



Washington State Gambling Commission

Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.

February 8, 2024

Revised - Gambling Special Commission Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Liquor and Cannabis Board Building in Olympia, WA.

Commissioners:

Chair Alicia Levy – In person
Vice Chair Julia Patterson – Excused
Bud Sizemore – In person
Sarah Lawson – In person
Anders Ibsen – In person

Ex Officio Members Present:

Senator Steve Conway – Excused
Senator Jeff Holy – Excused
Representative Shelley Kloba – Excused
Representative Eric Robertson – Virtual

Staff Present:

Tina Griffin, Director; Gary Drumheller, Deputy Director; Kriscinda Hansen, Chief Financial Operator; Adam Amorine, Staff Attorney, and Interim Rules Coordinator; Troy Kirby, PIO; Damon Mentzer, Administrative Assistant; Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General (AAG) and Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant

Staff Present Virtually:

Bill McGregor, Special Agent Supervisor; Jim Melville, Special Agent and Nicole Frazer, Administrative Assistant

There were 5 people in the audience and 22 people attended virtually.

Chair Levy welcomed everyone to the Liquor and Cannabis Board and called the February meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Tab 1 Consent Agenda

Chair Levy asked the Commissioners if they had any changes to the consent agenda. She asked commissioners if they had any questions. There were none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

Commissioner Ibsen moved to approve the consent agenda as presented by staff which includes holding the April 2024 meeting at the Gambling Commission office in Lacey.

Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 4:0

Tab 2 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Jim Melville, Special Agent (SA) presented the materials for this tab. SA Melville reported that Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is requesting to exceed the raffle limit in raffle prizes paid during a license year ending December 31, 2024.

Commissioner Sizemore moved to approve Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s request to exceed \$300,000 limit and grant a \$550,000 limit in raffle prizes paid during the license year ending Dec. 31, 2024.

Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4:0.

Tab 3 Discussion – Budget Update

Kriscinda Hansen, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented the materials for this tab. CFO Hansen presented a budget update that included a brief overview of the 2023 license fee changes.

Director Griffin explained that the soonest commissioners could see the new rule language for the proposed rules would be March, 2024. Commissioner Sizemore asked for a list of gross gambling receipts for each class of gambling.

CFO Hansen will give a more significant revenue update at the May commission meeting.

Chair Levy asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

Tab 4 – Legislative Update

Tina Griffin, Director, presented the materials for this tab. Director Griffin gave a brief summary of the bills we are watching this session and the status as of January 30, 2024. She announced that Commissioner Ibsen had his confirmation hearing. We are still working with staff to schedule a hearing for Chair Levy.

Chair Levy asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

Tab 5 – IT Modernization Update

Gary Drumheller, Deputy Director (DD) presented the materials for this tab. DD Drumheller presented a PowerPoint presentation on the progress made on the IT Modernization so far and what to expect in the near future.

Chair Levy asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

Tab 6 – Discussion – Firearms as a raffle prize

Sarah Lawson, Commissioner presented the materials for this tab. She suggested some changes that would tighten up our regulation to bring it more in line as to how these raffles are being conducted in Washington State, and bring them in line with our state’s statutes. She suggested these three changes:

- The firearm must be authorized in Washington State.
- The certificate for a firearm must be from a Washington State licensed dealer.
- And a certificate must not be awarded to a person that is prohibited from owning a firearm in Washington State.

Chair Levy asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

Commissioner Ibsen moved to initiate rulemaking to amend WAC 230-06-025 Restrictions on firearms as prizes as presented.

*Chair Levy seconded.
Commissioner Sizemore opposed.
Motion passed 3:1.*

Tab 7 – Petition to Initiate Rulemaking – Authorize Centralized Surveillance
Bill McGregor, Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) presented the materials for this tab.

Chair Levy asked for public comments. There was no public comment.

Vicki Christophersen representing Maverick Gaming thanked staff for their research and the robust discussions. She asked that staff initiate rulemaking.

Victor Mena, President of New Phoenix and Last Frontier Casinos. He supports authorizing centralized surveillance systems and believes it would benefit everyone.

Eric Persson, owner of Maverick Gaming. He thanked the staff for their work in the research of centralized surveillance. He supports this rulemaking.

Commissioner Lawson moved to initiate rulemaking proceedings to authorize centralized surveillance for further discussion.

Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4:0.

Director Griffin asked the Commissioners for further guidance. Chair Levy agreed that staff are subject matter experts and can develop the draft rule language for consideration.

Tab 8 – Staff Rule Amendment for Discussion and Possible Filing – Adjacent Card rooms
Adam Amorine, Staff Attorney (SA), and Interim Rules Coordinator presented the materials for this tab.

Chair Levy asked for public comments.

Eric Persson owner Maverick Gaming stated that this amended rule language is a violation of the fifth amendment rights and is unconstitutional.

There was no action taken on this tab.

Tab 9 – Discussion – Director Salary Review

Chair Levy stated this tab would be heard at a later date.

Chair Levy asked for public comments.

Due to confusion on the start time of the meeting Chair Levy asked commissioners to vote on Tab 1 and Tab 2 again.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented by staff which includes holding the April 2024 meeting at the Gambling Commission office in Lacey.

Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 4:0

Commissioner Sizemore moved to approve Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's request to exceed \$300,000 limit and grant a \$550,000 limit in raffle prizes paid during the license year ending Dec. 31, 2024.

Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4:0.

Chair Levy asked for public comment.

There was none.

Chair Levy announced at 10:59 AM Commissioners would adjourn to Executive Session to discuss current and potential agency litigation with legal counsel, including tribal negotiations for approximately one hour.

At 12:00 PM Chair Levy announced that the March 14 & 15 Gambling Commission meeting would be held at Liquor and Cannabis Board and adjourned the public meeting.