

Meeting Minutes of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

Business Meeting
900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

May 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission was called to order on May 21, 2025, at 9:34 a.m. by Commission Chair Joy Blankenship.

ATTENDEES

The commissioners in attendance included Commission Chair Joy Blankenship, Michael Johnson, Jerel Saeler, Scott Wood, Jimmy Jones, Clay Maxey, and Michael Moix. Staff present included Director Daniel Pace, Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap, and Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino. Other attendees included Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey, Lev Bradford of Bradford Marine & ATV, Michael Muskheli and Trevor Hawkins, of Mitchell, Blackstock, Wright & Alagood, PLLC, Brandon Prosansky of Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP, and William Yandell of Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC. This Commission meeting was broadcast on AR-CAN, Arkansas PBS.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the Wednesday, April 16, 2025, regularly scheduled meeting, were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission following a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Jimmy Jones.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Director Pace presented the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2025. Fiscal year 2025 reflected a revenue deposit total of \$425,942.49 to date. Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2025.

Director Pace presented the Monthly License Activity Reports, License Renewal Reports, License Renewal Summary, and Voluntary License Surrender Reports. Director Pace noted the addition of four (4) new licensed franchise dealers: Terry Small's Extreme Outdoors, Heartland Honda by Wood Powersports, Master's Transportation of Arkansas, and Walt Massey Chevrolet. Director Daniel Pace noted updates to Dealer and Lessor license renewals, stating that there are only two expired franchise dealer licenses at present, Moped U and White River ATV. As of May 21, 2025, there are two distributors and six manufacturers that have expired licenses in the ELP System.

The Investigation Summary Reports compiled by Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino included the time frame of April 2025 through May 2025. There have been investigations into title

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issues, unlicensed dealers, unlicensed manufacturers, warranty disputes, and advertising complaints. In addition, 24 noted dealer visits have been conducted from April to May 2025. The investigators have completed 10 advertisement reviews for licensed Franchise Auto Dealers in the 2025 calendar year. The Commission has received 68 total complaints (Formal & Non-Formal) since the first of the year. Director Pace provided a status update on pending and open complaints from 2024 and 2025.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS

Director Daniel Pace introduced the legal counsel of Bradford Marine & ATV, Inc., Michael Muskheili and Trevor Hawkins, the Owner of Bradford Marine & ATV, Inc., Lev Bradford, as well as the Legal Counsel for BRP US Inc., William Yandell and Brandon Prosansky. Legal Counsel for Bradford Marine & ATV, Inc. provided a written request for a continuance of the Hearing H#24-088, as well as suggested adjustments to be made to the existing pre-hearing schedule for consideration by the Commission. Legal counsel for BRP US Inc. provided a letter and accompanying exhibits in opposition to the request made by Legal counsel for Bradford Marine & ATV, Inc. Trevor Hawkins and Brandon Prosansky presented each party's position to the commission and answered questions proposed by the commissioners on this matter. Following the Commission's review and discussion of the presented information, a proper motion was made by Scott Wood to extend the date of completion of Fact Discovery to be completed by June 10, 2025, while keeping all other pre-hearing and hearing dates in place as originally approved. The proper motion was seconded by Jimmy Jones and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Director Daniel Pace requested that a Hearing Date be set in July 2025 for C#24-027 Gentry Chevrolet vs. General Motors LLC, based on the commissioners' availability. Following discussion by the commissioners, a proper motion was made by Scott Wood and seconded by Jerel Saeler to schedule the July 2025 Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting and Hearing for C#24-027 for July 23, 2025. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Director Daniel Pace and Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap provided an update on NF#25-004 AMVC vs. Icon of Hot Springs/Golf Cart Elite, which has been set for hearing on June 18, 2025. Following the receipt of the Notice of Hearing, Golf Cart Elite owner Scottie Walbeck submitted a New Franchise Auto Dealer application, however the application is not complete, and Commission staff is working on obtaining all required documents and information from Mr. Walbeck. Director Pace and Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey requested that the Commission approve for Commission staff to present a Consent Agreement to Mr. Walbeck and also require him to appear before the Commission at the next meeting on June 18, 2025, to address any questions from Commissioners related to his pending license application. Following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved for Director Pace and Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey to present a Consent Agreement to Mr. Scottie Walbeck

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with the requirement that he must appear before the commission on June 18, 2025, to address any questions from Commissioners related to his pending license application.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Pace presented three (3) Voluntary License Surrender Agreements from license holders no longer conducting business in the state of Arkansas (listed under Section 6A on the agenda). The listed license holders requested that the license presented be terminated, and each of the licensees has acknowledged that if they wish to engage in business in the state of Arkansas after the license has been terminated, they must apply for a new license through the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission. Following a proper motion to approve the Voluntary License Surrender Agreements H#25-034 and H#25-036 listed under Section 6A on the agenda by Michael Johnson and a second by Scott Wood, the Commission unanimously approved the motion. Commissioner Michael Moix recused himself from any motions and voting on Voluntary License Surrender Agreement H#25-037 – Moix Equipment & Toy Company. Following a proper motion to approve Voluntary License Surrender Agreement H#25-037 listed under Section 6A on the agenda by Michael Johnson and a second by Jerel Saeler, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Director Pace presented funding recommendations to the Commission with respect to the 2025 Automotive Technologist Education Grant Program (ATEGP). As per Arkansas code 23-112-207, the Division of Career and Technical Education, the Division of Higher Education, and the Office of Skills Development have jointly reviewed all thirteen grant applications submitted to the Commission with Director Pace and recommended to the Commission that 11 programs receive funding for Fiscal Year 2025. The total funding amount recommended for all 11 programs is \$250,000.00. After review and discussion by the Commission of the 11 recommended program applications for funding, a proper motion was made by Michael Johnson and seconded by Michael Moix, to approve for funding to be granted to the 11 programs listed under section 6B of the Agenda, in accordance with the funding amounts recommended by the Division of Career and Technical Education, the Division of Higher Education, and the Office of Skills Development for the 2025 Arkansas Technologist Education Grant Program. The Commission then unanimously approved the motion.

Director Pace presented the Licensed Manufacturer/Distributor – Arkansas Representatives List, a new required document that has been added to the ELP System for all Manufacturer and Distributor license applications. This document was designed by Commission Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap and will require licensed Manufacturers and Distributors to list all active Representatives working in Arkansas. The ELP System will not allow the license application to be completed without the submission of the required document, which will help Commission staff identify Manufacturer and Distributor Representatives that are not currently licensed in the ELP System.

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ADJOURNMENT

Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Jimmy Jones, Chair Joy Blankenship thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:23 A.M. on May 21, 2025, by unanimous approval of the Commission.

Minutes submitted by:


Alexis Dunlap and Daniel Pace 18 June 2025
Date:

Minutes Approved by:


Commission Chair Joy Blankenship 18 June 2025
Date: