



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

*"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"*

July 20th, 2023

**Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes**

The meetings were held at the Liquor and Cannabis Board, Olympia, WA.

**Commissioners:**

**Chair Alicia Levy – In Person**  
**Vice Chair Julia Patterson In Person**  
**Bud Sizemore - In Person**  
**Sarah Lawson – Via Teams**  
**Anders Ibsen - In Person**

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Senator Steve Conway (Via Teams)**  
**Senator Jeff Holy - Absent**  
**Representative Shelley Kloba (Via Teams)**  
**Representative Skyler Rude (Via Teams)**

**Staff Present:**

Tina Griffin, Director; Lisa McLean, Legislative and Policy Manager; Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General (AAG); Jeanine Sugimoto, Special Agent; George Schultz, IT; Troy Kirby, Public Information Officer; Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant; Damon Mentzer, Administrative Assistant; Rachelle Burgett, Administrative Assistant

**Staff Present Virtually:**

Dan Wegenast, Agent in Charge; Bill McGregor, Special Agent Supervisor; Nicole Frazer, Administrative Assistant

There were 32 people in the audience and 42 people attended virtually.

**Chair Levy** welcomed everyone to the Liquor and Cannabis Board for our meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. She called the roll to ensure a quorum.

**Tab 1**

**Consent Agenda**

**Chair Levy** asked the Commissioners if they had any changes to the consent agenda. Commissioners had no changes.

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

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to approve the consent agenda as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 4:0*

*Commissioner Patterson was not present at the time of the vote.*

**The Director's Report**

**Director Griffin** thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to attend training at Harvard University in Boston. The training will provide valuable information for leaders at the Gambling Commission. Also, in the packet is the wrap up of the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan results including

a one pager of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Director Griffin reminded Commissioners that the agency staff are continuing to work on two very large long-term projects as well as their other work.

**Tab 2**

**Petition for Reconsideration – Chanmalaty Touch, Case No. CR 2021-01221**

**Doug Van de Brake**, AAG represented Commission staff. Mr. Francis Huguenin, attorney, represented Petitioner Touch. Mr. Huguenin asked if commission staff received an email from July 19, 2023.

**Chair Levy** excused Commissioners to closed session for further discussion on the petition for reconsideration at 9:41AM. The Commissioners reconvened after closed session at 10:03AM.

**Chair Levy** announced that the Commissioners would grant the continuance one last time so that Commissioners have enough time to review all the materials. This item will be on the August 2023 agenda.

**Tab 3**

**Proposed Tribal Gaming Compact Amendment Hearing**

**The Honorable Ron Allen**, Chairman, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe; **Greg Hitchcock**, Vice Chair, Cowlitz Indian Tribe; **Bob Iyall**, CEO Medicine Creek Enterprises, Nisqually Indian Tribe; **The Honorable Greg Abrahamson**, Chair, Spokane Tribe; **Devon Tiam**, General Council, Suquamish Tribe; **Tina Griffin**, Director and **Jeanine Sugimoto**, Special Agent (SA) presented the materials for this tab.

**Director Griffin** began the presentation by explaining the process. **SA Sugimoto** provided a summary and a detailed account of the compact changes to the Tribe’s Amendment.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Ibsen moved to forward the proposed compact amendment for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to the governor for review and final execution.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 7:0*

*Commissioner Ibsen moved to forward the proposed compact amendment for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to the governor for review and final execution.*

*Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 7:0*

*Commissioner Ibsen moved to forward the proposed compact amendment for the Nisqually Indian Tribe to the governor for review and final execution.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 7:0*

*Commissioner Ibsen moved to forward the proposed compact amendment for the Spokane Tribe to the governor for review and final execution.*

*Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 7:0*

*Commissioner Ibsen moved to forward the proposed compact amendment for the Suquamish Tribe to the governor for review and final execution.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 7:0*

The Commissioners took a 15-minute break.

#### **Tab 4**

##### **Presentation – Budget Update and Approval for Fiscal Years 2023-25**

**Kriscinda Hansen, CFO** presented the materials for this tab. **CFO Hansen** provided an update on the agency’s budget and asked for approval of the 2023-2025 fiscal year’s budget.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the 23-25 biennial budget as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 5:0*

#### **Tab 8**

##### **Petition for Discussion and Possible Action – Definition of “qualified sports teams.”**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)** presented the materials for this tab. **Andy Billig**, on behalf of Spokane Chiefs Hockey Club submitted a petition to amend WAC 230-03-138 to expand the definition of a “qualified sports team” to include the four teams of the affiliated professional minor league baseball and the four teams of the Western Hockey League. This change would allow charitable or nonprofit organizations established by or directly affiliated with these sports teams to apply for a license to operate electronic raffles.

Staff recommends that Commissioners file language for further discussion.

**Mark Miles**, President of the Spokane Chiefs Hockey Team, representing the minor league teams in Washington spoke to the 50/50 raffle process.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to file proposed language for further discussion as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

**Chair Levy** announced that the Commissioners and staff would adjourn to Executive Session to discuss current and potential agency litigation including tribal negotiations. The Commissioners reconvened the meeting at 12:30 PM.

**Tab 5**

**Rule-Making Hearing: Petition for Final Action – Wagering Limits for House-Banked Card Games**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. Vicki Christopherson, representing Maverick Gaming, originally submitted a petition for rulemaking in July 2022 that proposed raising wager limits at house-banked card rooms. Draft rule language was before the Commissioners for public comment and possible final action.

At 1:09 PM, Chair Levy announced that the Commissioners and staff would adjourn to Executive Session to discuss potential agency litigation. The Commissioners reconvened the meeting at 1:39 PM.

**Chair Levy** asked for public comment. The Commission heard from nine individuals working in the house-banked card room industry as owners, managers, shift supervisors, and dealers. All spoke in favor of the petition.

A representative for the Kalispel Indian Tribe spoke in opposition to the petition, articulating the issues raised in the letter from the Tribe received by the Commission on July 17, 2023.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to take final action on the Wagering Limits for House-Banked Card Games increasing the wagering limit to \$400.00 as presented by staff and to be effective 31 days after filing with the code reviser's office.*

*Chair Levy seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 3:2*

*Commissioners Lawson and Ibsen Opposed.*

**Tab 6**

**Petition for Final Action - Progressive Jackpots**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. In February, the commission received a petition from Tiffini Cox, representing Galaxy Gaming from Las Vegas, Nevada, who proposed amending WAC 230-15-685(4)(b) to allow house-banked card rooms licensees to connect *more than one* progressive jackpot on different card games. Staff recommended filing for final action.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Lawson moved to file for final action as presented by staff and to be effective 31 days after filing with the code reviser's office.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

**Tab 7**

**Petition for Discussion and Possible Action – Ticket In Ticket Out (TITO)**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. Tim Merrill of Maverick Gaming in Kirkland, Washington is proposing to amend several rules to allow for the use of ticket-in/ticket-out using the iDROP kiosk device in card room to purchase and redeem tickets for table games play. Staff recommends that Commissioners file the amended and new rules for further discussion.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. Commissioner Sizemore asked for a responsible gambling message to printed on the ticketing system.

**Chair Levy** asked for public comment. Victor Mena spoke in support of the rule change. Vicki Christopherson didn't object to a problem gambling message printed on the ticket.

**Commissioner Sizemore** moved to file the proposed rules as presented by staff.

**Commissioner Patterson** seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. 5:0

**Tab 9**

**Petition up for Discussion and Possible Action – Bingo HB 1707**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. On April 20, 2023, Governor Jay Inslee signed HB 1707 (an act relating to bingo conducted by bona fide charitable and nonprofit organizations) into law with an effective date of July 23, 2023. The statutory change necessitates an amendment to WAC 230-10-460 regarding shared bingo facilities to bring it into line with the statute as amended.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to file the revised WAC as presented by staff so the that rules align with the statute as amended.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

**Chair Levy** adjourned the meeting at 3:14 PM.

**Friday, July 21st, 2023**

**Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes**

The meetings were held at the Liquor and Cannabis Board, Olympia, WA.

**Commissioners:**

**Chair Alicia Levy – In Person**

**Vice Chair Julia Patterson – Via Teams**

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Senator Steve Conway (Via Teams)**

**Senator Jeff Holy - Absent**

**Bud Sizemore - In Person**  
**Anders Ibsen - In Person**  
**Sarah Lawson – Absent**

**Representative Shelley Kloba (Via Teams)**

**Chair Levy** reconvened the Gambling Commission’s second day at 9:34 AM. She called the roll to ensure a quorum.

There were 4 people in the audience and 52 people attended virtually.

**Tab 10**

**Petition to Initiate Rule-Making – Hearing Rules**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. A rule change is necessary to implement a framework to address timeliness for filings before the Commission and reduce confusion and unnecessary continuances. Other parts of the rule chapter on Hearing Rules may also be amended to add clarity or ensure consistency.

Staff recommends initiating rule making to adjust rules to address timeframes for filing motions, responses, and other legal documents, as well as to introduce other changes that might clarify hearing processes and ensure consistency.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. There was none.

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to initiate rule making to address timeframes for filing motions, responses, and other legal documents as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 4:0*

*Commissioner Lawson was absent.*

**Tab 11**

**Petition to Initiate Rule-Making – Pull Tab Services**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)** presented the materials for this tab. Cameron Stewart of Lacey, WA has submitted a petition for adoption of a new rule requiring establishments licensed to sell pull tabs to treat all customers with consistency and in a timely manner. The petitioner believes that he is treated with less respect and often must wait long stretches for staff at establishments to sell him pull tabs.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. They had none. She asked for public comment. The petitioner, Mr. Cameron spoke on his behalf. Ms. Jeanette Miles also spoke to the Commissioners.

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to deny the petition. Commissioner Patterson amended the motion by stating the reason for the denial of the petition is that the gambling commission is not authorized to address customer service issues.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 4:0*

*Commissioner Lawson was absent.*

## **Tab 12**

### **2024 Agency Request Legislation**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)** presented the materials for this tab. Commission staff met internally and with licensees and Tribal partners to collect ideas to present to you for potential agency request legislation. The Commissioners decided to meet virtually on September 12, 2023, at 2:00 PM to take final action on agency request legislation for the 2024 session.

## **Tab 13**

### **Presentation – Self-Exclusion Annual Commission Report**

**Tony Hughes, Special Agent Supervisor (SAS)** presented the materials for this tab. This presentation was the initial program review for Self-Exclusion. As of May 1, 2022, there have been over 500 people enroll in this program. This program will be reviewed annually.

**Chair Levy** asked for further comment from the Commissioners. Commissioner Patterson wanted to be reassured that the funds be confiscated are going into the proper place. SAS Hughes reassured her that he and Roxanne Waldron from DSHS have verified the placement of the funds.

### **Adjournment**

**Chair Levy** asked for public comment. There was no further comments. She reminded everyone that the August 10 & 11 meetings would be back at this same location.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.