



North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of June 10th, 2026

600 E Boulevard Ave, Red River Room, Bismarck, ND and MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Ron Goodman at 9:21 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Commissioners Pamela Sharp, Mark Western, and Jared Huibregtse, as well as Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, General Counsel Logan Carpenter, and Interns Faith Scheuer, Ashley Wohl, and Conner Martin.
2. **Discussion of the Strategic Plan for 2026-2028:** Commissioner Huibregtse presented the Commission with a draft PowerPoint regarding the Commission's strategic plan for the biennium of 2026-2028.

Commissioner Huibregtse started the discussion by explaining the proposed updated mission statement for the Commission: The Commission discussed the new wording of the mission statement. The Commission came to a consensus for the new wording. A motion will come at a later meeting.

Commissioner Huibregtse went on to present the Commission with a proposed vision statement: ED Binstock explained that the purpose of the vision statement is the "why" and "how" of the Commission's mission statement. Acting Chair Goodman commented on the wording of the vision statement. Commissioner Western stated that the vision statement should not have passive language. Commissioner Sharp added that the wording should exemplify the word "integrity". The Commission came up with an updated draft for the vision statement.

Commissioner Huibregtse presented the strategic initiatives that were made for the 2023-2025 biennium to the Commission: ED Binstock explained the history behind the past initiatives and how the Commission formed them in the past. Acting Chair Goodman suggested the initiative "Positive Work Culture" be removed due to the Commission achieving this initiative.

Commissioner Huibregtse then presented the Commission with the long-term goal options for the next 5-10 years: Commissioner Huibregtse explained that he wishes for the Commission to be a "preventative" agency, meaning preventing incidents through education before they happen. The Commission deems it of utmost importance to establish a permanent education and outreach program. Commissioner Huibregtse added that another goal for the Commission should be to strive to streamline a true complaint process.

The Commission also discussed increasing public awareness of its role and addressing conflicting laws as long-term goals.

Commissioner Huibregtse presented the Commission with the goals for the 2027-2029 biennium: Commissioner Huibregtse explained that he believes that continuing to establish and adopt rules is one of the most important things the Commission can do. Commissioner Sharp questioned the Commission on the topics that the Commission should be focused on for rulemaking. Commissioner Huibregtse presented the Commission with a slide that explained the operational areas for discussion. ED Binstock pointed toward the Public Priorities Survey that the Commission compiled.

The Commission recessed at 10:18 a.m. and all Commission members and staff reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Huibregtse continued the PowerPoint of the strategic goals with opening discussion of the reality of adopting two new ethics rules for the upcoming biennium. The Commission deemed it realistic for the upcoming biennium.

Commissioner Huibregtse explained the initiative of streamlining the complaint process: Commissioner Huibregtse added that the Commission could update the confidentiality of a complaint. Commissioner Western suggested that the Commission needs to simplify the complaint process instead of streamlining it. ED Binstock and GC Carpenter explained the process of updating the complainant and respondent in the complaint and investigation process. Commissioner Huibregtse proposed directing staff to direct the legal interns to research conflicting statutes regarding the complaint process. The Commission agreed with that proposal. ED Binstock asked the Commission to guide the staff on legal issues and time constraints in the complaint process. The Commission gave GC Carpenter and ED Binstock guidance on how to go about research on time constraints. The Commission gave the suggestion on making an updated flowchart and highlighting where the pain points are.

Commissioner Huibregtse suggested that the Commission be more involved with legislative and executive branch leadership. Acting Chair Goodman questioned which agencies the Commission should be involved with. Commissioner Huibregtse explained that he would want every agency to have an opportunity to communicate with the Commission.

Commissioner Huibregtse added the initiatives of an updated case management and filing system, as well as increasing staff resources. These have been discussed in past meetings and will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

Commissioner Huibregtse briefly discussed the budget, staffing, and organizational structure of the Commission.

Commissioner Huibregtse gave the Commission the question of "How would your strategy change with unlimited resources?": Commissioner Western answered staff would be the main priority. Acting Chair Goodman answered that education should also be a main priority.

Commissioner Huibregtse continued the PowerPoint by asking the question of "Is there anything the NDEC should stop doing?". Commissioner Sharp stated that once the complaint process is improved then the Commission can start to look at cutting tasks, ED Binstock agreed with Commissioner Sharp.

Commissioner Huibregtse concluded the presentation by discussing the importance of communicating with other government agencies.

Commissioner Huibregtse explained he will draft a new updated strategic plan for the Commission with help from the staff.

3. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 24th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in-person in Bismarck and livestreamed with MS Teams.

Approved on

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission

