



STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Public Safety  
Gambling Control Board  
87 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine  
04333-0087

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

STEVEN SILVER  
CHAIRMAN  
MILTON CHAMPION  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gambling Control Board  
Minutes of October 15, 2024 Board Meeting  
Held in person at 45 Commerce Drive & online via Zoom application.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Steven Silver, Board Chair  
Noel March, Board Member  
Joseph Hanslip, Board Member (Virtual)  
Kelly Bickmore, Board Member (Virtual) – joined the meeting at 9:16 am

**STAFF PRESENT**

Milton Champion, Executive Director  
Matthew Motti, Deputy Director  
Det. Don Armstrong, MSP (Virtual)  
Mallory Reilly, Office Specialist  
Amanda Spencer, Auditor  
Cami Hippler, Office Associate (Virtual)  
Philip Mantis, Assistant Attorney General  
Michael Sauschuck, DPS Commissioner

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Steven Silver called the meeting to order at 9:10 am in person & via Zoom application online.

Board Chair Steven Silver announced that Board member Sari Greene resigned her position on the Board as of October 8<sup>th</sup>. She served on the Board for about 3 years, and he thanked her for her service.

**2. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**August 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes Approval –**

*Board member Joseph Hanslip moved to approve the August 27, 2024 meeting minutes. Board Chair Steven Silver seconded the motion. Moved to roll call vote.*

***Members***

***Joseph Hanslip            Yea***

***Noel March                Yea***

***Steven Silver              Yea***

***3 In favor, the motion passed.***

### **3. OPERATIONS REPORT – Executive Director Champion**

In August 2024 there were (17) Shipments of machines and/or associated equipment shipped to or from licensed facilities. In September there were (5). There were (72) work orders completed in August and (25) in September, which ranged from new game installs, removals, changing themes, options and communications issues. There were (96) entries in the inspector pass on log in August and (53) in September to share information not only from within the facility but also between the facilities.

There are currently (10) formal complaints with status updates and are reported in the complaint dashboard; 1 is pending referral to the Board in a consent agreement, 1 is under review by the complaint committee, 1 was dismissed by the director, 1 is under review by the investigative committee, 1 was issued a letter of guidance, 4 are awaiting a response from the facilities and 1 continues to be under investigation.

There were no minor activities observed for the unit to continue to monitor for the development of any trends. There were no patron complaints; and there were 21 self-exclusions in August and September; 15 1yr, 0 -3yr, 4 – 5 yr, and 2 lifetime.

Oxford PD reported 17 calls in August and 17 calls in September:

- 6 arrests
- 1 banned patron
- 4 for illegal activity
- 6 medical responses
- 2 suspicious activities
- 9 possible intoxications
- 3 undesirable conducts

Bangor PD did not provide a report prior to the meeting.

Chair Silver noted that Self exclusions were up in the past month. When he first started it seemed like there were 1 to 2 a month, and now it is 7 to 10 a month. Director Champion stated that this was a total from only Casino and satellite location exclusions, and does not include Sports Wagering exclusions, which has seen 7 new requests since November 2023.

### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT – August and September 2024 - Amanda Spencer**

Total Casino Tax Revenue paid to the State of Maine decreased by 8.82% in August 2024 and decreased by 9.49% in September 2024 for both facilities compared to the same months in 2023. Total revenue collected year to date was over \$51million in September, a decrease of 5.31% compared to the same months in the prior year.

For each Casino:

The Oxford casino reported total net win from Slot machines of 6.87% in August 2024, and 7.01% in September 2024. Reported total win from Table Games was 11.37% in August 2024, and 23.79% in September 2024. The Hollywood casino reported total net win from Slot machines of 8.27% in August 2024, and 8.02% in September 2024. Reported total win from Table Games was 20.72 % in August 2024, and 23.18% in September 2024.

For Advance Deposit Wagering –

The Unit observed a decrease of 0.5% for August 2024, and a decrease of 16.8% in September 2024, compared to the same month in 2023. Year to Date Tax Revenue collected from in-state and out of state races was over \$165,000.00 through September, a decrease of 8.9% (or by over \$16,000.00) compared to the same months in the prior year.

Board member March noticed a decrease in revenue in the months reported and asked if anyone had any insight on what could be impacting this. Oxford GM, Matt Gallagher, stated this may be due to several progressive jackpots in the \$200,000 range, and a ramping down of the Covid highs.

## **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Director Champion began by stating the Advanced Deposit Wagering Rules were adopted by the Secretary of States office on October 8<sup>th</sup>. The Units website was updated to identify areas of oversight to include Casino, ADW, Fantasy, Sports Wagering, and Charitable. Rulemaking for each area will be separated out to make things easier to find. There has been an interest in potential ADW applicants.

Chair Silver asked for some information on the new sports book that opened in Portland recently, and how he should respond when asked about the facility sports book licenses. AAG Philip Mantis noted that currently the application is under review and that the establishment currently holds a temporary license, and it would be best not to discuss eligibility because that is still being determined at this time.

Commissioner Michael Sauschuck gave an update on the Inspector Schedule discussion that has been ongoing for the past 4 meetings. He updated the Board and the public on the letter of no confidence that was issued by the Inspectors on September 4<sup>th</sup> to local news outlets first, then was later sent to the Department of Public Safety 5 days after. Which was immediately followed by a letter of confidence issued by the remainder of the Unit's staff on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Chair Silver expressed concern about learning things through the media, he would like to see these issues be brought to the Board first, rather than to the media which seems childish and has the appearance of a publicity stunt.

Communication between the leadership team and the Inspectors has been greatly enhanced, with monthly in person meetings where they discuss ongoing operational concerns and seek input directly from the Inspectors.

## **6. LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW –**

### **a.) AGS LLC – Small Slot Machine Distributor – Initial**

Chair Silver stated for the record that all 3 applicants up for approval today are all companies that have used his firm at some point.

Compliance Officer for AGS LLC Brandon Griffith, was on the call to answer the Boards questions.

*Board member Noel March moved to approve the AGS small slot distributor license. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.*

#### ***Members***

***Joseph Hanslip:            Yea***

***Noel March:                Yea***

***Steven Silver               Yea***

***3 In favor, the motion passed.***

**b.) Cummins Alison Corp. – Gambling Services Vendor - Renewal**

*Board member Joseph Hanslip moved to approve Cummins Alison Corp.'s Gambling Services Vendor license renewal pending the update of the application. Board member Noel March seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Joseph Hanslip:**        *Yea*

**Noel March:**            *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*3 In favor, the motion passed.*

\*At 9:52am Board Member Kelly Bickmore was identified on the participant list in the meeting.

**c.) Interblock USA LLC – Table Games Distributor - Renewal**

*Board member Noel March moved to approve Interblock USA LLC's table games distributor license renewal. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Kelly Bickmore:**        *Yea*

**Joseph Hanslip:**       *Yea*

**Noel March:**            *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

**a.) Review of FBMS comments on 4th publication –**

The Board went through each comment with the Executive Director and welcomed clarification from comment authors.

*Board member Noel March moved to adopt the basis statement from the 4<sup>th</sup> publication with the changes made at the October meeting. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Kelly Bickmore:**        *Yea*

**Joseph Hanslip:**       *Yea*

**Noel March:**            *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

*Board member Noel March moved to adopt the final rules as amended pursuant to the basis statement. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Kelly Bickmore:**        *Yea*

**Joseph Hanslip:**       *Yea*

**Noel March:**            *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

**b.) Lab Certifications – Proposed Text New Rule 19-A and application**

Director Champion looked at 4 States for examples of their lab certification registrations/applications, and he determined Iowa was suitable for Maine’s use. Text from their applications were inserted into the proposed new rule 19-A and has undergone legal review.

*Board member Noel March moved to approve the proposed rule for rulemaking and put it out for public comment. Board member Kelly Bickmore seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Kelly Bickmore:**            *Yea*

**Joseph Hanslip:**        *Yea*

**Noel March:**             *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Rulemaking process Presentation** – Took out of order and occurred after the 10-minute break. AAG Philip Mantis gave a slideshow presentation to the Board about the rulemaking process.

**b) Chapter 13 rulemaking – Proposed Language**

Proposed rule changes for chapter 13 which would incorporate the ability for Sports Wagering, Fantasy, ADW, etc. to become a part of the universal self-exclusion list.

*Board member Noel March moved to publish the proposed changes to chapter 13 for public comment.*

*Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion.*

**Members**

**Kelly Bickmore:**            *Yea*

**Joseph Hanslip:**        *Yea*

**Noel March:**             *Yea*

**Steven Silver**            *Yea*

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

**c) GLI report on transition outcome**

John Grau gave the results of the transition to the Board in a presentation.

**\*\*10 Minute break took place at 10:35am, Board returned at 10:45am\*\***

**9. BOARD BUSINESS –**

Board member Noel March commented that he would be attending an online webinar on November 5th presented by Massachusetts Department of Health on the prevention of problem gambling.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

None

**11. Next Meeting** – December 17, 2024 @ 9:00am – 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta ME.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

*Board member Noel March moved to adjourn the Gambling Control Board meeting. Board member Joseph Hanslip seconded the motion. Moved to the roll call.*

***Members***

***Kelly Bickmore:           Yea***

***Joseph Hanslip:        Yea***

***Noel March:             Yea***

***Steven Silver            Yea***

*4 In favor, the motion passed.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Mallory Reilly*

*Office Specialist I*

*Board approved: 12/17/2024*