



**Board of Trustees meeting  
Zoom**

**June 14, 2022  
10:30 a.m.**

**PRESENT**

**President Tom Goncharoff, 1st Vice President Mike Logan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Verner R. Query and Trustees Vanessa Alexander, Norma Alvarez, Mark Brown, C. Warren Franklin, Annette McCloy, Mac Murray, Helen Nave, Susie Prather, and Nancy Summers.**

**ABSENT**

**None.**

**GUESTS**

**Association Attorney Raymond Sanchez, W.L. Mooring, Tom & Sandra McKenna, Debra Laney, Susan Hunter, Jay Taylor, Patrick Aguilar, Owen Lift, Bob Matney, Ray?, Pam Sena, SD?, Glenn Berry, Lori Alexander, James, Jace, & iPad?.**

**QUORUM**

**President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.**

**DISCUSS AGENDA I FOR JUNE 16, 2022 NMRC MEETING**

**NMRC Agenda item I is as follows:**

**Discussion and Recognition of the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association as the Recognized Horsemen's Group in the State of New Mexico.**

**Mary Barber announced that we have 25 people in the meeting right now.**

**President Goncharoff stated that he wanted to make it clear to everyone that contrary to whatever you have seen or heard, the breeders have not been asked by the Commission, nor have we solicited this issue from the Commission. It is important to know that on the Commission's agenda, it is a discussion item, and they will not be taking a vote on this issue. He also understands that there are a lot of strong feelings regarding this but at this point, we need to see what the commission has to**

say about this at their Thursday meeting. He will be attending the meeting and he is sure a lot of us will be there. We just need to see which way this thing is going to go. He asked that Raymond Sanchez go ahead and address the board.

Raymond Sanchez replied that he has reviewed everything he has that has been sent to him along with the Horseracing Act and the letter from Gary Mitchell and his advice to you is that everyone needs to keep their powder dry. We do not want to take a position on this at this time because it is not for us to make a decision. (Raymond's signal froze at that time)

Mike Logan feels that this subject is in limbo at this time and for someone to start throwing accusations and innuendos and he knows everyone on this board, some of them very well. These are front row people. He knows everyone is terribly upset about this and he wants everyone to know that we are breeders. People are trying to draw a wedge between horsemen and breeders. Breeders are horsemen and to think that we are colluding with someone, or racketeering is ludicrous. We have had several years of issues. We need to calm down and get these things behind us and just go forward from here.

Raymond Sanchez was back online. He believes as Mr. Logan and the best approach to this is to just sit back and listen. It is the responsibility of the NMRC. He does not know why they are doing this, but it looks like they are able to do this. As he knows the facts, and he has also visited with Commissioners, and they do not know of any collusion going on. Both he and attorney Fred Mowrer have both looked at this and the only thing that would change is the breeders would make the decisions on the signal.

President Goncharoff thanked Raymond Sanchez for his input and invited him to stay in the meeting if he would like to. He then called on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Verner Query to see if he had any comments.

Verner Query thinks this is something we need to stay away from as much as we possibly can. We told the horsemen's association that we want to stay neutral and that is what he thinks we should do. He does not want the horsemen to be left out and he does not think it is a good idea for the breeders to be the one group. This is not a good idea.

Vanessa Alexander wanted to note that she has questions from members that she intends to ask and that they want answered. That is all she has right now besides a motion to amend the agenda so she will wait.

Helen Nave wondered if it is legal for the Commission to change the language without it going before the legislature. President Goncharoff read from the Horseracing Act that said, "in the event that money allocated to the NMHA and pursuant to the Horseracing Act cannot be received or administered by the NMHA the Commission or another organization designated by the Commission and under the absolute control of the Commission, shall receive and administer the money that is allocated in statute." This is talking about money and not addressing the simulcast signal, but it shows that the Commission has significant control. Raymond Sanchez said that this is a very important part of the Horseracing Act, but it is not the same language that he was looking at earlier.

Nancy Summers feels that we can probably all agree that if the Commission wants to squash the horsemen's association, they can and this is another way they are trying to do it. She completely disagrees with what is going on. The horsemen have represented us for years. She is a horseman and is for the horsemen. We do have to wait and see what they do on Thursday, but we should not

help them do it. They are trying to divide us. The Commission has done nothing to help the horsemen. They let racetracks get run down and do nothing about it. She thinks it is time that we come together and stand behind the horsemen.

Vanessa Alexander said that the Racing Commission has no problem violating the state statutes and they have no problem violating court orders and that is why there are multiple lawsuits involving them and the horsemen. The Racing Commission is losing and will continue to lose. She really doesn't care about ruffling you guy's feathers. I have been trying to get to you people for the last year and she is aware of what several of you are involved in in order to silence her. She is not going to talk about that because we can talk about that in court. She said she is going to read some definitions and she wants us to pay attention.

The first one is conspiracy. You can ask Mr. Sanchez these definitions or google. She then read the definition of conspiracy, the definition of coercion, the definition of extortion, the definition of racketeering, the definition of organized crime. So, while we all think about the definitions of what I have just said, I would like to make it very clear that I am aware of what several of you Trustees have been involved in. Very aware. And I am not going to go into details because that is going to come out later in court, but I want every single one of you on this recorded message, from the eyes and ears of our membership to think very very hard and very very carefully about how you are going to answer the questions that I am going to put in front of you in a few minutes.

Warren Franklin asked – Are you threatening this Board?

Vanessa Alexander answered– Absolutely We are going to be hearing and seeing things in court....

Mike Logan – Point of order Mr. President.

Vanessa Alexander went on to say this is a serious, serious, serious thing Mr. Logan. We are discussing a Federal crime. You cannot tell this membership or any person with any amount of common sense that absolutely no Trustee with the horse breeders association has been involved in any way with any conversations with the Racing Commission or the tracks to name the breeders association as the horsemen's group for the state of New Mexico. It is preposterous and is untrue. So, I will repeat, if you want to come at me here and kick me out of the meeting you may certainly try to do so but you need to think about the questions, I will be asking you and I will ask you to answer them truthfully.

Warren Franklin thinks she needs to know the definitions of liable and slander too. Read that Vanessa and Vanessa replied Absolutely! She would be happy to look them up. Would you like me to look up defamation, filing false police reports>?

President Goncharoff stated that Vanessa Alexander has had ample time to speak.

Vanessa Alexander asked if we have paid an attorney to investigate a Trustee?

President Goncharoff stated that we are way off topic.

Vanessa Alexander interrupted again and asked if the breeders association paid an attorney to investigate any Trustee?

President Goncharoff asked Mary Barber to move Vanessa Alexander into the lobby.

Warren Franklin said he doesn't know where this is headed. He is not saying he is in agreement with what the Commission is wanting to do. He doesn't think we need any more separation between us and the horsemen and he guesses we just need to wait and see what they are going to say but he really doesn't think we need all this slander and liable and accusations and crazy stuff and threats! We are actually being threatened now. He thinks we need to talk to our attorney because this has been so disruptive towards getting our business done. Things are getting out of hand, and he doesn't know what we are supposed to do.

Susie Prather agrees with Verner Query and feels we all need to get back where we used to be where we are united with the horsemen and promote New Mexico Racing. There is a division between us now and we need to get back together and do what we need to do to make it right.

Norma Alvarez thinks that what is happening is what we feared. And that is creating big divisions because of the lawsuits and the lawyers are who come out on top. She believes we needed to keep out of the lawsuit. They are going to duke it out. The worst experience she has had is the last year or so with Vanessa Alexander on the board. She has had several meetings with controversy and threats and asking if we want to go knuckles across the table and using vulgar language and just horrible things. It has made a lot of our board members want to get off the board. Several of them have said this is hard to take. The threats, accusations and lies are hard to take and they continue and continue. It is just too much.

Warren Franklin asked Raymond Sanchez what we can do about being continuously threatened and told we are racketeering. Is there something we can do? It is really hard to carry on with our business and he just wants to know what we can do. Raymond Sanchez stated that we are not a public body under the IPRA act. None of the allegations being made are accurate or based on reality. He will consult with his partner, but he believes we have strong legal grounds, and he has an idea of what we can do.

Helen Nave thinks we need to get back on point and discuss what we are here to talk about. She is in agreement with Nancy Summers.

Raymond Sanchez then made a few more comments and then left the meeting.

#### HISA REGISTRATION

President Goncharoff asked Nancy Summers to talk about this subject.

Nancy Summer told of her experience registering for HISA. She felt it was very simple and did not take long. She was not sure about a couple of issues with some things, but she was able to get her horses signed up as well. It didn't look like there would be more testing, but the samples will go to

their laboratory. She knows she has to do this if she wants to start running her horses at Albuquerque, so she is making sure she has it all done. People can get help in the Racing Office and she herself is willing to help anyone who needs it.

She doesn't think this is going away so she has done what she needs to do. You can enter but you have to make sure the owner is registered before they run. She will send emails to her owners with the link to where you go to register with HISA.

President Goncharoff asked one of the HISA attorneys if the association has to be registered and he replied that he wasn't sure, but you probably should. Mary Barber raised a questions a couple of days ago that since we are a mixed breed organization does this apply to us. He is looking into this, and Mary is holding off on registering the association until we can find out for sure.

Susie Prather mentioned that she is receiving text messages from Vanessa Alexander that she wants to be let back in the meeting because she has questions from members that she needs to ask.

Jay Taylor wanted to weigh in on the previous topic a little bit. He was on the board when we voted to stay neutral about the lawsuit with the horsemen. We felt this was a horsemen issue and it could get pretty nasty before it was over with and that has come to be true. We have nothing against the horsemen, and we had a good relationship with them. Had the roles been reversed, he would not have blamed the horsemen if they had not joined us in a lawsuit. He suggested that we get together with the NMHA and have a meeting.

Debra Laney does not disagree with anyone, but she does think we need to wait to see what they want to do. The thing that came to mind she thinks we need to think about is if they will give the signal to somebody else, it will be the same people that are getting to distribute the purse money. Tempers are high on both sides with the NMRC and the NMHA. If the Commission are bound and determined to take it away from the NMHA they are going to do it.

Tom McKenna is extremely disappointed in the inaction of the breeders board. The NMRC has run rampant over this industry. It is time to put an end to it. If we need to vote today, then vote.

Nancy Summers agrees with Tom McKenna. Maybe we should take a vote, that if they ask us, we should say no.

Helen Nave and Susie Prather agree and think we should be proactive. Verner Query thinks this whole thing stinks. It is going to open up a can of worms and we should stay out of it, but he also agrees with Nancy and should take a vote. He thinks it should also be voted on by the entire membership.

President Goncharoff recommended the board take a deep breath and think about it and discuss it. If the board wants to vote before the NMRC meeting, we can but he feels it is probably unnecessary. He does not see what the harm is in waiting until say Friday and have another meeting. He would like to hear the NMRC discussion during their meeting before we take a vote.

**Tom McKenna feels we are just kicking the can down the road and disagrees with President Goncharoff. We need to let them know we do not want any part of this.**

**President Goncharoff said this is a discussion item and not an action item so the Commission will not be voting on this subject.**

**Verner Query made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mac Murray. Motion carried 10:0.**

**The meeting was adjourned.**

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**Tom Goncharoff**  
**President**

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**Mary M. Barber**  
**Attest**