

**Annual Meeting of the
Prairie Meadows Board of Directors
November 19, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

The Monthly Meeting of the Prairie Meadows Board of Directors was called to order by Dr. Neville in the James Rasmussen Board Room at Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

Senator Tony Bisignano
Chris Costa
Tim Goodwin
Jeremy Hamp
Deb Leech – Via Zoom
Dr. Ian Lin
Denny Linderbaum
Andrea Morse

Joe Nehring
Dr. Steven Neville, Chair
Bob O’Hollearn
Tom Timmons
Jeff Wangsness
Rowena Crosbie – Via Zoom
Tiffany Tauscheck

Also in attendance were:

Gary Palmer, President/CEO
Brian Ohorilko, General Manager
Julie Stewart, COO

Tom Flynn, Legal Counsel
Audrey Higgins, Its Recording Secretary
Members of the Press, Public, and Staff

Approval of the Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Hamp to approve the Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Prairie Meadows Board of Directors held on October 22, 2025, as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costa. There was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Comment. None

Lobbyist Report. Kellie Paschke reported:

- There will be a special election for District 16 on December 30 for the open seat due to the passing of Senator Claire Celsi. There is not a change in power anticipated, Democrats will likely retain that seat.
- The Governor has appointed a new member to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. Attorney Michael Boal will be the 4th member of the commission. There is still one open seat on the commission.
- Representative Brian Lohse, who represents the Iowa House District 45, which is north of Altoona, will run for re-election.
- Former Senator Nate Boulton will run for Iowa House District 39 to replace retiring Representative Rick Olson. Former Senator Boulton was a great champion for Prairie Meadows.
- The 2026 legislative session will begin January 12, 2026. It is the second year of the biennium, that means it is the shorter session in theory. The session is scheduled for 100 days, that is how long they get paid for but has no effect on how long they are in session.

- Governor Kim Reynolds will not seek re-election. Her push this year is expected to be property tax reform. It is expected there will be discussion regarding eminent domain, government efficiency and consolidation of local governments.
- The State's currently experiencing a budget deficit of \$1.3 billion for the current budget year. The State may have to dip into reserve funds or make significant budget cuts.

Lobbyist Contract for 2026.

Mr. Palmer said our legislative lobbyists do a wonderful job and work hard for Prairie Meadows. He said the staff suggests the lobbyist receives a 2 percent raise. Mr. Linderbaum moved to approve the new contract for the legislative lobbyists increasing the salary by 2 percent from the current rate of \$100,564. Mr. Costa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Financials. Troy Sigwarth, Director of Finance, reviewed the October YTD financials:

	Actual	Plan
Casino Revenue	\$197.9m	\$187.3m
Total Revenue	\$229.7m	\$215.2m
Net Revenue	\$217.2m	\$201.6m
Payroll Expenses	\$49.4m	\$49.9m
Operating Expenses	\$62.6m	\$63.1m
Net Income before Community Benefit	\$56.9m	\$42.0m

Total Revenue YTD - October: Casino Operation \$198 million; Hotel and Events \$9.1 million; Food and Beverage \$6.5 million; Sportsbook \$5.8 million; Pari-Mutuel \$2.6 million; Other \$7.8 million. This totals about \$31.8 million through October.

Top Performing Areas: Casino Revenue, Gift Shop, Prairie Coffee Company, Slot Revenue, Casino Bars, and Café at the Meadows had record setting revenues for the month of October.

2025 YTD October Casino Revenue:

Iowa Market Comparison by size or 60-mile radius	
Prairie Meadows	\$198.2m
Horseshoe	\$145.0m
Ameristar II	\$136.2m
Riverside	\$104.0m
Isle – Waterloo	\$82.7m
Harrah's	\$56.7m
Lakeside	\$43.6m
Wild Rose Jefferson	\$30.5m

President's Report. Gary Palmer and Brian Ohorilko

Mr. Palmer

- Happy Thanksgiving to everyone next week.
- Thank you to everyone who came out for the Veteran's Day celebration on November 11. The program was great. The event gets bigger and better every year.

Mr. Ohorilko

- We will have all hands on deck for the holidays. A.J.'s currently has 507 reservations for Thanksgiving, which would give us our second busiest day of the year. Last year there were 577, we think we will exceed that this year.
- Christmas and New Year's Eve should be very busy. With Christmas and New Year's falling on Thursday that makes for two busy weekends. The staff are preparing for these Holidays.
- Mr. Palmer, Mr. Heldt, and Mr. Ohorilko will attend the IGA and IRGC meetings in Waterloo today and tomorrow. This is the final IRGC meeting for the year, the agenda includes routine business. At the IGA meeting they will be setting legislative priorities. The anticipated discussions will be on the moratorium, reciprocity on tax issues, defending against any potential tax or fee increases as it relates to the budget shortfalls that Kellie mentioned.
- Some recent polling was brought to our attention by a couple of Board members and industry colleagues. The poll questions are regarding opinions on Polk County, Prairie Meadows and potential new licenses. There is a question regarding support for the new casino in Cedar Rapids. The poll circulated to the general public. Activity like this circulates every couple of years, this is not new. There are many steps that would have to be taken before a new license could be considered. It is important for messaging on this to be consistent and accurate. The facts are that Prairie Meadows is not underperforming, another casino would significantly impact our ability to provide for our community and would negatively affect the non-profits we support. Our 99D, non-profit, model provides benefits that a 99F facility could not replicate due to debt and shareholder obligations. We intend to strongly advocate for a moratorium this legislative year. We believe now is the time to push for this moratorium. There are no active license applications, there was one last year. There is expanded gambling in other states and Iowa has 20 licenses. There have been national concerns regarding online sports wagering. We plan to be proactive with our legislative strategy and with education and communication plans if the need arises.

Mr. O'Hollearn asked if the communication plan Mr. Ohorilko mentioned will be shared with the Board, so everyone could be informed on the content. Mr. Ohorilko said that it will and it is important that Board members, our non-profit partners and business leaders understand our position. Mr. Nehring asked if it is known who put out the poll. Mr. Ohorilko said he has a strong belief who circulated the poll but would not speculate without knowing for sure. Ms. Tauscheck asked if the poll has been discussed with Polk County leadership. Mr. Ohorilko said no, but it would be a good idea. Mr. Linderbaum said he understood that there will never be another non-profit casino in Iowa. Mr. Ohorilko said that is correct and it would be part of the communication plan. Because of the non-profit status, there would be no significant economic growth if another casino were to be added.

Committee Reports:

- Executive

Dr. Neville said there is an action item regarding the contract with the City of Des Moines, Polk County and Prairie Meadows. The current contract included a cap for the payments made to the City of Des Moines. Prairie Meadows has met that cap. The contract does not expire until the end of 2026 and there will be a gap in payments for the city. Mr. Palmer said the contract was negotiated 8 years ago and the \$48 million cap was put in place at that time. Prairie Meadows will reach that cap this month. We do not owe the City of Des Moines any more on the contract. The City of Des Moines has requested that current rate of 5.1% continue to be made through 2026. Mr. Palmer said staff is recommending we continue those payments. Des Moines is our capital city, most of our customers come from Des Moines. The previous contract's cap was \$32 million. Prairie Meadows has had a fabulous last eight years. Mr. Palmer said he would like to fulfill our portion of the contract through 2026. Mr. Palmer said Prairie Meadows pays 2/3 of that 5.1%. Ms. Morse said she believes not paying it would put the City of Des Moines in a bind. Mr. Wangsness said the contract cap was not to limit payments to the City of Des Moines, but to protect Prairie Meadows had the economy taken a downturn. He said it was never anyone's intent to short the city. Mr. Wangsness said the City of Des Moines needs the money. Mr. Wangsness moved to approve the payments to the City of Des Moines. Ms. Morse seconded the motion. Dr. Lin asked about the 2/3's of the payment. Mr. Palmer said Prairie Meadows pays 2/3 of the 5.1% and Polk County pays 1/3. He said in the beginning of these negotiations, Polk County did not want to pay their 1/3. Through further discussions and negotiations, Polk County has said they will pay their portion. Dr. Neville said the item has been moved and seconded that Prairie Meadows will pay the 2/3 payments for November and December 2025, as well as the entire year of 2026. He asked for any additional discussion and a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

- Finance and Audit

Ms. Morse said the Finance and Audit Committee met on Monday. She said that Mr. Sigwarth presented the budget for 2026. There will be some adjustments made in January for the City of Des Moines payments, interest payments and possible budgeting for grants. Mr. Palmer said an hour before this meeting the Board had an option to discuss the budget with staff. No one had any questions. Ms. Morse said the committee recommends approval of the budget as presented. Dr. Neville asked for discussion and called for a voice vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Morse said part of the responsibilities of the committee are to oversee the financial investments and cash of Prairie Meadows. The committee sent out a request for proposals to 6 local investment companies. After reviewing the proposals, 4 were chosen to present to the committee. The companies sent their teams that would be working with Prairie Meadows and had 1 hour to present. The committee was looking for advisors who have experience with non-profits organizations, portfolios of our size, a good investment policy and track record of reporting. She said all the firms were professional. After comparison, the committee recommends Principal. The next step is for staff to negotiate the contract and Principal's fees to ensure that due diligence is completed. The committee will update the Board once this is finalized. Ms. Morse thanked everyone on the committee for working on this project. Dr. Lin asked what the estimated fees are, they would be managing a large amount of money. Ms. Morse said there are always fees and

that it is important that experts find investments for this money. Prairie Meadows has a great finance team, but this is outside of their expertise. Dr. Lin asked if the fee is lower with the more money in the portfolio. Ms. Morse said that is what we are looking to negotiate. Ms. Morse said the committee's recommendation is that Prairie Meadows' Staff enter into a contract with Principal as the investment advisor, subject to fee negotiations. Dr. Neville called for a voice vote. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

- Facilities

Mr. Costa reported they did not have a meeting. He said the MEP study will be completed in early Spring 2026, which will give guidance on potential capital expenditures over the next 10-15 years.

- Human Resources

Mr. Nehring reported they did not have a meeting and there is nothing to report.

- Grants

Dr. Lin reported that there was not a meeting of the committee, however the group is working on updating the Grants Committee Charter. He said the current Charter only allows committee members to be on the committee for 2 years. He said it takes 2 years to learn and understand the Grants applications and process. The committee would like to extend the term to 3 years. The committee would like to make some changes and present them to the Board next month. Mr. Linderbaum said there should be a 3-year minimum on the Committee. The process is intensive and rewarding, but it is not easy. He said Ms. Stewart and her staff do a great job preparing committee members and Dr. Lin is a great leader. Mr. Wangsness said he was on the Grants committee for only one year because of the amount of work and commitment it requires. He voiced his recommendation for this proposed change. Ms. Morse said Dr. Lin did a great job on the committee and she believes he should continue to chair the committee.

Recommendations from the At-Large Committee for Two Open Board Positions

Mr. Linderbaum said for the two open Board positions the At-Large Committee recommends the reappointment of Dr. Ian Lin and Mr. Jeff Wangsness for another 3 years. They are both willing to serve. Dr. Neville called for a voice vote to reappoint Dr. Lin and Mr. Wangsness. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Announcement of Appointments to the Board – Dr. Neville

- Polk County appointees: Mr. Tim Goodwin and Senator Tony Bisignano
- Greater Des Moines Partnership: Renewing Mr. Chris Costa, Ms. Ro Crosbie and Ms. Tiffany Tauscheck
- Taxpayers Association of Central Iowa appointee: Mr. Art Wittmack

Election of the Executive Committee – Dr. Neville

Dr. Neville said anyone who has not expressed their interest in being on the Executive Committee, please express that interest now. There was no one additional who expressed

interest. Mr. Flynn said the ballots will be passed out. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Linderbaum will count the votes.

Dr. Neville reviewed the vote count and said the Executive Committee will consist of Mr. Costa, Mr. Wangsness, Ms. Morse, Ms. Leech and Dr. Neville. Dr. Neville thanked everyone for putting themselves on the ballot.

Election of Executive Committee Officers – Dr. Neville

Dr. Neville asked for nominations for the Executive Committee Officers. Mr. Wangsness said he would like to make a motion for a slate ballot with Dr. Neville as Chairman, Mr. Costa as Vice Chairman and Ms. Leech as Secretary. All proposed officers agreed to serve as nominated. Senator Bisignano moved to accept the motion for the slate ballot. Mr. Linderbaum seconded the motion. Dr. Neville called for a voice vote on the slate for Executive Committee Officers. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Recognition of Retiring Board Member, Bob O’Hollearn – Dr. Neville

Dr. Neville said Mr. O’Hollearn is completing his final term on the Board of Directors. He said Mr. O’Hollearn is trustworthy and he will miss serving with him. He is thankful for the years Mr. O’Hollearn served. Mr. O’Hollearn said Prairie Meadows is a house in good order, thanks to the staff and the Board. He said the mojo or chemistry at Prairie Meadows works. He suggested that the Board and the staff lean on each other, listen to each other and use each other’s talent. He told the Board to be careful of micromanaging. Mr. O’Hollearn said Mr. Palmer and Mr. Ohorilko and their teams know the gaming industry and do a great job. He said it has been an honor to serve on the Board. Thank you.

Other Business.

Dr. Neville said the upcoming meetings are as follows:

- Next Board Meeting: December 17, 2025 – 3:00 p.m.
- Executive Committee Meeting: December 17, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.
- Board Dinner: December 17, 2025. Social hour at 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. - AJ’s Party Room

Adjournment. Mr. Goodwin moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Mr. Hamp. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:52p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Leech, Its Secretary