

AERC Board Convention Meeting Thursday 3/8/18

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Paul Latiolais

Board members present at the meeting- Susan Kasemeyer, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Jan Stevens, Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut DVM, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Lisa Schneider, Duane Barnett, Barbara Reinke, Roger Taylor, Andrew Gerhard, Olin Balch DVM, Terry Woolley-Howe, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Heather Reynolds, Paul Sidio, Christoph Schork.

Paul Latiolais welcomed the new Board members in the room Tonya Stroud-Oaks, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Troy Eckard, Vance Stine and Angie Mikkelson. He then recognized the Board members that will be leaving, Sue Keith, Duane Barnett, Barbara Reinke and Roger Taylor. Special acknowledgement was given to Roger Taylor who is the longest serving Board member in history who has been on the board since AERC's inception.

Paul Latiolais explained that proper etiquette for motions would be going through committees first and presenting them at least two weeks before a scheduled Board meeting. This policy will keep the Board focused on motions that have been thoroughly discussed and vetted when placed on the agenda.

Christoph Schork made a motion to accept the agenda which was second by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

The Board will need time to read the committee reports so will wait until the Sunday meeting to vote on accepting them. The minutes from 2/28/18 will be voted on after the break when everyone has had time to review them.

A motion was made by Lisa Schneider and second by Monica Chapman to excuse- Michael Campbell, Jody Wyatt, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Sue Keith. Motion passed

Kathleen Henkel gave the AERC statistical report;

Membership as of 3/3/17 3647

Membership as of 3/5/18 3858

Sanction fees as of 3/2/17 \$12,223

Sanction fees as of 3/2/18 \$10,135

Rider fees as of 3/2/17 \$ 9,085

Rider fees as of 3/2/18 \$ 8,444

New members as of 3/3/17 224

New members as of 3/2/18 277

Monica Chapman presented a motion from Trails & Land Management Committee

Motion: Big Hill Lake Shelter near Cherryvale- To buy and install a shelter at the south equestrian campground of Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake. The Trails and Land Management Committee moves that AERC fund \$500.00 for requesting organization: Big Hill Trail Fund Background, analysis and benefit: To buy and install a shelter at the south equestrian campground of Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake. There are three campgrounds, three equestrian trail heads, and four-day use areas for the public to enjoy operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Back Country Horsemen of Kansas has an MOU with the Army Corp of Engineers. Back Country Horsemen of Kansas (which most Kansas AERC members belong to) have an agreement for trail maintenance at Big Hill Lake. Funds will supplement a \$15,000 Handshake

Grant to help complete a group shelter at the south equestrian campground. The entire project includes new pipe pens in the north, improved trail signage, the group pavilion, and new kiosk. Volunteer labor will save thousands and include erection of the pavilion.

AERC Rides are held at this location. Little Ozarks at Big Hill Lake 2017 (skipping 2018). AERC Members use these trails to condition on.

John Parke confirmed with Monica that we have the funding to provide AERC signage at the site. The motion passed.

Jay Mero DVM presented a motion from the Veterinary Committee. Motion: Proposal re use of external magnetic field devices (EMFD).

Add language to Rule 13, appendix F item #6 (prohibited substances) to read: "The use of external magnetic field devices and electropulse generating devices on equines shall be prohibited at AERC sanctioned ride venues".

The Board discussed concerns of the affect and use of the machine on horses and should the machine be prohibited entirely from the ride sites or just not allowed to be used while the ride was in progress. A motion was made by Connie Caudill to defer until the Sunday meeting to give time for committee discussion. The motion was second by Bob Marshall DVM . Motion passed.

Jay Mero DVM presented a motion from the Veterinary Committee:

Update to rule 13, Appendix A (Drug rule, prohibited substances appendix)

Proposed Motion Add thymosin Beta-4 (Vecta TB-1000) to Rule 13, appendix A (prohibited substances).

As newer medications and treatments are developed and become available, they are to be assessed by the Veterinary Committee and added to the prohibited substance appendix A as necessary. Thymosin Beta-4 is an amino acid chain from which Vecta TB-1000 is purported to be derived. This amino acid chain is purported to, among other claimed benefits, increase angiogenesis which in effect increases blood flow throughout the body and in turn may result in improved heart rate recovery times and overall performance.

To be implemented immediately.

Motion made by committee. Motion passed.

Jay Mero DVM presented a motion proposal re-funding of drug testing outside California and Canada

Motion to fund the AERC Drug Testing Program - For 2018 use \$27,000 from the Drug Testing Reserves to maintain drug testing at the current level for the ride year 2018. For 2019 increase per rider start drug testing fee from \$3 to \$6 outside of CA to begin on December 1, 2018.

During 2014 and 2015 AERC only tested one ride per region, plus the two days of the National Championships, with one additional ride chosen at random from all regions. In 2016 and 2017 the BOD approved the use of drug testing reserve funds to increase testing numbers, with a target of two rides per region, plus one additional testing day, plus both days of the National Championships, for a projected 19 total sample days. In 2016 there was a total of 168 samples taken, with no positives. In 2017, we nearly reached our target testing level with 211 samples taken, over 18 ride days tested, with 3 positives. At 211 samples out of approximately 13,000 ride starts outside of CA, the AERC is testing 1.6% of rider starts, as compared to the CA EMMP drug testing program which test 3.1% of endurance starts in CA. AERC contracts with USEF at a sample rate of \$315 per sample as long as there are twelve samples collected per testing day. Riders are charged \$3 drug fee per entry, for rides outside of California, with an average annual

budget of approximately \$39,000 based on ride starts outside of CA. There is approximately \$67,000 currently in the Drug Testing Reserves, with not all of the 2017 testing year paid for as of yet. By end of the current ride year 2018, the Drug Testing Reserve Fund will fall below the recommended \$50,000 baseline reserve number, both legal counsel and the Treasurer of AERC recommend we maintain. In 2018 we will once again need to use drug testing reserve funds to reach our targeted testing level of 19 days and 228 samples, with a required budget of \$71,820. At the conclusion of the 2018 ride year, (if the BOD once again approves the use of drug testing reserve funds), we will have exhausted the excess drug testing reserve funds the BOD directed we utilize first to provide for adequate drug testing. Without the use of drug testing reserve funds in 2018, followed by a corresponding increase in the drug testing rider fee, to continue maintaining the program at its current levels of the past two years, AERC would have to go back to a testing budget of only \$39,000, which would only allow us to have 10 testing days, or only one ride per region, plus the National Championship rides, *which would essentially halve the testing presence of the last two years*. By comparison, in 2017 the CA drug testing program (EMMP) obtained 80 samples out of 2596 endurance rider starts in CA, for a testing level of 3.1%, to our 1.6% sampling level. In addition the CA EMMP committee voted in increase the drug testing fee from their current level of \$5 per sample to \$8 per sample, to also commence as soon as their drug testing reserve fund has sufficiently been worked down. USEF also charges \$8 per entry for drug testing, with other organizations charging anywhere from \$8-\$36 per entry. This increase to \$6 is significantly lower than all other testing fees for all other equine disciplines. Given the multiple positive samples that have been obtained since 2014, both by USEF testers and the CA EMMP system, there clearly is a need for as large and robust a drug testing presence as AERC can afford to provide. We will never be able to test at the level recommended by both USEF for the disciplines it tests for, or the CA system – both which target 3-5% testing rates per discipline, simply due to financial constraints. But our policy of sending testers to the most remote, out of the way rides, and testing all the way through rides from the winners to the last place finishers – relies on a strategy of the deterrence based on the fear of anyone can be tested, in any placing, at any ride.

Monica Chapman made a motion to defer until the April meeting when more time would be given for committee discussion. Connie Caudill second the motion.

John Parke asked that the discussion be continued in the Sunday meeting. Jan Stevens noted that USEF charges \$15 per horse and FEI \$25. Paul Latiolais agreed to have more discussion on Sunday. Motion passed to defer voting on the motion until the April meeting.

Jay Mero DVM spoke about updating the Drug Rule in the relation to how we handle positive cases. Currently positive tests goes through the Vet Committee and Legal Committee and then on to the P&G Committee. The Vet Committee would like the opportunity to investigate the case before making a decision to send it to P&G Committee. John Parke stated that the wording needed some work before presenting it for a vote but he will help with some suggestions on the wording. The motion will be vetted by committees before presenting to the Board. He noted that this is a major change in our drug rule and how we handle the positive cases and that we need to make changes methodically and carefully.

The Strategic Plan update was discussed briefly by Paul Latiolais. He stated first we decided our goals and now we need to implement them. Committees need to look at the Strategic Plan and give reports back on how they will implement within their committee. Further discussion will take place during the Sunday meeting.

Christoph Schork led a discussion on the open AERC face book page. He said that insulting, slandering in the past has been divisive to our members and potential members. Board members get diverted on fb messages. He would like to see policies made that would make the page better. He listed some ideas;

-Ban Group 7 and FEI post

-Establish an AERC-I fb page that strictly would discuss international issues

-Give AERC-I power to problem solve diplomatically and reply to post and then report back to the Board.

Troy Smith (AERC's Editor) was concerned since the open fb page has been a big tool for marketing AERC. She said the fb page gets the word out and many members join due to this page. She felt it has been doing better since the members only page has begun and stated that the monitors have been diligent on keeping the open page friendly. Troy Smith doesn't want to force international off our AERC page. Kathleen Henkel stated that she disagrees with an AERC-I page. She feels AERC needs to speak for ourselves and not through a committee.

Paul Latiolais would like to see better communication between the Board and our members. We need a policy on how and who will respond to letters received by the Board. Kathleen Henkel said that she would be happy to answer all of them if the President made that policy. Vance Stine stated that board members can't speak for the Board and neither can the President. Lisa Schneider commented that having Kathleen Henkel answer the letters would keep it consistent. John Parke stated that Kathleen could send a letter back thanking them and would pass it on to the Board for discussion. Kathleen Henkel will give AERC and the Board a common voice.

Group 7 issues- Members make assumptions on what the Board believes but is often false. Christoph Schork would like us to form an Ad Hoc "Communications Committee" to discuss Group 7 issues since we really don't know what our members believe or want. He would like the committee to come up with a survey to get numbers but would want neutral leaning questions. This work will be ongoing.

Bob Marshall DVM made a motion to accept the 2/8/18 minutes, Tonya Oaks-Stroud second. Motion passed.

At 8:55pm Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn and Monica Chapman second. Motion passed.

Submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary