



North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of March 7, 2025

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Anderson at 9:35 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair Ward Koeser, Commissioners Cynthia Lindquist, Ron Goodman, and Murray Sagsveen, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, General Counsel Logan Carpenter, Operations Administrator Alisha Maier, and Legal Intern Patrick Frise.
2. **Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-02:** CG Carpenter provided an update on Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-02. Commissioners were provided with a draft of the opinion prior to the meeting. The requestor was Shawn McKenna, Executive Director for the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations. The request was regarding meals and awards at their annual conference. General Counsel Carpenter advised on the specifics in the advisory opinion and summarized the drafted opinion.

Commissioner Sagsveen disclosed a potential conflict of interest to the Commission regarding the advisory opinion as he has been on the board of directors, is a member, and occasionally provides legal counsel to the Association. Commissioner Sagsveen recused himself and did not participate in the discussion of or vote on the advisory opinion.

**Motion:** Vice Chair Koeser moved to approve the draft language and issue advisory opinion 24-02 to the requestor and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

3. **Discussion of Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-03:** CG Carpenter provided an update on Advisory Opinion Request No. 24-03. Commissioners were provided with a draft of the opinion prior to the meeting. The requestor was Representative Dawson Holle. The request was regarding a hypothetical situation of a legislator promoting a product outside of their line of work as a legislator. General Counsel Carpenter advised on the specifics in the advisory opinion and summarized the drafted opinion.

Commissioners discussed discomfort with legislators being able to promote products even if it is outside of their line of work as legislators. ED Binstock advised under the current law, there is

nothing that prohibits this. GC Carpenter advised other states do have prohibitions, but North Dakota currently does not. He further advised the Commission could consider this in the future as a rule.

**Motion:** Commissioner Lindquist moved to approve the draft language and issue advisory opinion 24-03 to the requester and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sagsveen. Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., livestreamed with MS Teams.

Approved on 4/2/25

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RBinstock", written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission