North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of August 18, 2025

600 E Boulevard Ave, Room 321, Bismarck and MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Cynthia Lindquist at 9:01 a.m. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Vice Chair Ward Koeser, Commissioners Ron Goodman and Murray Sagsveen, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, General Counsel Logan Carpenter, and Operations Administrator Adilene Moos.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission discussed special meeting minutes from June 3, 2025 and regular meeting minutes from June 25, 2025.

   Motion: Vice Chair Koeser moved to approve minutes from the Commission's June 3, 2025 Special Meeting and June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Chair Lindquist called for a voice vote. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

3. **Review of Annual Report:** ED Binstock walked through a draft of the Annual Report. The Commissioner's provided feedback and proposed updates. ED Binstock made proposed changes throughout the discussion. A final draft will be shared with the Commissioners for review.

4. **Discussion of HR Follow-Up:** ED Binstock introduced the new Operations Administrator, Adilene Moos.

   ED Binstock provided a brief overview of recent events regarding the Office of the Attorney General. Chair Lindquist contacted the Attorney General's Office and requested a meeting to discuss professional expectations between our offices and creating a collaborative working relationship moving forward. Initially, Attorney General Wrigley agreed to meet with the Commission but was unavailable on the proposed dates. Chair Lindquist asked for the Attorney General's availability, which he then refused to meet with the Commission until it responded to several letters.

   Chair Lindquist stated that further discussion needed to be had. Commissioner Sagsveen offered to draft a response to the Attorney General's Office for consideration by the Commission. Chair Lindquist agreed to move forward with having Commissioner Sagsveen draft a written response.

5. **Discussion of Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee Presentation:** ED Binstock provided an update on the presentation given to the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review

Committee ("LAFRC"). LAFRC requested the Commission provide information to the Committee on Complication #4 within the Report and Recommendation adopted by the Commission on May 27, 2025, related to Representative Jason Dockter's ethical issues. The information was presented by Special Assistant Attorney General Patricia Monson. The presentation focused on the lack of financial reconciliation on the Burlington Drive project. Assistant Attorneys General Mary Kay Kelsch and Laura Balliet presented information from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the reconciliation.

Attorney Monson provided additional information on the presentation. Specifically, Attorney Monson provided details on areas the presentation deviated from the submitted presentation. Based on new information obtained and confirmed by Stealth's attorney, Attorney Monson presented to the LAFRC Committee that she believed no reconciliation had occurred yet and there could not have been one. The LAFRC Committee requested the Office of the Attorney General to present the reconciliation during LAFRC's December meeting.

The Commission recessed at 10:22 a.m. and all Commission members reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

6. **Discussion of Advisory Opinions 25-05 and 25-06:** GC Carpenter provided updates on Advisory Opinion Requests.

Advisory Opinion Request 25-05:
Commissioners were provided with a draft of the opinion prior to the meeting. The Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association ("RRVSGA") made the request for an advisory opinion. The request was regarding hosting a sugarbeet harvest and sugarbeet factory tour. GC Carpenter advised on the specifics and summarized the draft opinion.

Motion: Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the draft language and issue advisory opinion 25-05 to the requesters and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Sagsveen. Chair Lindquist called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Advisory Opinion Request 25-06:
Commissioners were provided with a draft of the opinion prior to the meeting. State Treasurer Thomas Beadle made the request for an advisory opinion. The request was regarding a travelling event to Israel he is planning. GC Carpenter advised on the specifics and summarized the draft opinion. The Commission discussed concerns with State Treasurer Beadle's involvement with the State Investment Board. Commissioner Sagsveen suggested adding a comment to the advisory opinion advising State Treasurer Beadle if an issue comes

before the State Investment Board, he must disclose the trip as a potential conflict of interest.

Motion: Commissioner Sagsveen moved to approve the draft language with the discussed additional comment and issue advisory opinion 25-06 to the requesters and for publication on the Commission's website. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Chair Lindquist called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

7. **Executive Session:** The Commission entered executive session during the general meeting at 11:08 a.m. to discuss Complaint No. 25-069. Information regarding the content and parties to a complaint to the Ethics Commission is confidential. The following participants entered the executive session: Chair Lindquist, Vice Chair Koesar, Commissioners Ron Goodman and Murray Sagsveen, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, General Counsel Logan Carpenter, and Operations Administrator Adilene Moos.

   Executive Session ended at 11:14 a.m. and all participants returned to the regular meeting.

   During the Executive Session, the Commission discussed Complaint Nos. 25-069.

   After Executive session, the following motion was made:

   Motion: Vice Chair Koeser moved to direct Executive Director Binstock to summarily dismiss Complaint No. 25-069 for a lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Chair Lindquist called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

8. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., livestreamed with MS Teams.

Approved on 9/17/2025

RBinstock

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission