

AERC BOD meeting –Teleconference Call – July 6, 2009

President Connie Caudill called the meeting of the AERC Board of Directors to order at 6:10 pm Pacific time.

Present at the meeting are: Jan Stevens, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roberta Harms, Mike Maul, Dianna Chapek (arrived during the discussion of the Rulebook streamlining discussion), Sandy Terp, Susie Schomburg, Susan Kasemeyer, Joe Schoech, Monica Chapman, Susan Keil, DVM, Michael Campbell, Randy Eiland (arrived at the vote on the Old Dominion Grant), Jeff Trinkle, Roger Taylor, Patti Pizzo, Bruce Weary, Terry Woolley-Howe, Gail Williams, and Connie Caudill.

Absent: Tom Noll, Maryben Stover, Joyce Mocilan, and John Crandell, III. Roger Taylor motioned to accept the request for excusals received by Tom and Maryben. Mike Maul seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Additional AERC Members present: Kathleen Henkel – Executive Director of AERC and Stagg Newman – Chair of the Education Committee.

The request was made to approve the agenda. Sandy Terp made the motion and it was seconded by Laura Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

President Connie Caudill requested to have the minutes approved for the May 4, 2009 Teleconference Call. The motion passed with Roger Taylor and Susan Kasemeyer abstaining since they had not had a chance to review them.

Kathleen Henkel reported the BOD on the membership numbers and current AERC ride information:

Membership as of	7/7/08 – 6648
	7/6/09 – 5984
Rider fees as of	7/6/08 - \$49,090
	7/6/09 - \$47,829
Sanction fees as of	7/6/08 - \$14,875
	7/6/09 - \$14,275
New members as of	7/6/08 – 883
New members as of	7/6/09 – 585

Committee Reports Received – AERC International (minutes of the May and June 2009 meetings – attached).

Old and New Business

Trails Committee Grant Requests

Michael Campbell, chair of the Trails Committee presented to the BOD three Trail Grant Requests. The three motions are attached.

The Lakeview Trails Grant request for \$5000 for the creation of a trailhead passed unanimously by the BOD .

The Old Dominion Trails Grant request for \$13,000 to the Old Dominion Base Camp Capital Improvements Fund passed BOD approval with Randy Eiland abstaining.

The Weiser River Trail Grant for \$1949 to install an all weather hand pump was brought before the BOD. Through a friendly request to amend the motion, the amount was changed to \$2000. The motion passed unanimously.

Susie Schomburg, chair of the Rules Committee, reported to the BOD that action had not been taken on the motion presented at the 2009 Convention during the Sunday session on February 22 concerning the motion to remove duplicate language in the AERC Rulebook (Rulebook streamlining). Since it was a motion from committee, it did not require a second. When brought to a vote the motion passed unanimously.

Susie also noted to the BOD that the Rules Committee was still working on the Equine Abuse Rule and she hoped that they would have a motion together by the mid-year meeting.

Roger Taylor, AERC Treasurer, reported to the BOD on the past income/expenses and the projections for the next five years. With the packet that contained this information that Roger and the Finance Committee created they also included three possible scenarios for the BOD to consider for increasing the income of AERC to help off-set the increasing expenses of doing business and providing to the AERC Membership. He indicated that the main reason for the down turn of income comes from the membership being down by 10% and the additional expenses related to the AERC Convention not being held in Reno, Nevada. Roger also indicated that the Finance Committee and the AERC Office felt that the Three Year membership, although utilized by over 600 of the membership, was a losing proposition. The three scenarios included #1-increasing sanctioning fees, #2-increasing sanctioning fees and membership dues, and #3-increasing sanctioning fees, membership dues, and the per rider fee. Roger indicated to the BOD that he did not expect the BOD to discuss these proposals and the projections during this meeting, rather Roger and the Finance Committee wanted the BOD to study over the numbers and start a dialogue on the BOD email list with questions and suggestions for improving the overall financial status of AERC for the coming years.

Kathleen Henkel then reported to the BOD that Troy Smith (editor of Endurance News) was saving over \$16,000 in the production of Endurance News by no longer using the 'slick' color paper and by keeping the number of pages to around 44 total. Kathleen also indicated that the AERC Yearbook was going to be replaced by one of the Endurance News monthly magazines, thereby saving AERC an additional \$14,000-15,000 for the next year.

Connie Caudill briefed the BOD on the request by Phillip Ottinger to donate property that he owns to the AERC. The AERC is very appreciative of this offer. John Parke noted that this type of gift offer needs to be handled carefully and the acceptance of such cannot be rushed. John informed the BOD that AERC does not have the funding to create the type of program to accept a gift like this. He also indicated that often an endowment is made when something like this type of offer is made to help cover the costs of maintaining the property or whatever other gift is donated. He reiterated to the BOD the need to setup a Supporting Organization, outside of AERC, to help manage this type of donation – as he had covered at the 2009 AERC Convention.

It was requested that Kathleen would setup a conference call with Mr. Ottinger, John Parke, and Roger Taylor to discuss Mr. Ottinger's offer and to begin to lay the ground work to help facilitate it.

John Parke indicated that he contacted a lawyer in Sacramento, California that deals primarily with nonprofit organizations that fall under 501C-3. Kathleen reported that this person had not contacted her, so John is going to contact the lawyer again.

John Parke also thanked Michael Campbell and Laura Hayes for their continued work with the American Horse Council in dealing with Trails Issues and Horse Welfare Issues. The rest of the BOD complemented them as well.

Terry Woolley-Howe brought to the BOD's attention a problem that she is having at the rides she manages. It seems that some riders are signed up with AERC in heavier weight divisions than what they actually weigh in at. She indicated that this is not fair to other riders who truly are riding in their weight division, but are not receiving their correct points due to this. Kathleen is going to look into what the office can do to help correct this problem.

Action Items from the April 4, 2009 Meeting:

- Rules Committee is researching how many people haven't signed the AERC Release that was sent out with their membership cards, why those people haven't signed it and then come up with a plan to address these issues. – In Progress
- The motion entitled: Violations and penalties (Rule 15) revision did not pass. John Parke remarked that it was a band-aide on a poorly written rule. After discussion, the board directed the rules committee to rewrite rule 15 and to make the rule pertain to "penalties only" and to write a new rule regarding horse abuse and rider conduct. It was also requested that Troy Smith provide this motion on the BOD list so that the BOD can review it and discuss it. – In Progress
- John Parke said that he would find a lawyer who is versed on dealing with contracts between 501C3 organizations and private land owners and will give the contact information to Kathleen – Completed – though Kathleen has still not heard from the lawyer so John is going to contact him again.
- John Parke will create a 'cheat sheet' for the BOD to use concerning procedures – Not completed
- Kathleen will provide the BOD with a list of her duties. – Completed – see attached
- As an Action Item, Kathleen will come up with a list from the BOD of suggestions for potential savings for the organization. – In Progress
- Sandy Terp will continue to investigate credit card on-line usage and will report to the BOD. – In Progress

Action Items for the next meeting (in addition to the not completed ones from above).

- Kathleen is going to look into what the office can do to help correct the problem of riders not riding in the weight division that they actually should be in.
- It was requested that Kathleen would setup a conference call with Mr. Ottinger, John Parke, and Roger Taylor to discuss Mr. Ottinger's offer and to begin to lay the groundwork to help facilitate it.

With there being no further business to attend do Gail Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm pacific time.