

**Minutes of Meeting  
of the  
Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission (SIRRC)**

**October 24, 2023  
Microsoft Team Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAM MEETING:

Dave Walker (Brl); Dave Schwarz (Kk); Kirk Brandenberger (Kk); Terry Johnson (Brl); Chuck Kempker (FM); Jason Hutcheson (Brl); Justin Pieper (FM); Joe Steil (Kk)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Steve Link (FM)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

Also present was Rob Higgins, General Manager of Catfish Bend Casinos LLC.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023 meeting was made by Joe Steil. The motion was seconded by Chuck Kempker. A roll call vote was held and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Dave Walker presented the Treasurer's Report and discussed income and expenses as well as a general overview of the finances for the last three (3) months. Walker noted that the payment to Menke & Company was for information required by the DCI. The payment to World Insurance was for Director's insurance. Walker moved approval of the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Kirk Brandenberger. A roll call was made and the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

CATFISH BEND CASINOS LLC REPORT:

Rob Higgins, General Manager, reported to the Board and provided the following:

2023 earnings are nearly on par with 2022, which was the second-best year for the Casino. Promotions have been doing well. October earnings are currently ahead of 2022.

The Courtside projects are progressing well. Higgins noted that the Courtside area is expected to generate more use of the overall facilities than some of the activities at the

RecPlex. The renovation of the Catfish Inn has been pushed after the first of the year due to planned 4-day New Year's activities.

Higgins is still working with the Iowa Legislature regarding iGaming.

Dealer employment at the Casino is now at 45 full-time. That is still lower than the 60 dealers pre-COVID but greatly improved over the low of 25.

The Pointsbet has been sold to Fanatics. Details are to come as the transaction is finalized. Higgins is cautiously optimistic

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Jason Hutcheson reviewed a proposed memo regarding the changes in distribution of funds in 2024. The purpose of the memo is to ensure good communication with the affiliated entities since the addition of the Community Foundation of Des Moines County will affect the amounts received by the others. Dave Walker made a motion to approve the memo; second by Justin Pieper. A roll call was made and the motion was unanimously approved.

Dave Schwarz explained that the director's insurance is now with World Insurance with an increase in premium. World Insurance acquired 2 Rivers Insurance. Joe Steil stated that the board should allow local companies to bid for the director's insurance before the next renewal. Requests for bids would need to be sent out by July 1, 2024.

The annual audit will be conducted by Anderson Larkin & Co., PC of Ottumwa, Iowa.

There was discussion of the need for a member to transition off the board due to bylaws changes required by the IRGC. Schwarz and Brandenberger plan to meet with the City of Keokuk regarding use of funds compliance. After that meeting the board will have a special called meeting to discuss succession.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Terry Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Walker. After a roll call the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Johnson  
Secretary, SIRRC