

**AERC Annual Convention Meeting  
2/21/2010 - 7:30 am Pacific Time  
Reno, Nevada – Grand Sierra Resort Casino**

AERC Board of Directors present: Susan Keil, Laura Hayes, Kim Fuess, Roger Taylor, Bruce Weary, Roberta Harms, Sue Keith, Randy Eiland, Maryben Stover, Gail Williams, Michael Campbell, Mike Maul, Susan Schomburg, Joe Schoech, Susan Kasemeyer, Forrest Tancer, John Crandell III, John Parke, Connie Caudill, Sandy Terp, Laura Hayes, Tom Noll, Lisa Schneider, Kevin Meyers and Jan Stevens.

Also present was AERC Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Excusal requests from Patti Pizzo and Monica Chapman were presented to the BOD and were approved by a unanimous vote.

Michael Campbell made the motion to approve the agenda with Susan Schomburg seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Laura Hayes made the motion to accept the AERC Committee reports with Susan Kasemeyer seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Susan Kasemeyer made the motion to approve the minutes of the 1/4/2010 AERC BOD meeting with Susan Keil seconding the motion. The motion passed.

Roger Taylor reported that there is a correction on the AERC International finances on their assets. He indicated that on December 1, 2008 there was \$21,856 listed in their assets, of which excess revenue of \$925 needed to be subtracted for a total of net assets of \$20,931 as of November 30, 2009.

Joe Mattingley, USEF Endurance High Performance Chairman and Glenn Petty, Arabian Horse Association Executive Vice President spoke to the BOD. They addressed a request that the BOD consider creating an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate with members of USEF's Endurance committees and AHA a Futurity Program for endurance. President Connie Caudill would like to (a) appoint member(s) of the AERC BOD to this Ad Hoc Committee and will have more information at our next regularly scheduled meeting.

Susan Schomburg, chair of the AERC Rules Committee, reported on the Equine and Rider Abuse rule. They are still working on it and expect to bring it to the BOD for consideration at a meeting in the near future.

Olin Balch, DVM, chair of the AERC Research Committee, provided a report to the BOD. He outlined that they were \$1500 under budget for the Research Summit. He reported that they are doing a pilot study this summer at several well attended 100 mile rides. He stated that often the Post Ride Statistical report is not turned in, a suggestion from the Research Committee would be to not post the ride results until the Post Ride Statistical report is turned in. Dr. Balch then spoke on horse fatalities.

Dave Nicholson, DVM, spoke to the BOD concerning a request to host another XP ride. He gave a brief history of the two previous XP rides. He reported that they would follow the same trails from St. Louis, MO to Virginia City, NV. They would utilize GPS to follow the trails. He indicated that one of the main problems of his type of event is dealing with new land managers on a constant basis. No motion was presented to the BOD for Special Sanctioning at this time.

Roger Taylor, AERC Treasurer, Tom Noll, member of the AERC Finance Committee, and Sue Taylor gave a presentation on the current AERC finances. They indicated that membership is lagging behind compared to the expectations at the 2009 mid-year meeting. Convention is budgeted at a \$10,000 profit, compared to the \$6,000 loss last year.

There are several minor budget adjustments that would help AERC's bottomline

- Monitor membership more closely and see why people aren't renewing
- Elevate convention impacts – be more aware of what it costs us to move the convention around
- Approve the Trail and Land Management Committee's recommendation to fund the Trail Master classes from the Trails Reserves.
- Defer non-essential expenses if possible.

Tom Noll discussed the history of past meetings that have covered our budgeting. He indicated that we need to plan for the future – not just next year, but create a plan for several years in advance.

They then covered recommendations for where we need to go from here:

- Need to operate in the black
- Need to assure adequate reserve balances
- Develop a plan of action using the status quo
- Have key milestones to assess the plan

They also reported that the BOD needs to keep in mind that we will bankrupt AERC if we dip into the reserves on an ongoing basis.

The key drivers for finances within AERC are:

- Income – membership – rider fees – convention
- Expense – office – insurance – convention – publications – awards

General Net Income

2010 Flat at downside –	2011	2012	2013
This indicates a 2% increase in expenses with no profit from convention	(\$40,339)	(\$52,402)	(\$64,705)
	All of these are negative if we continue as we are		

Some ideas to increase income include:

- Increase sanctioning fees could increase income by \$16,000 (first ride sanctioning fee from \$25 to \$50 with each subsequent ride going from \$10 to \$25)
- Increase the starting rider fee could increase income by \$42,000 (from \$5 to \$7 per starting rider)

Some suggestions for planning ahead include:

- 2011 – Per Rider fee increase
- 2012 – Membership fees increase
- 2013 – Ride Sanctioning fee increase
- 2014 – Membership fees increase

Comments from the BOD to this presentation included:

- We need to increase membership numbers – both new and retaining old members
- Long term goals are needed
- We've discussed endowments before – we need to act on them

- Trails issues are the driving force – Where are we going to have rides?
- Rework our awards program structure
- Look into expanding the club to include non-competitive rides
- Break out the Membership Committee again

John Parke reported to the BOD on the Hot Topics discussion concerning the proposed 30-minute rule. He reported that after a great deal of discussion that included very strong feelings among the membership on both sides of the issue that when a poll of those in attendance on Saturday's Hot Topics was taken concerning the BOD voting on the issue at this meeting 20% indicated that the BOD should vote on it, 10% wanted the BOD to not vote on it, and 70% indicated that they wanted it delayed.

John Parke motioned with Roger Taylor seconding:

1. Defer the existing 30-minute rule motion by the AERC Veterinary Committee, Ride Managers Committee, and Horse Welfare Committee for further consideration by the BOD; and
2. Refer to the appropriate committees (including, but not limited to the Rules, Ride Managers, Horse Welfare and Veterinary Committees) to develop a rule change for 2011 and interim policy for 2010 to facilitate voluntary implementation of a 30-minute final pulse down on an experimental basis.

Randy Eiland made a motion to for a roll call vote, seconded by John Parke. The motion passed unanimously to have a roll call vote.

Comments on the deferral were then taken from the AERC Veterinary Committee and the BOD.

- Dr. Jeanette Mero, DVM expressed concern over the divisiveness of this proposal. She indicated that the AERC Veterinary Committee was not happy that it is being deferred and that they did not want to lose the momentum they have gained.
- Good strategic move to defer it for further discussion and consideration.

A roll call vote was taken with all members of the BOD voting in favor of the deferral.

Comments were then taken concerning the 30-minute to pulse at the finish for endurance distance rides.

- Make it a standard instead of an option.
- Need to keep in mind the 'off breeds' (non-Arabians or non-Arabian crosses).
- Some ride managers already do it, do we know if they are 'writing' it down to present it to the riders before?
- Concern over the regional differences concerning extreme temperatures and extreme humidity.
- We need to be as worried about the "bottom ten" as we are about the "top ten".
- AERC needs to do it and enforce it.
- Would prefer to see something that would require that the horses be checked before they leave the event after they have completed.
- Recommend that the vets and ride managers try to implement it within their region.
- Good to see the compromise from the Veterinary, Research, Welfare, and Ride Managers Committees to work together to refine it.
- Encourage ride managers to utilize it and provide information on how it is working.
- Can't understand how they can meet the pulse all day within 30 minutes, but not be able to at the end – however they understand more now the logistical problems that ride managers have.
- Found it interesting that many of the riders who didn't know that it was already being implemented were complaining so bitterly about it.
- Felt that riders already knew that taking longer than 30 minutes at the finish to reach pulse was an indicator that there is potentially a problem.

- We all ride to our own standard and what we are used to. Welfare can be divided into several levels depending on what people's standard is.
- Fear is replaced with knowledge.
- Felt that people need to listen to what 'everyone' has to say vs. just depending on the opinion they have already developed.
- What do other organizations do? We are an amateur sport vs. FEI (and other organizations in other parts of the world).
- Was surprised that people were more concerned about the end of the ride being more stressful.
- Will help to make sure that more information about what happens after a ride (post ride statistical report).
- Appreciate the spirit of the people involved to move this forward.
- We don't have the information on 'when they pulse down' and 'what is their pulse when they do present'.
- Vets need to be more willing to pull hoses at the finish – more people will get the message and applaud.
- Ride managers need to look more at the finish line safety. The Veterinary, Research, and Welfare committees need to consider emphasizing the finish line safety when they write the rule.

Laura Hayes informed the BOD that the Horse Welfare Committee is collecting data in the Southeast on finish time, pulse time, and pulse.

Dr. Olin Balch thanked the BOD for the willingness to listen and their offer to help. He requested that the BOD and President Connie Caudill help draft a way to ask for the information on what is happening now. It was recommended that this information be presented to the BOD.

Michael Campbell (speaking for the Trails and Land Management Committee) and Roger Taylor, Treasurer, reported that they would like to remove all the need for the Trail Master funds from the General Fund and all Trails Master classes will be funded from now on out of the Trails Reserve – General Fund (line 4006-2). This action will remove this expense from the General Operating Budget and will then use Trails Reserve to fund the Trail Master courses.

They also indicated that the Trails Reserve – General Fund now contains the money not used in previously approved old Trails Grants and does not use the Trails Reserve – Member Donations. They are requesting that the AERC BOD approve additional funding for the BLM Trail Master class at Fort Stanton to come from this Trails Reserve – General Fund. They indicated that this would be the last Trail Master class at Fort Stanton that would be funded from AERC monies and that any subsequent future Trail Master classes taught at Fort Stanton would be funded by the BLM, but would allow for AERC members to attend. The majority of the people taking this particular Trail Master class are BLM employees.

Comments from the BOD on this request included:

- In November it was the feeling of the BOD that we shouldn't spend any money for the BLM class.
- It was suggested that they pay for the class and then sell the clinometers to them instead of giving it to them.
- Trails Grants are for 'sticks and bricks'
- \$10,000 is what we agreed to spend on the Trail Master classes for 2010 – it is up to the committee to determine how to spend the money.

The motion from committee is to request up to an additional \$2,500 (of the estimated \$5,000) to be approved for an additional Trail Master class at Fort Stanton with the understanding that if outside funding to cover the remaining fee (\$2,500) was not obtained the class would be cancelled.

The BOD voted on the motion with one member-voting no and the remaining members of the BOD voting yes. The motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel gave a report on how the convention for this year went. She stated that the vendors were very happy with the location. They enjoyed the hotel and appreciated the help from the staff.

She indicated that more than likely we made a profit with this convention. She also informed the BOD that the Grand Sierra has offered AERC a contract for five years. Kathleen recommends that the BOD should consider having the convention in Reno, NV for two years, then move it to a different location further east for a year, then back to Reno, NV for two years.

Kathleen reported that the mid-year meeting was going to be in Denver at the Embassy Suites either the weekend of August 21 or August 28, 2010.

The Junior Scholarship was discussed and the desire to continue to offer it. Sandy Terp indicated that since the AERC could not afford to cover the scholarship this year she brought up the idea of donations to cover it. She stated that while at the Junior Committee she received several promises of donations to it. BOD members Lisa Schneider and Laura Hayes offered to make donations to the scholarship.

With there being no further business Bruce Weary made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am Pacific time with Susan Keil seconding the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Jan Stevens