



**GAMING ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
*MINUTES*

*March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022*  
*Billings, MT*

This is a summary of the Council meeting. The meeting in its entirety is recorded in a digital audio file format and maintained at the Gambling Control Division office at 615 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St. Suite A, Billings, Montana. Exhibits (if any) are on file in the office of the Gambling Control Division.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Scott Aspenlieder	Samson Boyd
Merle Frank	Garret McFarland
Mike Kenneally	Steve Morris

**DIVISION STAFF PRESENT**

Rusty Gackle   Jason Johnson   Steffanie McGowan   Matt Eckdahl

**SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTION**

- ◆ **The Council has an open seat for a Representative from Local Government**
- ♣ **The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.**
- ♥ **The Council scheduled the next meeting for June 17th, 2022, in Billings. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Administrator Gackle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The minutes from the Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

**GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION UPDATE**

### **Operations Bureau Update**

Mr. Gackle mentioned some changes within the Division, GCD had 3 vacant positions in our Tax & License Section and the positions were filled in Billings. Mr. Gackle mentioned the Division supervisor for the Tax and License section will be moving to the Billings office this summer. Mr. Gackle touched on the recent Super Bowl sports boards and reported no complaints were issued.

### **Compliance Section Update**

Mr. Johnson explained the Compliance Section has had a full year of a new approach with industry licensees. He stated the Division has struck a balance between working with businesses helping them stay in compliance while making sure they are following the rules. The Division Compliance team is currently working with and educating businesses during the application process. The Division is also focusing on case flow to better the application process. GCD has a new auditor in Missoula and 3 new License & Tax Specialists in Billings.

### **Technical Services Section Update**

Mr. Eckdahl explained to the Council that the procedure for the cutover from Tier 2 to Tier 1 was finalized last year and is being used in the field by some of the route operators. He noted that there are 292 locations and just under 5,600 VGM's reporting through Tier I, this is 23% of all locations and 35% of licensed VGM's. Mr. Eckdahl let the council know the Division is hoping to host a Roundtable this summer to discuss ways to improve Tier 1. The Division Lab Engineers completed testing on 20 hardware and software submissions since the last council meeting and the Division Machine Inspectors have inspected 2,060 VGM's, which is about 100 per week.

### **Statistics**

Ms. McGowan provided an overview of statistics for second quarter FY22. The Division collected approximately \$19.1 million in VGM tax, this number is down 3% from first quarter FY22, and up 18% from this time last year. During second quarter we received 91 gambling, liquor and combined liquor/gambling applications and reported there are approximately 1,334 active gambling operators. 639 VGM permits were issued during second quarter and 169 Bingo & Keno permits, 151 card table permits, 234 card dealer licenses, 16 large-stake tournaments, and 0 small-stake tournaments were issued thru second quarter of FY22. 13 Casino night permits and 20 Calcutta permits were issued during second quarter.

### **OTHER UPDATES**

#### **Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Update**

Administrator Becky Schlauch provided updates regarding ABCD activities.

#### **Montana Board of Horse Racing**

Chairman John Hayes of The Montana Board of Horse Racing provided an updated on the Board's activities.

#### **Montana Council on Problem Gambling Update**

Mr. Brad Longcake provided updates regarding the Montana Council on Problem Gambling.

#### **Montana Lottery Update**

Mr. Bryan Costigan was representing Montana Lottery, no updates were given.

#### **Montana Indian Gaming Association**

The Montana Indian Gaming Association was invited but unable to attend.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Division Funding Report**

Mr. Gackle presented a brief overview to the Council on the Division's funding sources. Mr. Gackle is working on an updated proposal format and hopes to have the proposal submitted to the committee by this summer.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Shauna Helfert of the Gaming Industry Association and Ms. Ronda Wiggers of the Montana Coin Machine Operators provided public comment regarding Negative Tax.

#### **Final Business**

The Council scheduled the next meeting for June 17th, 2022, in Billings. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am