



Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd. Suite 101
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture
9:30am
Board Room
2800 N Lincoln
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Minutes

Governor
J. Kevin Stitt

Blayne Arthur
Secretary of Agriculture

Brian Burget
Chairman

Kurt Murray
Vice-Chairman

Dr. Bryant Craig
Secretary

Clint O. Brookover
Member

G. R. Carter
Member

Kathleen McNally
Member

Courtney Gregg
Member

James Fuser
Member

Ryan Terry
Member

Amanda English
Executive
Director

Michael P. Copeland
General Counsel

Robert Duvall
Director of Law
Enforcement

A. Call to Order

Chairman Burget called the meeting to order at 9:31am.

B. Roll Call and Announcement of Quorum

Commissioners answering roll call were, Commissioner Carter, Commissioner McNally, Commissioner Gregg, Commissioner Fuser, Vice Chairman Murray and Commissioner Burget. Commissioners absent were Commissioner Brookover, Commissioner Dr. Craig, and Commissioner Terry.

C. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes

Chairman Burget announced item C.

1. March 26, 2026 minutes – amended to reflect a commissioner as absent.
2. April 23, 2026 special meeting minutes- amended to correct a commissioner's last name.

Commissioner McNally moved to accept minutes as amended from March 26, 2026, Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

Commissioner Murray moved to accept minutes as amended from April 23, 2026, Commissioner Gregg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

D. Executive Staff Reports

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item D.

Reports were given by division directors on agency progress, strategic priorities and key challenges. Directors giving reports were Interim Executive Director Amanda English, General Counsel Michael Copeland, Chief Steward Billy Murphy, Director of Law Enforcement Robert Duvall and Financial Manager Martha Del Rio.

E. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on Proposed FY-2027 Agency Budget

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item E.

Chairman Burget discussed the purpose of presenting the proposed FY-2027 agency budget to the Commission as a preliminary introduction and overview of the budget process. Martha Del Rio and Christy Tubbs provided information regarding departmental budget breakdowns, including race day operations, law enforcement, OKBRED, legal, and technology services departments. Discussion was held regarding allocation of expenses among departments, including payroll, administrative overhead, office supplies, communication and technology expenses, computer leases, software services, payroll processing services through OMES, and proposed HR services. Additional discussion was held regarding salary and longevity increases, legal expenses, audit expenditures, budget transparency, line-item budgeting practices, contingency planning, and differences between projected state budget allocations and actual expenditures. Chairman Burget stated the full proposed budget would return to the Commission for consideration and approval at a future meeting.

No Action was taken.

F. Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Regarding Petition for Declaratory Ruling - Trainer Robert Meraz

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item F.

Jillian Welch, Assistant Attorney General, discussed the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed by Trainer Robert Meraz, limited to non-merit procedural matters, and explained the distinction between a declaratory ruling and an individual proceeding. Ms. Welch advised the Commission that the petition sought review of a steward's ruling revoking Mr. Meraz's occupational trainer license, which should have been addressed through a timely administrative appeal. Upon inquiry from the Commission, Mr. Copeland explained the procedural motion that would be appropriate should the Commission choose to decline issuance of a declaratory ruling.

Commissioner McNally moved to decline to issue a declaratory ruling and direct staff to notify the petitioner in writing. Commissioner Gregg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

G. Executive Session – Pending Litigation / Confidential Attorney – Client Communications

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item G.

Commissioner Carter moved to enter Executive Session pending litigation/confidential attorney- client communications. Commissioner Gregg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission entered Executive Session at 10:39am.

H. Reconvene in Open Session

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item H.

Commissioner Carter moved to reconvene the Open Session. Commissioner McNally seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission reconvened in Open Session at 11:03am.

I. Executive Session- Position of Executive Director of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item I.

Commissioner Carter moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1) for discussion of the employment, hiring, appointment, or promotion for the position of Executive Director. Commissioner Gregg seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 6-0-0

The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission entered Executive Session at 11:04am.

J. Reconvene in Open Session- Possible Action Regarding Executive Director

Chairman Burget announced consideration of item J.

Commissioner Murray moved to reconvene the Open Session. Commissioner McNally seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 5-0-0

The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission reconvened in Open Session at 11:17am.

Commissioner Carter departed the meeting prior to Item J.

Commissioner Fuser moved to remove the interim designation from Amanda English's title of Interim Executive Director and appoint Amanda English as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission. Commissioner McNally seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Motion passed 5-0-0

K. Announcements

Chairman Burget announced announcements.

L. Adjournment

Chairman Burget adjourned the meeting at 11:19am.

Approved this 18th day of June


Chairman Burget

On behalf of the Commission: ATTEST:
