

## MINUTES

***GAMING ADVISORY COUNCIL***

*October 15, 2021*

*Helena, 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 2550 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana. Exhibits (if any) are on file in the office of the Gambling Control Division.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Aspenlieder Sen. Ryan Lynch

Samson Boyd Garett McFarland

Merle Frank Steve Morris

Rep. Gregory Frazer Jesse Ramos

Mike Kenneally (Zoom)

# DIVISION STAFF PRESENT

Rusty Gackle Jason Johnson Andy Ritter Matt Eckdahl Mike Fanning

# SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTION

**♦ The Council nominated and voted Councilman Steve Morris as the Chair**

♣ **The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2021 meeting.**

♥ **The Council scheduled the next meeting for March 11, 2022, in Helena. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Administrator Gackle called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the June 25, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

# GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION UPDATE

# Operations Bureau Update

Mr. Ritter mentioned it was the last day for first quarter of fiscal year 2022 VGM tax collections.

Mr. Ritter also noted there was a recent vacancy that came open and that the Division was exploring options and may allocate it to the Licensing and Tax Section to help support their workload.

**Compliance Section Update**

Mr. Johnson explained to the Council that the Compliance Section is working to streamline their inspection process through automation. Mr. Johnson also noted he is working on updating the Compliance Section’s policy manual.

**Technical Services Section Update**

Mr. Eckdahl explained to the Council that the Division was in the process of finalizing an expedited procedure for Tier I cutover. Mr. Eckdahl noted that there are 254 locations reporting through Tier I. He also mentioned that the software developers are working on creating an inspection application for the Compliance Specialists and concluded that the machine inspectors completed 950 VGM inspections since June.

**Statistics**

# Mr. Ritter provided an overview of statistics fourth quarter FY21. He explained that video gambling machine tax collections for the fourth quarter were approximately $21.1 million, which was a 7% increase from the previous quarter. Mr. Ritter noted that the Division received 114 license applications in fourth quarter. Mr. Ritter also explained the Division permitted 1,037 gambling machines. The number of Live Keno and Bingo permits issued was 172. Live card tables permitted were down 11%, the number of card dealers were down 13.8%. Mr. Ritter also mentioned the division issued 56 large-stakes tournament permits, and 17 small-stakes tournament permits.

# OTHER UPDATES

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

Ms. Dacia English provided updates regarding ABCD activities.

**Montana Board of Horse Racing**

The Montana Board of Horse Racing was unable to attend but provided a handout with updates on BOHR activities.

**Montana Council on Problem Gambling Update**

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

**Montana Lottery Update**

Mr. Scott Sales was present and provided updates regarding Lottery activities.

**Montana Indian Gaming Association**

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

# OLD BUSINESS

**Division Funding Report**

Mr. Gackle presented brief overview to the Council on the Division’s funding sources and provided a handout outlining the Division’s distribution of revenue for fiscal year 2019 through fiscal year 2021.

**Administrative Rules**

Mr. Fanning provided an update on the drafted Administrative Rules Package.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Topics for Biennium**

Mr. Gackle presented to the Council a proposed change related to sports pool boards and providing an additional option to allow for locations alternative ways to store and payout cash for this activity.

**Public Comment**

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

**Final Business**

The Council scheduled the next meeting for March 11, 2022 in Helena. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.