

AERC National Convention Board Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2017

7:00 am CT, Hilton DFW Lakes, Grapevine TX

Board members present:

Paul Latiolais, Susan Kasemeryer, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Sue Keith, John Parke, Connie Caudill, Mike Maul, Rogers Taylor, Mary Howell, Olin Balch, Heather Reynolds, Jan Stevens, Janet Tipton, Jody Wyatt, Barbara Rienke, Duane Bernett, Bob Marshall, Paul Sidio, Michael Campbell, Lisa Schneider, Christoph Schork, Monica Chapman, Nick Kohut, Susan Garlinghouse, Andrew Gerhard.

Meeting called to order 8:00 am by new President Paul Latiolais.

In President Paul Latiolais' opening statement he asked for patience until he learns how AERC runs.

He added to the agenda an item to be voted on the Joint press release with USEF.

Connie Caudill made a motion to approve the agenda and Mollie Krumlaw-Smith second. Motion passed.

Excusals- Stephanie Teeter – family issue. Jan Stevens made motion to accept and Nick Kohut second. Passed

President Paul Latiolais named his new committee chairs to replace empty committee chairs.

Lisa Schneider- Competition, Jody Wyatt- P&G, Paul Sidio - Sponsorship, Mollie Krumlaw- Smith- Ride Manager.

Discussion on having a board member as Chair of P&G committee. Connie Caudill said it could be a problem and it was a policy in the Administrative Book. Her concerns were that a chair from the Bod could be more persuasive to fellow Bod members than an outside chair concerning appeals.

President Paul Latiolais asked for a motion to accept the three chairs but to continue discussion on P&G chair before voting on that chair. Mary Howell so moved Roger Taylor second. The motion carried.

Discussion continued, John Parke didn't think it was a conflict of interest problem, he was P&G Chair for many years with only one appeal. If the chair as a board member was more vested in the protest they would have to recuse themselves. He thought some BOD's were not comfortable with this practice of a BOD as P&G Chair. When the board makes decisions on appeals they can only use the same materials that the P&G committee used for their ruling no other can be used by the board. Mary Howell called the question and Roger Taylor second ending discussion.

President Paul Latiolais made a motion to approve Jody Wyatt as P&G Chair. Mollie Krumlaw- Smith second. 22 yes votes 2 no votes, 1 abstaining. Motion passed

President Paul Latiolais would like Connie Caudill to be approved as a non officer on the Executive Board member. Mary Howell made a motion to have Connie serve on the Executive Board it was seconded by Christoph Schork. The motion passed

Monica Chapman introduced Randy Rasmussen from Back Country Horseman of America speaking to the board about Public land issues. He talked about Public law H.R. 845 National Forest System trails Stewardship Act signed into Law in 2016. BCHC, partners and "Trails Bill" sponsors have brought national attention to the trail maintenance backlog on our national forests. He also discussed the need for all outdoor user groups to come together to oppose Federal Land Transfers.

Next item on the agenda was the Sovereignty motion : Affirmation that only AERC rules govern participating in AERC rides. Proposed by AERC BOD members Olin Balch, Jody Wyatt, and Barbara Reinke.

Discussion : Olin Balch: the motion was brought to the board because of co-sanction AERC and FEI rides. The confusion that some vets and riders have when a rider is entered in both rides and the horse is pulled from the FEI ride - can the horse continue in the AERC ride? Heather Reynolds said as a rider who competes in co-sanctioned rides that riders entered in both rides have made that choice to follow both FEI and AERC rules. They understand that if they get a FEI pull they have to leave the field of play or get a penalty, then they can take a RO in the AERC ride. John Parke noted that this sovereignty motion could result in violations in many rides including the Tevis. Michael Campbell would like to wait on a decision on this motion. AERC and USEF will be in negotiations on a

new agreement, this could come into discussion.

Susan Garlinghouse made the motion to vote on the Sovereignty motion and Roger Taylor seconded. President Paul Latiolais called a show of hands. 6 votes yes 19 no votes. Motion failed.

Jan Stevens, Chair Ride Manager Committee had concerns from a member who felt ride managers could do a better job in conducting their ride meetings, especially toward new riders concerning trail mapping and general trail description. Also members had concerns of losing trail access due to poor behavior of people "racing".

Young Rider Team Competition motion: This motion was brought to the Board only for discussion at this time and will be brought back to the board next month for a vote. One reason for this motion is to have AERC endurance team riding as a recognized sport so students can get excusals for school days off to compete like other athletic teams.

Three motions from the Rules and By-laws Committee. Discussed on Thursday night meeting was forward to Sundays meeting for vote.

First motion : Improve the Protest & Grievance process. Passed

Second motion: Improve the P&G process by diversifying the membership of the P&G Committee. Passed

Third Motion: Improve the P&G process by requiring mediation as the first step. Passed

John Parke would like the Rules and By-Laws Committee to look at how P&G suspensions work. Asked Lisa Schneider to send him a motion with a directive that suspensions start from the date of decision.

Kathleen will be looking into having the Midyear Meeting in Chicago

Susan Garlinghouse Education Chair, the committee will be working on rewriting the Riders Handbook.

Michael Campbell presented the updated Draft Joint USEF and AERC Press Release for feed back. The board would like to change Dubai and UAE group 7 before released. Lisa Schneider moved and Paul Sidio, seconded. Passed

03-09-17 Updated Draft Joint USEF and AERC Press Release

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) join other countries around the world in expressing increasing alarm over continued equine deaths and catastrophic injury in National and International events held in Dubai. (group 7)

The Federation Equestre International (FEI) has previously sanctioned the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with suspensions, rule changes and educational measures. Clearly, further intervention is required, and therefore, the USEF and AERC were very pleased to learn that the FEI is working with leadership at the United Arab Emirate Equestrian & Racing Federation (EEF) to put in place and ensure compliance with safeguards to protect horses and when warranted, impose tougher and more severe sanctions.

USEF and AERC share strong beliefs and concerns regarding horse welfare and fairness in competition and we recognize that not all group 7 endurance venues are tainted by the lack of respect for horse welfare. Innovations in other regions of the UAE are to be commended.

The AERC and USEF are committed to working together and with the FEI and National federations worldwide to ensure that the welfare of our horses and fairness in competition in the sport of Endurance is given the highest priority.

John Parke gave the annual new board member orientation presentation.

Roger Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mollie Krumlaw-Smith seconded the motion. Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am CT

Submitted by Sue Keith