



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

**Gambling Commission Meeting Minutes**

**May 11th and 12th, 2023**

**Day-1** meeting was held at the  
Hampton Inn & Suite 4301 Martin Way E., Olympia

**Day-2** meeting was held at the  
Gambling Commission Headquarters 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Lacey

**Commissioners:**

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

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Senator Steve Conway (via Teams)**  
**Jeff Holy – In person**

**Staff Present:**

Tina Griffin, Director  
Gary Drumheller, Assistant Director  
Lisa McLean, Legislative and Policy Manager  
Tommy Oakes, Interim Legislative Liaison  
Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)  
George Schultz, IT  
Troy Kirby, Public Information Officer  
Nicole Frazer, Administrative Assistant  
Julie Anderson, Executive Assistant

**Staff Present Virtually:**

Julie Lies, Tribal Liaison; Jess Lohse, Special Agent; Dan Wegenast, Agent in Charge

There were 3 people in the audience and 45 people attended virtually.

**Chair Levy** welcomed everyone to the Hampton Inn and Suites for our first hybrid meeting with our own equipment. After a few minor technical issues, the meeting began at 9:40 AM and 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 April minutes as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 4:0*

*Commissioner Patterson was online, and her vote was not captured.*

### **The Director's Report**

**Director Griffin** announced that the Governor had re-appointed Chair Levy for another four-year term. She also gave a brief update regarding the agency's website redesign, noting that the Commission is under a strict deadline, which will keep some staff very busy in the coming months. As part of this project, Director Griffin encouraged Commissioners, licensees, Tribal partners and others to take the survey to help the Commission build the most useful new platform for its audience. She further announced that, in April, Swinomish had opened the 15<sup>th</sup> sports wagering operation in the state. Lastly, she informed Commissioners that the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU), a nationally recognized organization designed to facilitate intelligence sharing between state and local law enforcement agencies, had just bestowed the Chair's Award on the agency. The award recognized the work that Gary Drumheller and his staff had done to organize a national sports wagering group, as well as a Pacific Northwest sports wagering group, made up of federal, local, and Tribal membership educating and sharing information across jurisdictions. We certainly appreciate the initiative and work that the staff have done in this area to earn this award.

### **Election of Officers**

**Chair Levy** opened the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

*Commissioner Lawson nominated Chair Levy as Commission Chair for the term to begin at the conclusion of today's meeting and end at the election of the new officers in 2024.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the nomination.*

*The nomination passed. 5:0*

*Commissioner Sizemore nominated Commissioner Patterson as Vice Chair for the term to begin at the conclusion of today's meeting and end at the election of new officers in 2024.*

*Chair Levy seconded the nomination.*

*The nomination passed. 5:0*

### **Tab 2**

#### **Petition for Final Action – Debit Card Rules**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. This petition was submitted in April 2022, and it proposed to amend WAC 230-15-150 to allow chips to be sold using debit cards. In May 2022, the Commission agreed to initiate rulemaking, and at the time staff noted that other rules in addition to WAC 230-15-150 needed to be amended. Staff brought forward some draft language for amending rules and also added new rules.

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

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to take final action on debit cards to be effective 31 days after filing with the code reviser's office as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*Commissioner Patterson voted against the motion.*

*The motion passed. 4:0 with 1 denial.*

### **Tab 3**

#### **Petition for Final Action – Staff-Proposed License Fee and Sports Wagering Vendor License Fee Adjustments**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the material for this tab. At the January Meeting, the Commissioners accepted a staff recommendation to initiate rulemaking to address license fees. **LPM McLean** gave an overview of the public comments that were received. Staff recommended taking final action.

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

*Commissioner Sizemore moved to take final action effective 31 days after filing with the code reviser's office.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

### **Tab 4**

#### **Petition for Discussion and Possible Filing – Restrictions on Progressive Jackpots**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. In February, we 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. Currently, the rule only allows licensees to connect *one* progressive jackpot on different card games. The petition asks to connect more than one to different card games. Staff recommended filing for further discussion.

**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 further discussion as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

### **Tab 5**

#### **Petition to Initiate Rule Making – 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 bill amended RCW 9.46.0205, removing the limitation on conducting bingo only in the county in which the organization is principally located. Now, a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization must only be principally located in the state of Washington and may not be approved for more than three licenses to conduct bingo activities. Staff recommended initiating rulemaking to adjust rules to 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 Ibsen moved to initiate rule making to adjust rules to the statute as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

## **Tab 6**

### **Petition to Initiate Rule Making – Definition of “qualified sports teams.”**

**Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for this tab. In January 2020, the major league sports teams in Washington state petitioned the Gambling Commission for changes to the rules to allow for electronic 50/50 raffles operated by their affiliated nonprofit foundations. After much work and deliberation, the Commission adopted rules responsive to the petition in November 2021. In the two-year-long discussion about adoption of the new and amended rules, there was explicit mention of reasoning for limiting electronic 50/50 raffles to “qualified sports teams” defined as “major league or highest-level team organized in Washington state.” At the time, the limitation was intended to enable the Commission to work with a limited number of teams to ensure that it had devised adequate rules and internal controls to regulate this activity properly. The first electronic 50/50 raffles launched in September 2022 with the beginning of the NFL season and, in October, for the NHL season. Staff recommended initiating rule making for further discussion.

**Colin Campbell** of the Seattle Thunderbirds spoke in favor of this petition and thanked the commission for their support. Commissioner Sizemore asked approximately how many home games take place in the Western Hockey League. Mr. Campbell stated that they expect to have 34 home games and 12 post-season games. They have also donated \$1.2 million dollars to the sports leagues in the community.

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

*Commissioner Lawson moved to initiate rule making for further discussion as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed unanimously. 5:0*

**Tab 7**

**2023 Legislative Wrap-Up and Agency Request Legislation**

**Tommy Oakes, Interim Legislative Liaison (ILL)**, presented the materials for 2023 Legislative Wrap-Up and **Lisa C. McLean, Legislative/Policy Manager and Rules Coordinator (LPM)**, presented the materials for the Agency Request Legislation for this tab. ILL Oakes gave an overview of the 2023 Legislative processes and the bills that passed. He also updated the Commissioners on the bill transition to next year.

**LPM Mclean** thanked Tommy for all the work he did on the 2023 legislative session. **Chair Levy** also thanked ILL Oakes for his hard work. LPM Mclean asked Commissioners for agency request legislation ideas for 2024. Commissioner Sizemore asked for the deadline to submit agency request legislation. LPM Mclean suggested that, by August and September, the Commissioners should have discussed their final requests.

**Tab 8**

**OPMA Training for Commissioners**

**Suzanne Becker, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)**, presented the material for this tab. AAG Becker finished the training. All Commissioners were certified as up-to-date on OPMA training for another six years.

**Chair Levy** announced at 11:21AM that the Commissioners would adjourn until 2:00PM into Executive Session to discuss current potential agency litigation and Tribal negotiations with legal counsel.

**Executive Assistant Julie Anderson** announced to the public that the Executive Session was extended to 3:00PM.

**Chair Levy** reconvened the Commission meeting at 3:07 PM and called the roll to ensure a quorum.

Commissioner Sizemore

Commissioner Ibsen

Commissioner Lawson (via phone)

Commissioner Patterson (via phone)

**Tab 9**

**Presentation – 50 Years of Gambling in Washington**

**Troy Kirby**, Public Information Officer, presented a short video retrospective of 50 years of gambling in Washington State from 1973 to 2023. There were invited guests that attended the presentation as well.

**Chair Levy** adjourned the meeting at 3:17 PM.

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**Commissioners:**

**Chair Alicia Levy (via Teams)**  
**Vice Chair Julia Patterson (via Teams)**  
**Bud Sizemore (via Teams)**  
**Anders Ibsen (via Teams)**

**Ex Officio Members Present:**

**Jeff Holy (via Teams)**

**Chair Levy** welcomed everyone to the Lacey Headquarters of the Gambling Commission and called the roll. Commissioners and Ex Officio Holy were virtual on the second day. Staff present in the room were Director Griffin and EA Anderson. The meeting began at 9:45 AM.

**Tab 10**

**Presentation – Strategic Plan 2023-2028**

**Director Griffin** presented the materials for this tab. Commissioners agreed with the 2023-2028 plan.

**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 2023-2028 strategic plan as presented by staff.*

*Commissioner Ibsen seconded the motion.*

*The motion passed. 4:0*

*Commissioner Lawson was absent.*

**Chair Levy** asked for further public comment. There was none. She announced that the next public meeting would be held at the Liquor & Cannabis Board on July 20 & 21.

The Gambling Commission adjourned the second day of the meeting at 10:10AM.