

**DRAFT AGENDAAERC Board Convention Meeting 3/8/18, 7 p.m. PSTGrand Sierra
Resort Casino, Reno, NV**

Call to order and roll call

Housekeeping: Acceptance of agenda (behind Tab 1)

Acceptance of committee reports – behind Tab 2

Approval of 2/12/18 board meeting minutes – directly behind this agenda (Tab 1)

Excusals – none received as of 2/28/18

Statistical report – Kathleen

March 2018 Convention Meeting

Membership as of 3/3/17 3647

Membership as of 3/5/18 3858

Sanction fees as of 3/2/17 \$12,223

Sanction fees as of 3/2/18 \$10,135

Rider fees as of 3/2/17 \$ 9,085

Rider fees as of 3/2/18 \$ 8,444

New members as of 3/3/17 224

New members as of 3/2/18 277

Business before the Board:

Motion regarding Big Hill Lake Shelter near Cherryvale KS trail grant – Trails & Land Management Committee – Motion behind Tab 3

Motion proposal to add thymosin to Appendix A from the Veterinary Committee – Motion behind Tab 3

Motion proposal re use of external magnetic field devices from the Veterinary Comm – Motion behind Tab 3

Motion proposal re-funding of drug testing outside California from Vet. Comm – Motion behind Tab 3

Motion proposal re Facebook policy – Steph Teeter – Motion behind Tab 3

Board orientation – John H. Parke

Strategic Plan – Paul Latiolais/Lisa Schneider

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Motion: Big Hill Lake Shelter near Cherryvale, KS

Proposing Committee: Trails and Land Management

Date of Motion: 3/8/2018

Classification of Motion Request: New

Proposed Motion: To buy and install a shelter at the south equestrian campground of Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake. The Trails and Land Management Committee moves that AERC fund \$500.00 for requesting organization:

Big Hill Trail Fund
c/o: Marsha Hayes
Address: 3277 CR 4300
Independence, Kansas 67335
Phone:620-330-0582
Email: mhkansas@me.com

Background, analysis and benefit: To buy and install a shelter at the south equestrian campground of Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake. There are three campgrounds, three equestrian trail heads, and four day use areas for the public to enjoy operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Backcountry Horsemen of Kansas has an MOU with the Army Corp of Engineers. Back Country Horsemen of Kansas (which most Kansas AERC members belong to) have an agreement for trail maintenance at Big Hill Lake. Funds will supplement a \$15,000 Handshake Grant to help complete a group shelter at the south equestrian campground. The entire project includes new pipe pens in the north, improved trail signage, the group pavilion, and new kiosk. Volunteer labor will save thousands and include erection of the pavilion.

Budget effect/impact: Funds from dedicated Trails Grant fund

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization: The shelter will help ride management during the AERC endurance rides held at Big Hill Lake. It will also help all users of the campground and trails. A plaque will be erected on the shelter listing all contributing organizations. Great PR for AERC. AERC rides: Big Hill Blowout from 2000-2003 and Little Ozarks at Big Hill Lake 2017(skiping 2018). AERC Members use these trails to condition on.

Impact on AERC Office: Minimal staff time.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Trails and Land Management Committee

Implementation plan: Private donations of cash:\$3000; • Private donations of labor, equipment, materials:\$4,000; • Other grants: Labette County Tourism, \$300. NATRC \$500. Heartland Trail Rider, \$250 and Back Country Horsemen \$500. • Other funds/resources: Any time NATRC has a ride at any project, proceeds go towards trail improvements

Supporting approvals: Trails and Land Management Committee

AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Update to rule 13, Appendix A (Drug rule, prohibited substances appendix)

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion AERC board meeting, March, 2018

Classification of Motion Request Rule update

Proposed Motion Add thymosin Beta-4 (Vecta TB-1000) to Rule 13, appendix A (prohibited substances).

Background, analysis and benefit The AERC Veterinary Committee is tasked with updating AERC Rule 13 appendices as needed. As newer medications and treatments are developed and become available, they are to be assessed by the Veterinary Committee and added to the prohibited substance appendix A as necessary. Thymosin Beta-4 is an amino acid chain from which Vecta TB-1000 is purported to be derived. This amino acid chain is purported to, among other claimed benefits, increase angiogenesis which in effect increases blood flow throughout the body and in turn may result in improved heart rate recovery times and overall performance.

Budget effect/impact Updating/reprinting of appendix A, Rule 13.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC: The purpose of AERC Drug Rule 13 is in part to ensure fair competition by allowing horses to compete only under their natural ability and without the influence of drugs or medications. Adding thymosin Beta-4 to the prohibited substance appendix is consistent with that purpose and will promote fair and safe competition.

Impact on AERC Office Updating appendix A, rule 13.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Rules Committee

Implementation plan: To be implemented immediately.

Supporting materials: Rule 13

Website information for Vecta TB-1000 *“The use of TB-1000 in Endurance Horses has been proven to increase stamina for races from 30km - 160km, providing a notable advantage over competitors. TB-1000, when used in conjunction with SGF1000 Activation has been proven to lower the heart rates (when administered IV) of Endurance Horses, a benefit sought after by all elite Endurance Stables. Reduced heart rates provide many benefits including a fast passing through the Vet Checks during races on heart rates (as well as dehydration and soundness) as quickly as possible with heart rates between legs required to reduce below 60bpm before progressing to the next leg of the race. Recent top placings*

in prestigious Endurances races in Australia and Dubai showed that heart rates were able to be decreased by 3-4 minutes faster than horses that were not using TB-1000 and SGF1000 Activation with Endurance Horses on the VECTA Program successfully reducing heart rates by an average of 4-8bpm during racing. This provides a greater edge over your competitors and can benefit your overall result my many placings These prestigious races including the Tom Quilty 2015 Gold Cup have received top placings using TB-1000 and SGF-1000 Activation as a big advantage over their competitors and has resulted in multiple 1st place for 'best conditioned horse'.

Supporting approvals: Veterinary Committee, Rules Committee

AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name Update to rule 13, Appendix F (Drug rule, prohibited treatment appendix)

Proposing Committee Veterinary Committee

Date of Motion AERC board meeting, March, 2018

Classification of Motion Request Rule update

Proposed Motion Add language to Rule 13, appendix F item #6 (prohibited substances) to read: “The use of external magnetic field devices and electropulse generating devices on equines shall be prohibited at AERC sanctioned ride venues”.

1. **Background, analysis and benefit** The AERC Veterinary Committee is tasked with updating AERC Rule 13 appendices as needed. As newer treatment modalities are developed and become available, they are to be assessed by the Veterinary Committee and added to the Prohibited Treatment Appendix F as necessary.
2. External magnetic field devices are currently prohibited by Appendix F, item #6 of rule 13. Appendix F, item #6 currently reads: “*Any external magnetic field device or electropulse generator device applied either over the entire body or specifically on pressure points. This would include but not be limited to P3 machines.*” However, these devices are currently prohibited only “if administered to an equine while it is competing in an endurance ride”. Per 13.3.1
3. The use of external magnetic field devices by lay persons is becoming more widespread in equine athletes. There is not reliable scientific literature clarifying the safety, efficacy, or length of time of any effects of this therapy. Available information is predominantly anecdotal. The purported purpose of its use in part is for the management of pain. It is the opinion of the Veterinary Committee that in order to 1) project a positive image of the treatment of equine athletes at AERC sanctioned rides and 2) remain consistent with the purpose of the drug rule which is to protect equines from harm and to ensure fair competition and to ensure that horses perform without the influence of any veterinary

treatment, the use of these devices should be limited to off site use and not be allowed at the venue of AERC sanctioned rides.

Budget effect/impact Updating/reprinting of appendix F, Rule 13.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC The purpose of AERC Drug Rule 13 is in part to ensure fair competition by allowing horses to compete only under their natural ability and without the influence of treatment. Prohibiting the use of external magnetic field devices and electropulse generating devices at the ride site is consistent with that purpose and will promote fair and safe competition.

Impact on AERC Office Updating appendix F, rule 13.

Committees consulted and/or affected Rules Committee

Implementation plan To be implemented immediately.

Supporting materials Rule 13

Supporting approvals Veterinary Committee, Rules Committee

AERC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOTION PROPOSAL

Motion Name – Motion to use Fund the Drug Testing Program (outside of CA)

Proposing Committee – Veterinary Committee, Research Committee, Legal Counsel

Date of Motion – March 8, 2018

Classification of Motion Request – New – Policy Change per rider drug testing fee increase outside of CA for ride year 2019

Ongoing – continue use of Drug Testing Reserve funds to fund current ride year 2018

Proposed Motion – Motion to fund the AERC Drug Testing Program -

For 2018 use \$27,000 from the Drug Testing Reserves to maintain drug testing at the current level for the ride year 2018– outside of CA

For 2019 increase per rider start drug testing fee from \$3 to \$6 outside of CA to begin on December 1, 2018..

Background, analysis and benefit –

In 2013 the AERC Veterinary and Legal Committees completed an extensive overhaul of the AERC Drug Testing Program. This resulted in improved testing protocols and a better interface with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), the agency that carries out the actual drug testing at AERC rides. The improved testing procedures has greatly elevated the presence of the drug testing program, by testing widely and completely through most distances sampled. This broader sample collection, along with testing even some of the most remote and smallest rides, has improved the desired deterrence factor the drug testing program is supposed to foster. During 2014 and 2015 AERC only tested one ride per region, plus the two days of the National Championships, with one additional ride chosen at random from all regions. In 2016 and 2017 the BOD approved the use of drug testing reserve funds to increase testing numbers, with a target of two rides per region, plus one additional testing day, plus both days of the National Championships, for a projected 19 total sample days. In 2016 there was a total of 168 samples taken, with no positives. In 2017, we nearly reached our target testing level with 211 samples taken, over 18 ride days tested, with 3 positives. At 211 samples out of approximately 13,000 ride starts outside of CA, the AERC is testing 1.6% of rider starts, as compared to the CA EMMP drug testing program which test 3.1% of endurance starts in CA. AERC contracts with USEF at a sample rate of \$315 per sample as long as there are twelve samples collected per testing day. Riders are charged \$3 drug fee per entry, for rides outside of California, with an average annual budget of approximately \$39,000 based on ride starts outside of CA. There is approximately \$67,000 currently in the Drug Testing Reserves, with not all of the 2017 testing year paid for as of yet. By end of the current ride year 2018, the Drug Testing Reserve Fund will fall below the recommended \$50,000 baseline reserve number, both legal counsel and the Treasurer of AERC recommend we maintain.

At the AERC BOD Mid Year 2015 meeting the BOD was asked to increase the rider drug fee from \$3 to \$5 to increase the testing presence throughout the country and to keep pace with increased laboratory fees. The BOD declined the motion to increase rider fees, at that time, as it was determined an increase in testing should first be obtained by using drug testing reserve funds. In 2017 with 18 testing days and 211 samples we operated with a testing budget of \$66,465. In 2018 we will once again need to use drug testing reserve funds to reach our targeted testing level of 19 days and 228 samples, with a required budget of \$71,820. At the conclusion of the 2018 ride year, (if the BOD once again approves the use of drug testing reserve funds), we will have exhausted the excess drug testing reserve funds the BOD directed we utilize first to provide for adequate drug testing.

Without the use of drug testing reserve funds in 2018, followed by a corresponding increase in the drug testing rider fee, to continue maintaining the program at its current levels of the past two years, AERC would have to go back to a testing budget of only \$39,000, which would only allow us to have 10 testing days, or only one ride per region, plus the National Championship rides, *which would essentially halve the testing presence of the last two years.* By comparison, in 2017 the CA drug testing program (EMMP) obtained 80 samples out of 2596 endurance rider starts in

CA, for a testing level of 3.1%, to our 1.6% sampling level. In addition the CA EMMP committee voted to increase the drug testing fee from their current level of \$5 per sample to \$8 per sample, to also commence as soon as their drug testing reserve fund has sufficiently been worked down. USEF also charges \$8 per entry for drug testing, with other organizations charging anywhere from \$8-\$36 per entry. A \$3 drug testing fee such as AERC charges is woefully inadequate given the current state of lab testing fees, which will certainly only rise in the future. Interestingly, all other disciplines double charge for drug testing fees in the state of CA, with competitors having to pay both the CA EMMP fee, and their organization or discipline fee. In 2015 the BOD was asked for a \$5 per rider start drug testing fee, however that was based on projected rider starts averaging 14,000 outside of CA, when we have in fact fallen to an average of 13,000 rider starts outside of CA. This drop in rider starts requires us to ask for an increase to \$6 as a drug testing fee, just to bring in enough funds to run the program at the desired current level. It should be noted however, that this increase to \$6 is still significantly lower than all other testing fees for all other equine disciplines.

Given the multiple positive samples that have been obtained since 2014, both by USEF testers and the CA EMMP system, there clearly is a need for as large and robust a drug testing presence as AERC can afford to provide. We will never be able to test at the level recommended by both USEF for the disciplines it tests for, or the CA system – both which target 3-5% testing rates per discipline, simply due to financial constraints. But our policy of sending testers to the most remote, out of the way rides, and testing all the way through rides from the winners to the last place finishers – relies on a strategy of deterrence based on the fear of anyone can be tested, in any placing, at any ride.

Budget effect/impact - A per rider start drug testing fee increase from \$3 to \$6 would raise the drug testing budget from a projected \$39,000 to \$78,000 per 13,000 rider starts outside of CA. A budget of \$71,820 is needed to maintain testing levels at 19 testing days of 12 samples day. The potential small excess that could be obtained yearly should be used to pay back the drug testing reserve fund up to its desired minimum \$50,000, with any excess above \$50,000 to be used as a safe guard against presumptive lab fee increases in years to come.

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization - The increase in testing in the 2016 and 2017 seasons, had a significant beneficial effect on the AERC Drug Testing Program by allowing us to test up to every region twice, plus the National Championships. It has been thought in the past that AERC endurance is a clean sport, with minimal or non-existent prevalence of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs during competition. However, with the recently improved testing methodology, and positive results identified from relatively small sample populations, this thinking may have been overly optimistic, indicating the prudence of providing deterrence through an adequate testing program. An increased testing presence, by having drug testers show up at even the smallest, most remote rides, and testing occurring from the fastest finishers to the final completions - supports our stance of integrity within our sport by providing an increased and visible disincentive to those who might be tempted to gain an unfair advantage through the use of prohibited substances. An increased drug testing program will contribute towards providing a more level playing field amongst all competitors, whether they are front runners or 'turtles'. Most importantly, an increased and consistent testing presence, and thus an increased deterrent factor,

helps to protect the welfare of the horses under our care which might otherwise be put at increased risk of significant harm through the use of illegal substances during competition. This strong stance of promoting the welfare of the horse is vital to our organization, particularly in this era of challenges we face with public concerns over the welfare of the endurance worldwide.

Impact on AERC Office - None

Committees consulted and/or affected - Legal, Veterinary, Research and Ride Managers

Implementation plan (Schedule, resources, financial) – To start with ride year 2018 and ride year 2019

Supporting materials (List of any other documents and/or spreadsheets)

Supporting approvals (proposing committee, participating committees)

**AERC Board of Directors
MOTION PROPOSAL**

Facebook Policy

Proposed by Steph Teeter

AERC Convention. March 8

Classification of Motion Request: Policy

Maintain an AERC Facebook page for the purposes of promoting AERC, dispersing information, and encouraging new members.

The open-discussion FaceBook page will be eliminated and the Official/Group AERC page will be maintained by office staff.

Background, analysis and benefit:

Whereas, Facebook is an excellent resource and reaches a large number of members and is a proven format for recruiting new members and

Whereas, Facebook posts and threads are virtually impossible to control and have resulted in distortions of fact, misrepresentation of opinions, and hurt and angry individuals,

Resolved, that the AERC office shall maintain only one official AERC page dedicated to dispersing information, encouraging new members and promoting AERC Endurance.

Budget effect/impact. None

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization : Reduce conflict

Impact on AERC Office: No change

Committees consulted and/or affected: None

Implementation plan: Effective immediately after convention