

AERC Board of Directors Conference Call February 13, 2017

President Michael Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. PST.

Present at the meeting were Michael Campbell, Lisa Schneider, Susan Garlinghouse Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Sue Keith, Jan Stevens, Janet Tipton, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut, Paul Latiolais, Susan Kasemeyer, Duane Barnett, Barbara Reinke, Roger Taylor, Andrew Gerhard, Tom Bache, Olin Balch, Terry Woolley-Howe, Mike Maul, Carla Richardson, Christoph Schork, Sarah Holloway (youth representative). Steph Teeter was not in attendance.

Michael Campbell asked for any changes to the agenda. None requested.

John Parke requested excusal, as he was traveling and may not have cell service. Roger Taylor made a motion to approve, Connie Caudill seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes for October, November, December approval. Connie requested that the minutes for December 2016 be edited to reflect that Biltmore has been tentatively proposed tentative for Biltmore. Susan Garlinghouse stated that she would make this correctio. Connie Caudill made a motion to approve, Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed.

Membership Report - Kathleen Henkel

Membership 2/15/16	3587
Membership 2/10/17	3366
Sanction fees as of 2/10/16:	\$ 9,835.00
Sanction fees as of 2/10/17:	\$ 11,178.00
Rider fees as of 2/10/16:	\$ 7,263.00
Rider fees as of 2/10/17:	\$ 4,632.00
New members 2/15/16:	219
New members 2/10/17:	178

Michael stated there are no new updates in regards to pending litigation.

Research Committee - Motion - brief review of request to withdraw an additional \$1500 from the research fund to provide statistical support for Cooley Ranch fluid loss research project. Motion passed.

Sanctioning Committee - Motion - Approval of Top O' the World Pioneer. Coming from committee, the motion did not require a second. Motion passed.

Sanctioning Committee - Motion - Approval of Oregon Outback Pioneer. Coming from committee, the motion did not require a second. Motion passed.

Sanctioning Committee - Motion - Approval of Beaver Meadows Pioneer. Coming from committee, the motion did not require a second. Motion passed.

Finance Committee - 2017 Budget - Mollie Krumlaw-Smith commented that the budget is slightly negative to income, and recommended caution, as there are numerous large upcoming projects (an example would be upgrading the office database software) that will require funding from reserves. Budget will need to be monitored closely to avoid further invasions of reserves if the budget does not shift to a positive balance through increased revenue.

USEF Report - Jan Stevens referred to the memo previously circulated to the Board via the board email list in regards to the January USEF meeting, stating that the meeting was positive and upbeat. USEF is initiating new membership projects with good response, as well as changes to the USEF website, including member-only access to some features and videos, the “Joy” campaign illustrating the positive benefits of equestrian competition. The meeting also included discussion of affiliate agreement negotiations between USEF and AERC. It was suggested that the AERC board appoint an *ad hoc* committee to negotiate with USEF instead of attempting to do so with the entire board. It was further recommended that board members consider questions and talking points we want to discuss with USEF during negotiations during the upcoming conference call.

John Parke joined the call at 6:29 p.m. PST.

Jan also discussed the proposed Legacy Plan for WEG as a venue for advertising all horse sports within the US. Reported that the endurance course is being developed (not yet built) with the assistance of local fox hunting groups, and will be significantly technical courses requiring true horsemanship to successfully negotiate.

A question was raised in regards to FEI’s ability to ban Group 7 competitors from participation in FEI events, and USEF’s part in recommending such actions. Ms. Stevens stated that USEF’s position is that they cannot bar any members in good standing from FEI competition. However, they may recommend or make a motion to FEI to enact disciplinary actions, that would then be voted upon by other FEI members. There was some discussion on the value and past results derived from AERC’s participation via press releases and letters to USEF and FEI in regards to equine welfare issues.

Rules Committee - Lisa Schneider discussed the recent report released by the committee on proposed rule changes. The committee has received input and will be meeting this week to discuss. She anticipates that a motion for the acceptance of recommendations will be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

There was extensive discussion by the Board in regards to riders exhibiting poor horsemanship at rides, and ride manager’s abilities, and protection from frivolous litigation, in banning such riders from future participation. It was stated that during the sanctioning process, all ride managers should list themselves as an additional insured to ensure coverage under AERC’s insurance policy with Equisure. Executive Director Kathleen Henkel stated that during a conversation with Diane Leshner of Equisure, Ms. Leshner stated that doing so was not specifically necessary, but is a good idea nonetheless. There was some discussion of the predictable adverse effects on the future ability to hold events on public lands if poor sportsmanship is not adequately controlled and prevented. A suggestion was made that the AERC national office forward letters on AERC letterhead as warranted, informing banned riders that should they compete at an AERC despite being banned by ride management, that said riders would not receive any award points or mileage. Lisa Schneider stated that the Rules Committee would further review this issue.

There being no other business before the board, Lisa Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Susan Garlinghouse seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned by Michael Campbell at 7:32 p.m. PST.