

American Endurance Ride Conference

Board of Directors Meeting – Teleconference Call

May 5, 2008

Call to Order: 6:04 pm Pacific Time

Roll Call: Mike Maul, Connie Caudill, Jan Stevens, Patti Pizzo, Michael Campbell, Monica Chapman, Joyce Mocilan, Susan Schomburg, Sandy Terp, Tom Noll, Gail Williams, Terry Woolley Howe, John Parke, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Roger Taylor, Jeff Trinkle, Maryben Stover, Dianna Chapek, John Crandell III, Randy Eiland, Laura Hayes, Robert Ribley, Mike Tomlinson DVM, and Bruce Weary.

Chairman of the Protest and Grievance Committee, Mike Marino, was on the call as a guest.

Absent: Heidi Smith DVM

The minutes from the April 7, 2008 Teleconference call meeting were approved by a unanimous vote with Terry Woolley Howe indicating that a change in the minutes from “Terry asked if the board would consider allowing her to have the ride for mileage only” to “Terry asked if the board would consider allowing her to have the ride for completion only.”

Kathleen reported on the current state of AERC Membership as of this date: 2008: 6309; 2007: 6262

Rider Fees as of this date: 2008 - \$17,324 (not including those that came in today and outstanding); 2007 - \$20,943

Sanctioning Fees as of this date: 2008 - \$14,120; 2007 - \$14,241.25

New Members as of this date: 2008: 739; 2007: 847

New Business

AERC National Championship Committee

The AERC NC Committee reported that the 2009 AERC NC ride manager is considering having their ride co-sanctioned as an FEI ride. The AERC NC Committee reported that they approve the request if that is what the ride manager wants to do. Discussion was held with several members voicing concerns over the FEI part of the ride overshadowing the AERC portion of the ride and the difference in rules becoming a problem. It was noted that the AERC NC has had two previous events with FEI co-sanctioning and that both ride managers worked hard to not allow the FEI to take precedence over the AERC portion of the ride. It was suggested that the ride manager have an AERC steward at the ride in order to help AERC members with any questions about AERC rules. The AERC NC Committee will also make sure that that the ride manager is aware that in accordance with the AERC NC Agreement that “The head vet for this ride will be AERC Vet Certified and will have prior experience of vetting high profile 100 mile rides.”

The AERC NC Committee also wanted to clarify that horse/rider combinations with 1000 lifetime miles are qualified to ride in the AERC NC 100 mile ride without having completed a 100 mile event together.

Caja del Rio Water Trails Grant

Roger Taylor reported on the grant request for \$5,000 donation from AERC to help cover costs to bring water into the trailhead. Santa Fe County is involved in the improvement with the Forest Service agreeing to maintain the site. AERC has already donated \$5000 into the trailhead and trails improvement at this site in the past. The funds will come from the Trails Reserve fund - \$1000 from the Caja Endurance Ride fundraiser (already sent to the AERC Trails Reserve Fund) and \$4000 from the AERC Trails Reserve Fund. Roger indicated that the opinion of AERC Trails Committee was positive from those who responded to the request. He also indicated that the AERC Grants Committee is also in favor of this grant request. The motion is from committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the board members present.

Clark State Forest Grant

Joe Schoech presented a grant request from the Daniel Boone Distances Riders for the Clark State Forest Deams Lake horse barn project. This project is requesting \$5000 donation to help with the building of an additional barn in their seven-barn project. They are requesting the funding on an emergency basis so that they can complete the barn prior to June 28, 2008 for their Grand Opening of this horse camping facility. The Governor of Indiana and other state officials are invited to attend (and are planning on attending). The Land Manager of the Clark State Forest is indicating that this would form a partnership between the Clark State Forest and the AERC. The Trails Committee approves of this Grant with the following suggestions:

- An AERC Trail Master class will be scheduled at or near an Indiana State Forest to include any interested Indiana land managers and other interested AERC members or other land managers.
- AERC encourages the Clark State Forest to work with the local Trail Masters and the local AERC members in any development with their trails improvement plan.

There was a great deal of discussion held since this is the first time that the AERC Trails Committee has suggested recommendations to be attached to a Trails Grant. Joe Schoech and Connie Caudill both noted it that the proposed grant funding was not contingent on either of these recommendations. The motion to provide \$5000 in support to the Clark State Forest passed unanimously by the members present with one abstention from Connie Caudill.

Joe Schoech also brought up another suggestion from the Trails Committee. They are suggesting that the Trails Committee be able to provide input on future proposed locations of the AERC National Championship. The AERC NC Committee will take that under advisement.

Mediation Process re: New Protest and Grievance Rule #14

A motion to allow the chairman of the Protest and Grievance Committee, Mike Marino, to speak was made by John Parke, seconded by Connie Caudill.

The motion passed unanimously by the members present.

Susie Schomburg, chairperson of the Rules Committee, commented that the current Protest and Grievance Committee did not like the mediation section of the new P&G rule #14, however, she noted that because the new rule was approved it was important that the BOD select a panel of mediators to fulfill the requirement of the rule. John Parke expressed that we needed to fill the panel as soon as possible. Mike Marino stated that the panel should not have any current BOD members on it. Roger Taylor inquired if the P&G Committee still made sure that the Regional Directors were being informed about possible protests in their regions. Mike Marino confirmed that they were and said that it was helping to resolve many protests before they have gone to a formal protest. John Parke moved to select two mediators to be chosen by Mike Marino and Susie Schomburg and that they are subject to ratification at the next meeting in June. The motion was seconded by Roger Taylor. All present members moved in favor of the motion.

AERC Reserve Funds

John Parke requested information about the funding of the Restricted Reserve account. Patti Pizzo reported that the Finance Committee has asked the BOD in the past for comments on this along with the additional funding of the other reserve accounts. Since no other requests have been made for additional funding of these accounts she will prepare a motion on the funding for the June agenda. John Parke reminded the BOD the importance of showing our growing reserves and how we invest them, indicating that it is important for seeking Endowments. It was also noted that John Parke will be presenting an Endowment Plan at the mid-year meeting for BOD approval.

Old Business

Committee Chairs

Mike Maul recommended to the BOD two people to fill the open Chairperson positions. He recommended Dawn Carrie to fill the Membership Marketing Committee Chairperson position and Maryben Stover to fill the Junior Committee Chairperson position. The motion to approve these positions passed unanimously by the BOD members present.

Website Redesign

John Parke brought up to the BOD that he felt that the AERC website was in need of updating. Mike Maul reported a

professional web design company (AlphaPlex) was used for the present site with him (Mike Maul) as the program manager. Mike Maul also indicated that at his request in 2006, Jenni Smith did a study on possible suggestions for updating the site, but there had been no followup from her. Mike Maul suggested that our current office staff and the technical committee work with AlphaPlex and the redesign suggestions from Jenni Smith to update the AERC site at a time when the Technical Committee and the office staff can handle the effort.

It was also noted that a Program Manager would be needed for the website administration. Connie Caudill moved with John Parke seconding the motion to have the Technical Committee and the Office Committee come back to the BOD with their suggestions for updating the AERC website. The motion passed unanimously by the BOD members present.

Executive Committee Member

Three BOD members were nominated for the open position on the AERC Executive Committee. Mike Tomlinson DVM, Michael Campbell, and Tom Noll.

All three candidates gave a short biography of their endurance experience, professional experience, and what they would hope to bring to the Executive Committee. They then left the call and a straw-pole-vote by the BOD members still present was held. John Parke made the motion to approve Mike Tomlinson DVM for the Executive Committee, Robert Ribley seconded the motion, and the motion was then approved by a unanimous vote of the BOD members present.

With there being no further business, John Parke made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm PST with Dianna Chapek seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously by the BOD members present.

Respectfully submitted: Jan Stevens, AERC Secretary

Motion Proposal: Year End Addition to the Restricted Reserve Account 4001

Proposing Committee Finance Committee

Date of Motion 5/6/2008

Classification of Motion Request new

Proposed Motion: This motion is to add to the Restricted Reserve Account 4001 10% of the operating surplus every year. This amount would be calculated after the other designated funds (trails donations, drug testing education and research etc.) have had their income netted against their expenses and removed from the Net Income number. Expenditures from the principal in this reserve would be for emergency purposes or extraordinary capital expenses only.

Background, analysis and benefit: Provides for funding of the Restricted Reserve account 4001 continually from AERC's operating surplus.

Budget effect/impact - Does not affect the budget

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization: Shows the members that AERC is setting money aside on a continual basis for the future of the organization:

Impact on AERC Office: Executive Director and Accounting manager will implement this thru our accounting system.

Committees consulted and/or affected: Finance Committee, AERC President Mike Maul, Kathleen Henkel Executive Director

Implementation plan: We would look to have a figure by mid year to add to the 2008 Restricted Reserve from the 2007 operating surplus This motion would carry forward every year unless changed by the BOD in the future.

Supporting approvals: Finance Committee

Welfare of the Horse Committee – Report of Equine Fatality at the Manzanita Ride, October 14, 2006

The rider is an experienced limited distance rider with 965 miles to her credit over a 7-year period. All of those miles were logged with her 22-year old mare which started her career in the sport with her rider.

Her record reflects that she is a very conservative rider with an outstanding completion rate.

The drive from the rider's home to base camp was approximately 5 hours and the pair arrived on Friday afternoon. The weather was warm but at some point on Friday a cold front moved in and the temperature dropped.

The trail was familiar to the pair and the footing on the trail was good, although the weather was still cold with a slight drizzle and cool breezes. The pair completed the first 14-1/2 mile loop in 2 hours and 42 minutes. This was not an unusual loop time, although the rider noted that at the end of the loop the mare had slowed a bit and the rider thought that the horse was not feeling well.

Although the horse pulsed down to 56 within minutes of arrival, she refused feed and water which was very unusual for this horse. Shortly thereafter the rider requested that her horse be trailered back to base camp.

The treatment vet first saw the mare at noon. The mare was cramping and trying to lie down and still refused feed or water. Her heart rate was 48 and she was mildly dehydrated with very poor to no gut sounds, pink mucous membranes and capillary refill of 3 seconds. The treatment vet administered 15 cc of dipyrone and watched her for approximately 30 minutes while treating another horse. She then sedated the mare and administered water, electrolytes and mineral oil via naso-gastric tube.

This method of hydration was chosen over IV fluids due to the cold weather and fear that IV fluids would cause hypothermia.

The mare quickly became comfortable after receiving the dipyrone and after receiving fluids showed improved gut sounds, no cramping and was willing to eat a carrot. The mare was also given 6 cc of Banamine via IV to continue her comfort. The rider and vet staff made the decision to stay at base camp overnight where the horse could be observed and treatment continued if necessary.

At 6:00 p.m. the rider returned to the vet check area with her mare. The mare's gut sounds improved from the treatment vet's first examination, her heart rate remained 48 and she was eating carrots and nibbling hay, but she continued to refuse water and would occasionally stomp her back leg.

A rectal palpation revealed pasty feces and an impaction with minimal distention. More oral fluids were administered along with 6 cc of Banamine. The rider indicated a preference to trailer in daylight for safety, and because the mare appeared to be stable, the pair remained at base camp for observation and continued treatment.

The mare's condition deteriorated during the night and she twice became cast under her corral. At 3:00 a.m. the decision was made to take the mare to an equine hospital. Upon arrival, the treatment vet observed that the mare was sweaty, depressed and appeared to be in moderate abdominal pain. She had no gut sounds, a fever of 102.2, her heart rate was 60, and her mucous membranes were tacky, muddy, purple-pink with a toxic line.

The rectal exam revealed a small amount of dry feces with a very firm feed impaction. The belly tap produced a large amount of serosanguinous (watery blood-tinged) fluid contain with a high protein and white cell count, and bacteria.

The decision for surgery was made and revealed a large amount of green fecal material in the abdomen and tears in the mid-small colon. A large firm fecolith was found just behind the tears. Due to the grave prognosis, the rider requested that the mare be humanely euthanized.

In hindsight, the rider believes that her mare may have become dehydrated due to the trailer ride. She believes that the mare drank less than normal on Friday and throughout Friday night and Saturday morning due to the cold weather.

One of the goals of this Committee is that in investigating equine fatalities, so that we might learn how to prevent future fatalities. One possible lesson learned is that riders must be very vigilant in checking their horses to ensure they are eating and drinking normally before the ride (and during and after the ride). If a rider believes the horse is not eating or drinking normally, it may be prudent to not start the ride.

It should be noted that there are many cases where a rider does everything right, gets timely, competent and complete care, but still suffers the loss of their horse. This is such a case. The mare suffered from a preexisting fecalith which was unpredictable and undetectable until she displayed signs of distress. Living creatures all die at some time, and that death can be unpredictable and uncontrollable. This rider should be comforted in the thought that she did all she could and gave her horse a wonderful long life.

The members of the Horse Welfare Committee thank the rider for her cooperation and offer their sincerest condolences on the loss of her beloved horse.