



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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

**May Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes**

Gambling Commission Headquarters

**Virtual Meeting**

**\*May 13, 2021**

**Commissioners Present:**

**Bud Sizemore, Chair (Present)**

**Julia Patterson (Via Teams)**

**Alicia Levy (Via Teams)**

**Lauren King (Via Teams)**

**Kristine Reeves (Via Teams)**

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Senator Steve Conway (Via Teams)**

**Representative Shelley Kloba (Via Teams)**

**Staff Present:**

Tina Griffin, Interim Director; and Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant.

**Staff Present-Virtual:**

Brian Considine, Legal and Legislative Manager (LLM); Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison; Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator; and Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General.

**Public Meeting Call to Order**

**Chair Sizemore** called the virtual meeting to order at 9:36 am. Chair Sizemore asked Interim Director Tina Griffin to call the roll. Chair Sizemore introduced Commissioner Kristine Reeves to everyone, and she gave a brief bio of herself.

Chair Sizemore announced that TVW would be live streaming the meeting. He suggested that out of respect for National Police week, and to recognize the fallen law enforcement officers that have lost their lives since the commission last met, he asked that we observe a moment of silence.

**Tab 1**

**Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Levy moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.*

*Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 4:0*

*Commissioner King had not joined the meeting when the vote was taken.*

**Tab 2**

**Stillaguamish Proposed Compact Amendment**

**Honorable Shawn Yanity, Chair, Stillaguamish Tribal Council, Tina Griffin (Interim**

**Director, WSGC) and Julie Lies (Tribal Liaison, WSGC)** presented the material for this tab.

**Chair Yanity** thanked the commission for this opportunity. **Interim Director Griffin** explained

\* Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-28.4](#) et al that suspended certain Open Public Meeting requirements, including in-person public meetings requirements for this Commission Meeting.

the process and **Tribal Liaison Lies** discussed the details of the Tribe's Compact Amendments. **Chair Yanity** gave a short presentation of the tribe's history and accomplishments. Chair Sizemore inquired about the amount of contributions Stillaguamish Tribe donates. Chair Yanity said they contribute above the amount required in the compact. **Representative Kloba** asked for clarity on the limits that the tribe will put on extension of credit. **TL Lies** said, *"The extension of credit is not designed for extending a few hundred dollars. This is for those customers that don't want to carry a large amount of cash with them. So that there's a minimum that the tribe will set on what they're going to extend, as far as credit, as well as a maximum. The criteria that they talk about is they're going to look at the finances of that person to make sure that they have the credit, basically, to be able to pay back. It's like the credit, the loan. There's also a criteria in there about if they are on a self-exclusion list or they have problem gambling issues, they're not going to be extended credit."*

**Commissioner Patterson** also had concerns regarding extension of credit. TL Lies commented that the MOU will have the final language in it. Commissioner Patterson said, *"I appreciate your indulging me. I'm just expressing a personal sense that the extension of credit doesn't quite feel right when it comes to gambling. And, on every one of these that we've approved, I've felt that way."*

**Senator Conway** asked Chair Yanity if the Stillaguamish Tribe operates their own problem gambling program. **Chair Yanity** said, *"we run internally through our behavioral health program access for our tribal members for health, at this time, I don't know if we've got anybody using it. But, with our management team, our Gambling Commission, as well as our council, the concerns with problem gambling is very important. It's something that our staff and our Commission tracks and monitors the best they can, as well as the casinos talk to each other. If you've got a problem gambler that goes from one facility to another, they talk to each other."*

**Commissioner Reeves** asked if Stillaguamish had any economic data or demographic data that would show how the contributions are being provided in a fair and equitable manner. Chair Yanity reassured Commissioner Reeves that the Commission has access to any contribution data. And, Chair Yanity would be happy to share that data.

**Chair Sizemore** asked for public comment.

**Nancy Watson** said, *"I was so impressed by Julia Patterson's comments and it really, as a mother, it really gives my heart to know that we are represented by someone on the Commission that is able to make these, sometimes it seems so exciting to have charitable contributions and to help the tribe, and I love that presentation on the tribe. Thing is we pay a price. And, a big part of the price we pay is that people fall into problem gambling situations that can destroy families. And I was so heartened by her comments and Commissioner Kloba. I'm just very touched by your concern. Thank you."*

**Chair Sizemore** asked Julie Anderson if there was any emails or chat activity. **Julie Anderson** replied that were none.

**Commissioner Levy** moved to forward the proposed compact to the governor for review and final execution.

**Commissioner King** seconded the motion.

**Commissioner Patterson** – yes

**Commissioner King** – yes

*Commissioner Levy – yes*  
*Commissioner Reeves - yes*  
*Commissioner Sizemore – yes*  
*Senator Conway – yes*  
*Representative Kloba – yes*  
*The motion passed 7:0*

**Chair Yanity** Thanked the Commission for their time.

### **Tab 3**

#### **Petition for Review**

**Assistant Attorney General Doug Van De Brake** represented the Washington State Gambling Commission’s agency staff and **Attorney Ryan Smolinky** represented Loyal Order of Moose Chapter 01925 (LOOM). The licensee LOOM Chapter 01925, through their attorney, filed their Petition for Review of an Administrative Law Judge’s Initial Order upholding Director Trujillo’s Administrative Charges and the penalty to revoke the organization’s gambling licenses. The Commissioners previously received the administrative case record and allowed both parties to present their arguments to the Commissioners during the public meeting.

**Following oral argument, Chair Sizemore and Commissioners Patterson, Levy, Reeves and King** adjourned the public meeting to a closed session with AAG Suzanne Becker to reach a decision in this matter.

The Commissioners denied LOOM’s petition for review after they returned from their closed session deliberations. They affirmed the administrative law judge’s initial order in its entirety and adopted the initial order as the Commission’s final order.

### **Tab 4**

#### **Defaults**

**Thomas Lescher, CR 2020-01597** Class III Employee Certification Revocation.

**Chair Sizemore** asked if Thomas Lescher was in attendance. He was not.

*Commissioner Levy moved to approve the final order and revoke the class III employee certification for Thomas Lescher.*

*Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed 5:0.*

**Makoto Childs, CR 2020-01430** Public Card Room License Revocation.

**Chair Sizemore** asked if Makoto Childs was in attendance. He was not.

*Commissioner Levy moved to approve the final order and revoke the Public Card Room License of Makoto Childs.*

*Commissioner King seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 5:0.*

### **Tab 5**

#### **Rule up for Final Action-Updating Rules Regarding Card Games**

**Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator (RC)**, presented the materials for this tab. At the July 2020 meeting, Commissioners initiated rule-making to update rules related to card games. At the March 2021 meeting, Commissioners chose to file draft language for further discussion. The language is up for final action.

**Chair Sizemore** asked Julie Anderson if there was any emails or chat activity. **Julie Anderson** replied that were none.

*Commissioner Levy moved to approve the proposed rule language for final action and that the rules be effective 31 days after filing with the Code Revisers Office on or before June 14, 2021. Commissioner Patterson seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 5:0*

## **Tab 6**

### **Presentation-Budget Review and Update**

**Christopher Stanley**, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), presented the material in this tab. CFO Stanley gave a presentation on the agency's current economic status with two components: a base budget plus a one-time enhancement. CFO Stanley also included the IT Modernization in the budget. **Senator Conway** asked if the Gambling Commission would coordinate with other state agencies that have gone through a modernization project to assure best practices.

**Chair Sizemore** asked Julie Anderson if there was any emails or chat activity. **Julie Anderson** replied that were none.

*Commissioner Patterson moved to adopt the commission's proposed biennial budget and authorize the CFO and/or the Interim Director to make budget adjustments as necessary, consistent with this budget proposal.*

*Commissioner Levy seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 5:0*

## **Tab 7**

### **Legislative Update**

**LLM Considine** presented the materials for this tab. **LLM Considine** gave a brief wrap up of the legislative session. He thanked Senator Conway and Representative Kloba for their incredible help this session.

**Chair Sizemore** asked Julie Anderson if there was any emails or chat activity. **Julie Anderson** replied that were none.

**Chair Sizemore** also asked for a Law Enforcement briefing at an upcoming commission meeting. This topic is slated for the August Commission Meeting.

### **Staff Recognition**

**Chair Sizemore** and **SAS Bill McGregor** recognized Mark Richart for his accomplishments and thanked him for his 20 years of service to Washington and the Gambling Commission.

### **Public Comment**

**Chair Sizemore** asked for public comment.

**Nancy Watson:**

*"My name is Nancy Watson. I live in the Puget Sound area. I grew up on Fox island and was the daughter of a social worker, so I spent most of my childhood listening to stories about problems in the community of all kind. But I got a MBA in finance and ended up working in business for my entire career. I retired a couple of years ago, and one thing that was really on my mind is that there were children, I call them children, in the family that could be almost as old as 40, and yet had struggled with problems ever since they dropped out of high school. You might have thought I'd lose interest in this topic after someone is having trouble that long, but really, I wanted to get to the bottom of it. I took four people, again, I call them children, but they're not children, they're adults, four kids into my home to see what I can find out about some of the problems in the community. And the problems they had is homelessness, depression, mental depression. Some of them had been incarcerated. Some of them, well, really all of them suffered from substance abuse and poverty. And the one thing they all had in common was using methamphetamines, which is a shocking drug. Now, the reason I'm bringing this to this meeting, because you might wonder, "Well, what in the world could meth addiction have to do with gambling?" And I'll tell you, I've had quite an education for the last couple of years because casinos are a favorite place for methamphetamine addicts to go because they're open all night, and these people are on drugs that make them stay up all night. Of the four kids I'm working with, two of them are problem gamblers. They have very severe problems. They've both been banned for life. What I've learned is that they ban are not enforced. It's just an empty promise that, "Yeah, you come back here we're going to charge you with trespassing." Nothing changes, they just continue to go. It goes on for years like that. The other problem I see is I'm trying to help these kids become self-sufficient, and to getting jobs. And I have one of my, let's call them a ward, one who did get a job and was making money. And what I found was it only took a couple months of working before he would get paid and go to the casino, and then two days, the entire paycheck would be gone. Now, I'll just tell you, I'm supporting these people. They do get food stamps, but I'm supporting them and so it's a matter of considerable interest to me the problem gambling thing because the amounts of money are unbelievable. Now, I've called the help line in Louisiana. I've talked even to the director there. I've called more than once. I've tried to get to step two, where you would talk to a counseling organization. I left a voicemail message. So, I've kind of been wrestling with this for a while, and I just wanted to share it with you guys because we talk about problem gambling and getting counseling for it. There's such a huge percentage of people with problem gambling who are drug addicts. And I wish there was a more polite euphemism for it, but I'm talking about heroin addicts and people who use meth on a daily basis. It's just [inaudible 00:59:41] It's shocking. I hate to say it, it sounds like I'm a crazy person, but it's literally true. So, here's what I wanted to ask the commission to consider. Instead of waiting for people to get to such a severe problem that they can't even get help or go to meetings, I suggest that as you think about problem gambling, you find a way to intervene at the earliest possible stage. Don't wait until it's pathological. If somebody calls on that darn phone, what I'm saying is if they call on the phone, you get yourself a validated assessment instrument, like the Victorian Gambling Screen, like the US South Oaks Gambling Screen. Don't worry about if it's a perfect screen. If somebody calls on the phone, do a full assessment. And I'm telling you, if the people in Louisiana who do these calls, if they don't have time, transfer these people to me. I'll put in a landline so I can do the screen. If we don't start gathering information about these people who have these problems, and we just let them go off in the community, I think we're in big trouble. The next thing I would say is make sure to gather information on what type of gambling is causing the trouble. People who researched this say its slot machines. Now, I know that sounds totally rude that slot machines are the problem, but according to the studies that have been done, slot machines are the number one source of problem gambling. I think the*

*people Louisiana, when they take these calls, they need to find out from the person themselves what kind of gambling is causing the problem. The last thing I'll say is that there's research being done on quick-start interventions, where you don't go through a big complicated program, but you have brochures, you have workbooks. You have just a quick conversation with someone on the phone to help guide you in the right direction. I mean, again, I would be happy to volunteer to take these calls. I almost think we need to put people in the casino so that they can just be there with something around their neck saying, "Do you think you might have a gambling problem?" And let people just walk up and ask them. That's all I'll say, and I apologize for sounding like my hair's on fire, but I'm telling you the amount of money that I personally have put into casino gambling here in Tacoma over the last couple of years, thousands of dollars. Because when these people blow their paycheck, I am on the hook to care for them. I realize I can turn them back into the street. They would be homeless again. I'm not going to do it. So, I want instead to get the problem gambling issue resolved at its source, not out in the community, but right there where the problem is starting. Thank you very much for your attention."*

**Commissioner Patterson** suggested taking Ms. Watson's concerns to the Problem Gambling Task Force so they can hear her firsthand. Commissioner Patterson also asked if staff could forward the link to the Problem Gambling Task Force quarterly meeting.

**Chair Sizemore** announced that the Commissioners would go into Executive Session following the meeting and a short break to discuss potential agency litigation with legal counsel, including tribal negotiations. Returning to the public meeting for adjournment purposes only.

**Chair Sizemore** announced that the June meeting would be two days and full agendas for both days with more details to come.

The May meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.

There were 85 people that joined the meeting.