. Mr. Hyder reaffirmed the property's focus on growing the Quad Cities market while protecting Iowa's share of regional gaming activity. Mr. Hyder detailed the property's commitment to responsible gaming, including staff training, partnerships with the Center for Alcohol and Drug Services, visible on-site resources, and guest engagement events.

Mr. Hyder noted that the casino will celebrate its 10-year land-based anniversary and plans to invest approximately \$1 million annually from 2027 to 2030 to address hotel wear and tear and other facility needs. Additional capital spending in 2026 includes new slot machines, relocation of the retail sportsbook, and upgrades to surveillance and count room equipment. Mr. Hyder concluded by noting that Rhythm City's total economic impact in 2025 exceeded \$90 million, an

increase of more than five percent from the previous year, and respectfully requested approval of the casino's gaming license on behalf of all team members.

Commissioner Olsen and Chair Burkhardt asked additional clarifying questions regarding funding reserves as well as how the facility plans to not repeat last year in terms of regulatory violations. Mr. Hyder addressed Chair Burkhardt's concerns by noting job functions and procedures are reviewed, that more recurring training has been implemented.

Hearing no additional comments or questions, Chair Burkhardt requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen 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, and renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Rhythm City Casino, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

- CDW, LLC – Life Cycle Replacement of Enterprise Computer Hardware & Related Firmware (OSV)
- Dunham Industries – Comedian – Jeff Dunham (OSV)
- Fortune Wisconsin – Specialty Food Purchases (OSV)
- Guest Supply a Sysco Company – Hotel Room Supplies & Linens
- HD Supply – Environmental Services Supplies
- Luxottica of America – Oakley/Rayban Sunglasses & Apparel for Gift Shop Resale (OSV)
- MM Touring – Comedian – Matt Mathews (OSV)
- Plastered Touring – Comedian – Ron White (OSV)
- US Foods – Food Purchases

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhardt requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as presented by Rhythm City Casino, LLC. Commissioner Boal 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.

Ms. Hanson noted Worth County Development Authority committed over \$6.6 million this past year. That includes 116 organizational grants, a scholarship program, back-to-school gift cards, preschool tuition, and educational funds for local school districts, including some outside Worth County (approximately 10% of organizational grant rounds). The smallest grant was still very useful: \$183 for a weed trimmer to maintain a historic property in the county. The largest grant was \$317,000 to the Grafton Fire Department for a new fire truck. All seven fire departments in

Worth County are volunteer, so it would take years of pancake breakfasts and chili suppers to raise that kind of money for these departments.

Ms. Hanson then revisited an item she highlighted last year: a new tourism project, the Manly Junction Railroad Museum. That project includes an event center and is almost ready to open its doors. The project was large, Worth County Development Authority's grant was just a small part of the funding, and the museum just brought in three restored passenger railroad cars. It's wonderful to see that kind of amenity come to north Iowa.

Ms. Hanson also provided some data on the scholarship program. Worth County Development Authority committed nearly a million dollars to that program. Eighty-one Worth County students qualified for a scholarship of over \$12,000. Only four of those are attending college out of state. The rest are attending a variety of schools in Iowa. Worth County doesn't have any colleges in it, but those scholarship funds remain in the state.

Ms. Hanson also noted education funding provided by Worth County Development Authority, including earmarked funds for teachers to purchase classroom supplies and a gift card program providing approximately 1,200 students with a gift card for parents to purchase back-to-school items. Ms. Hanson then invited Mr. Smith back to the podium.

Mr. Smith indicated the property had a great 2025, with revenue up six percent over the previous year. That marks three consecutive years of growth and he attributes that to the strong foundation at the property.

With respect to responsible gaming, Mr. Smith noted Diamond Jo Worth hosts periodic training but also includes a module on responsible gaming every day in new hire orientation. The property also invites a service provider to the property twice a year to host a booth.

As far as operational highlights, Mr. Smith noted last year's remodel of the hotel rooms and lobby, as well as the ongoing remodel of the building exterior. In addition, slot products continue to be refreshed. Mr. Smith noted April 2026 will mark 20 years of operation for the property, and it's remarkable the impact that a humble casino in the middle of a cornfield has made on the community.

Diamond Jo Worth also installed weapon detectors at its entrances and, since installation, has identified 328 knives and 20 guns and prevented those items from going onto the gaming floor. These numbers indicate the system is working. The property continues to see some challenges, including finding quality employees and executives, and finding vendors in these less populated areas of Iowa that can provide the goods and services needed. But they continue to work to overcome these challenges.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Boal 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 Ostergren 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 Brandon Hamilton, President of Washington County Riverboat Foundation, Inc., respectfully requested their licenses be renewed.

Mr. John noted that this past year was the 19th year of operation. He noted Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, with its approximately 700 employees, is the largest employer in Washington County. In addition to being a fully integrated resort, Mr. John also noted that community support and volunteerism is a given for their property. The Winning Hands program won the Give Back Iowa Challenge last year for the eighth straight year. With 2026 being their 20th anniversary, they are looking forward to a number of entertainment opportunities to celebrate, including outdoor concerts, and a fireworks display.

Mr. John also noted that as an operator, they take responsible gaming very seriously. They enlist local resources and community partners to conduct annual training for any staff member that works in an area where they may encounter problem gambling behavior. In March, their local provider has set up a table in the rotunda to provide resources to patrons, and that leaders and staff members at Riverside communicate well and won't hesitate to have conversations with players that show signs of problem gambling behavior. Mr. John closed by noting that they are beginning a hotel refresh in May, and that they are proud to sponsor and welcome the a new ice hockey league to their market.

Mr. Hamilton began by recognizing Patty Koller, founding member of the Washington County Riverboat Foundation, and current Executive Director. The largest grant award in 2025 was \$3.5 million to the Washington Athletic Booster Club for construction of an indoor sports practice facility. Mr. Hamilton noted that the smallest grant was for \$1,400 to Farm to Filmfest for computer equipment and signage during their festival in Washington, IA. Mr. Hamilton also stated that they made their first \$500,000 payment on a \$1 million grant awarded in 2024 to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, with the rest to be distributed in June of 2026. In addition, a number of organizations received funding from their surprise grant committee, including the Iowa Mission of Mercy that treated patients during its two-day free dental clinic. The QSO also recently signed a new 10-year agreement with Riverside Casino & Golf Resort.

Chair Burkhart noted that Commission staff has had a few concerns with the current ID scanners not providing immediate notification on some types of flags. She asked Mr. John if they are looking at a different type of system, or if he can speak to that concern. Mr. John noted that they are looking at all of the hardware and the internal audit team for these systems, and that it is a focus for them.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart 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, and renew the license to conduct sports wagering to Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

- Lakefront Entertainment LLC dba Fran Romeo – Booking and Commission Fees for Entertainment (OSV)
- Van-Wall Equipment – Four (4) Greens Mowers, One (1) Utility Tractor, One (1) Turbine Blower
- Video Security Specialists – Surveillance Equipment (OSV)

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

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.

Paul Czak introduced Brenda Mainwaring.

Ms. Mainwaring spoke about strengthening their nonprofit capacity. In 2025, they issued \$1,000 grants to Avoca, Crescent, and Neola. They provided scholarships to staff of nonprofit partners, including sending 36 individuals from southwest Iowa to the States Housing Rural Summit and Nature Summit. Last year, they had more than 2,500 touchpoints within the local community to engage neighbors on how to change their demographics. In October, they partnered with the Chamber and the Iowa Economic Development Authority to share what they learned from the community.

Ms. Mainwaring closed by saying that the work they do to support and grow their community is only possible through the gaming resources entrusted to them. She requested approval of their license.

Paul Czak said responsible gaming is important as other properties indicated. He said they randomly select team members to fill out responsible gaming surveys. In their monthly compliance committee meetings, the information is passed along to department heads, who then have individual conversations with the team members to ensure they understand responsible gaming information is not something they should just throw away.

Mr. Czak said they have had a strong focus on unattended minors over the last several years. They have reduced the number of unattended minors on the property by 75% over the past three years.

Mr. Czak mentioned that some initiatives rolled out last year included digital check-in and check-out for the hotel. They also introduced Penn Wallet, a digital wallet that allows people to avoid going to the cage or paying ATM fees, check fees, or credit card advance fees. As a result, they experienced a 530% basis point increase in guest service scores and a 200 basis point increase in team member engagement scores.

Mr. Czak closed by advising last month they celebrated their 30th anniversary. He requested the renewal of their license.

Chair Burkhart asked whether they plan to use any certified peace officers at their facility, as they have done in the past.

Mr. Czak said they have \$180,000 in their budget to do it, but the police chief says they are too short-staffed at this time.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen 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 Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contract: Mr. Czak presented a contract with Aramark Refreshment Services for an outsourced micromarket for the employee dining room for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contract as presented by Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, LLC. Commissioner Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

HARVEYS IOWA MANAGEMENT COMPANY LLC: Mr. Roberts presented their request for a remodel of some semi-public space in their basement area. He said currently this space is a shared area between a training room, green rooms and a workout area. He said during concert season things have to be moved around and it is not very convenient for the guests. They want to move the workout facility to some empty office space to avoid this going forward.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen moved to approve the remodel request as presented by Harveys Iowa Management Company, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren 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:

- Caesars Entertainment Operating Company – Inter-Company Allocations and Benefit Expenses (RP)
- Cintas Corporation – Uniform Vendor
- Doll Distributing – Alcoholic Beverage Distributor
- Ecolab – Pest Control
- Grainger – Maintenance Supplies
- Harrah's Iowa Arena Management LLC – Management of Mid-America Center (RP)
- Hockenberg's – Kitchen Equipment

- Liberty Fruit – Food Supplier
- Pepsi Bottling Group – Beverage Vendor
- Pinnacle Construction – Construction Vendor
- RR Donnelly and Sons Co – Marketing Collateral
- Rotella Bakery – Food Supplier
- Staples Advantage – Office Supplies
- The Printer, Inc – Printer for Marketing Collateral

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

PRAIRIE MEADOWS RACETRACK & CASINO, INC.:

Request for Approval of the 45-Day Plan for the 2026 Mixed Meet: Mr. Ohorilko presented the 45-day plan for the 2026 mixed meet. He said this plan outlines some finer details of the 75-day race meet (plus a bonus day for the Kentucky Derby day) that was approved at the January Commission meeting.

Chair Burkhart said she knows how hard this has been and appreciates them continuing to work on it and foster the relationship between all the parties to come to an agreement that everyone is satisfied with. She said she looks forward to a great racing season.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Boal moved to approve the application for season approval and the contents contained within, contingent upon: the immediate written notifications to IRGC staff of any change in racing official positions; the completion of necessary IRGC licensing and DCI background checks of racing officials; and Prairie Meadows staff working with IRGC staff to ensure backside security is thoroughly reviewed and implemented prior to the season. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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

- Carrier Access – Computer Equipment and Maintenance
- City of Des Moines – Payments to the City; Value TBD Based on Revenue
- Daktronics – Video Board Repairs (OSV)
- Locust Motion – Advertising Services
- Midwest Ambulance – Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services
- Principal Financial Group and Affiliates – 401K Plans for Employees; Investment Services
- Rockstar Satellite – Satellite TV Service Installation and Maintenance
- Tero Training – Employee Training (RP)
- Vena Solutions USA Inc. – Financial Planning and Analytics Application (OSV)

Chair Burkhart asked about the contract with Tero Training and what this work involved. Mr. Ohorilko stated this is training for their leaders as well as some individual coaching sessions. He said they felt it was important as they moved into this transition. He said a lot of the leadership has been there for a long time and they felt an additional perspective and some individual coaching was important. Chair Burkhart said she commends him for undertaking that project and said she knows it's difficult to make time for training but investing in their team is very much appreciated.

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

CEDAR RAPIDS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC:

Request for Approval of Material Debt Transaction: Doug Gross, Brown Winick Law, presented the debt transaction that Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC is seeking approval for. He said they are looking to expand the amount of debt they are taking on up to an additional \$120 million from what was approved last August. He said the terms are the same and he said this will reduce the cost of the fairly expensive developmental debt that they had, allowing them to pay some of that off with this much lower priced debt.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the debt transaction as presented by Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC. Commissioner Boal seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Contracts: Kim Pang, General Manager presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Berg Liquor Systems, LLC – Smart Liquor System (OSV)
- Carroll Seating, Inc. – Telescopic Seating Solution

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

Mr. Pang then gave an update on the construction progress. He said everything is on track and they are working on sequencing the mechanical, electrical and plumbing so they don't have to backtrack. He said their big focus right now is millwork. He said they are also in the process of reviewing systems so they can determine what system they want to use for the entire casino.

HEARINGS:

Rhythm City Casino, LLC: Ms. Eick presented the Stipulated Agreement for a violation of Iowa Code § 99F.9(7). This violation involved a patron using a credit card to purchase gift certificates that were later exchanged for cash and used to gamble.

Mr. Hyder said it is very unfortunate that this incident happened at one of the busiest times of the year for them. He said the employee that did this transaction is an excellent employee and has a strong background with them. He said the employee just moved through the transaction a little too quickly as they were busy and failed to address the warning message. Mr. Hyder said since then they have reconfigured their point-of-sale system so that now if a gift certificate is sold it automatically locks it down if a credit card is used. Mr. Hyder did point out that although it was six gift certificates that were purchased for \$20 each, it was a single transaction and therefore he was hoping for a lower penalty.

Mr. Hyder said this was an instance where a doctor had brought in six of her staff members around the holidays and gave them each a gift certificate. He believes the intent was good but the way it was executed was the issue. Normally, paper gift certificates are sold only in the gift shop and may only be purchased using cash. These instruments are specifically designed for use on the gaming floor and may be redeemed for chips or cash at the cage. In contrast, gift cards can be purchased for other non-gaming venues at the facility.

Chair Burkhart said she appreciated Mr. Hyder's statement in support of his employee. Commissioner Olsen said that as they continue to encourage self-reporting, in these situations, it's important to keep that open relationship with the operators.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement with an administrative penalty of \$5,000. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF IOWA RACE HORSE AFTER CARE FUND: Ms. Eick advised there is approximately \$33,115 available for distribution. Ms. Eick stated there were two applications for the funds, Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds (HART) and Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, which both met the selection criteria outlined in 99D.27A.

Commissioner Boal suggested that the money be split equally plus one dollar to HART since they have more Iowa bred horses. Commissioner Olsen said he sees it a little bit differently and since they try to promote Iowa spend and the one entity is in New York and one is in Iowa, he would be more in favor of giving all the money to HART. Commissioner Ostergren said he agreed with Commissioner Olsen but could be open to giving a smaller amount of \$2,000 to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Chair Burkhart said she agreed that they expect their licensees to spend in Iowa so they should do the same and since most licensees are at or above 90% Iowa spend, she could support Commissioner Ostergren's suggestion of giving \$2,000 to Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation.

Hearing no further comments for discussion, Chair Burkhart requested a motion. Commissioner Olsen moved to approve \$2,000 of the Iowa Race Horse After Care Fund to Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation and the balance to Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds (HART). Commissioner Ostergren 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 2025 with Iowa vendors, or 90.27% 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 96.21%. Chair Burkhart pointed out that these numbers are virtually identical to last year and Ms. Eick agreed.

Notice of Horse Racing Promotion Fund: Ms. Eick advised there is \$1,895.60 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, 2026. 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 2026 as reported by Prairie Meadows are as follows:

- Thoroughbreds - \$18,836,130.87
- Quarter Horses - \$3,779,618.37
- Standardbreds - \$2,168,633.49

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

Update on Legislation: Mr. Ranscht talked about some legislative proposals related to Commissioner travel expenses, cease and desist authority, and the consequences of criminal convictions for unlawful betting, that were submitted through DIAL for this legislative session. He said the current version of the bill is Senate File 2289 and if passed and signed it would raise the Commissioner travel expense cap from \$30,000 to \$70,000, and it would include the other proposals as well. He said it was also amended in the Senate to add some changes to tax withholding for certain categories that are meant to follow suit with recent federal changes. The bill has passed the Senate unanimously but has not come up for vote in the House.

Chair Burkhart asked if there were any other bills that affect gaming that weren't brought forward by the commission that he thinks need to be on the radar. Mr. Ranscht said we are tracking several others including the smoke-free casino bill, distribution of QSO money, as well as bills pertaining to public records and open meetings.

Chair Burkhart said she had a lot of questions from the QSO partners at the QSO reception the previous evening regarding the distribution of QSO money. Mr. Ranscht said that this did not pass the first funnel. He said it could be brought back as an amendment, but it is probably not going forward this session.

Chair Burkhart said she knows at one point there was a bill that addressed prediction markets. She asked Mr. Ranscht to please give an update on the status of that in the state of Iowa. Mr. Ranscht stated that this was not something that the Commission brought forward, but one legislator did propose a bill to register contract markets with the Department of Revenue, not IRGC. He said that it has not yet received a subcommittee hearing.

Chair Burkhart noted that there has been a lot of news on the prediction market front and the American Gaming Association (AGA) recently came out with a statement formally saying that they feel that it should come under regular gaming controls. She was curious if the Iowa Gaming Association (IGA) would follow suit and come out with a similar statement. She said if anyone has anything to share in relation to prediction markets, now would be the time.

Commissioner Boal said that these companies' legal position is that this is a federal preemption issue that supersedes state law. He said if some definitive determination occurs (perhaps from the U.S. Supreme Court) that says this is not covered by federal law and that states can regulate it, it could be beneficial if state law clarified who had jurisdiction. Chair Burkhart said that while IRGC doesn't legislate, as a regulator she is concerned that gambling is happening without any relationship to our statewide self-exclusion database or our underage gambling initiatives.

ADJOURN: Chair Burkhart adjourned the meeting at 1:12 PM.