

North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of August 29, 2023

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard at 9:13 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair David Anderson, Commissioners Ron Goodman, Ward Koeser, and Cynthia Lindquist, Legal Counsel Patricia Monson, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, Office Manager Holly Gaugler, and in-coming General Counsel Logan Carpenter.
2. **Agenda and Instructions for Special Meeting:** Chair Richard reminded the Commission that discussion for the meeting is limited to the agenda item which includes discussion of the May 17, 2023, request for advisory opinion.
3. **Discussion of May 17, 2023 Request for Advisory Opinion #23-02:** Executive Director Binstock led the discussion of the draft of the May 17, 2023. The request from Nancy Johnson, Executive Director of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association related to out-of-state travel for state legislators to attend an event. In accordance with the Commission's policy on Advisory Opinions, ED Binstock reviewed the request in consultation with Chair Richard. On May 31, 2023, ED Binstock notified Executive Director Johnson that the Ethics Commission would provide an advisory opinion and that her information, as the individual requesting the advisory opinion, would be an open record.

ED Binstock asked the Commission to review and provide feedback on the current draft. The Commission agreed with the general direction of the guidance in the draft; however, added several suggestions for clarification.

The Commission requested that ED Binstock provide a final draft for Commissioner review and comments in a special meeting to be held on August 30, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. CST.

4. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Approved on 9/27/2023 

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission