

AERC Board Meeting, 3/11/18, Reno, Nevada

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Paul Latiolais

Board members in attendance- Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Angie Mikkelson, Jan Stevens, Tonya Oaks-Stroud, Nick Kohut DVM, Steph Teeter, John Parke, Lisa Schneider, Vance Stein, Troy Eckard, Marica Hefker-Miles, Susan Kasemeyer, Andrew Gerhard, Shawn Bowling, Olin Balch DVM, Terry Woolley-Howe, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Heather Reynolds, Paul Sidio, Christoph Schork.

Susan Kasemeyer moved and Terry Woolley-Howe second to excuse Mary Howell and Michael Campbell. Motion approved. Steph Teeter made a motion and Susan Kasemeyer second for the approval of the agenda. Motion passed with one no vote.

The Board member seminar was conducted by John Parke. Thoroughly covered in the session were: Duties of the Board, Actions of the Board, Board meetings, Conduct of the meetings, Parliamentary practices, Bylaws re Conflict of Interest. He spoke on the Conflict of Interest explaining what it encompassed in great detail.

Paul Latiolais made an announcement that he would be getting dates and location for the midyear Board meeting out for a vote soon. He is looking at August dates and has directed Kathleen to search for an affordable location. He stated that the Board list is for the development of ideas and for discussion that is not detrimental to the Board or AERC. The policy for presenting motions will be that all motions must be reviewed by relevant committees prior to the two week time requirement of having the motion on the agenda.

Committee Reports from the convention:

AERC-I, Mark Dial reported that the meeting was well attended by most of the committee members. They discussed Paul Sidio's motion and strongly recommend that someone from their committee be placed on the Ad Hoc committee that Paul Latiolais will put together.

Strategic Plan Taskforce and Governance- Andrew Gerhard gave a report on the governance plan and implementation. The Board members were given copies of the governance implementation plan. He noted that first we had goals and now we have plans to implement. The plan has a flow chart that shows recommendations are made from the Board to the committees. The committees research the issues saving valuable time for the Board and come back with recommendations. The governance plan listed duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director, the President and the Board of Directors. John Parke commented that he liked the flow chart and that these were practical ideas on how to implement. He would like to see more flow charts. He asked that we give the Board list some attention and that some suggestions should be made on how to improve it. Vance Stein commented that Kathleen Henkel be added within the flow chart. John Parke suggested using the bylaw wording that the Executive Director is directly responsible to the board, reporting to the President.

Rules: Lisa Schneider said that a member suggested notifying people that have been drug tested to thank them for participating in the drug testing program and let them know they did not have a positive test. Tom Noll has agreed to draft the letter. Kathleen Henkel noted that she only receives the positive test results so it is impossible to know who all were tested. Lisa Schneider went on to explain that the new drug rule will allow for a joint investigation between the Vet Committee and the Legal Committee. John Parke will give a progress report on the wording of the rule in 30 days. There was a discussion on how to report rides when natural disasters happen where they are

unable to complete the course. Kathleen Henkel informed the Board that the information has to be entered by hand and the Ride Manager will need to send in the actual mileage ridden by each person. This mileage will only be entered as lifetime career mileage. Lisa stated that the EDRA co-sanctioning motion still needs work, which Steph Teeter and John Parke agreed to work on together. Over all Lisa felt the meeting was excellent with great participation from all members.

Bob Marshall DVM relayed the compromised decision from the Veterinarian Committee on use of the External Magnetic Field Device. The Vet committee is willing to change the wording of their motion to state that the machine will be allowed on the grounds but will be illegal to use 24 hours prior to competition or during competition. The revised motion will be presented 2 weeks prior of the April meeting. John Parke commented that until this motion passes, our current rules could prevent use of it and may be grounds for a protest.

Funding to increase drug testing fees outside of California and Canada. Mollie, chair of Ride Managers Committee said that Ride Managers needed adequate notification to prepare financially for the \$3.00 per rider increase. She suggested that we vote on this at midyear. Nick Kohut DVM said members need to know now and we should vote on this in our next meeting. Steph Teeter felt we needed to look elsewhere for funds. The increase would not happen until the 2019 season. John Parke stated we need to take in account that the new drug rule may bring about greater expense so this increase is not just about drug testing but also implementing our rules. Marcia Hefker-Smith asked how many total number of horses were tested and was told approximately 250. Nick Kohut DVM stated that testing is not only a deterrent but also helps in fairness and keeping the sport clean. Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made the comment- "Until we have an iron clad drug policy rule that she would not be willing to vote for the increase". As the Treasurer she stated we already have a significant loss projected and although we still have our rainy day fund which she is not against using but she would also like to find a way to fund the committees. She recommends putting a good plan together to implement raising rider fees.

John Parke gave an update on the supporting organization (AERC Legacy Foundation) and stated that it is now a viable organization. The organization still is in need of an exemption paper prepared for a 501c(3) by either the new Legal Committee or a paid outside attorney. The application should be prepared within 1-2 months. The application could take 1-6 months. (IRS). John Parke will set up a meeting with Board members of the supporting organization. (Board members to date are John Parke, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith and Don Fehrs) in 30-60 days but they can't start accepting funds until the exemption goes through.

Committee Chairs gave updates from the convention meetings.

Ride Managers Committee update was presented by Mollie Krumlaw-Smith. Ride Managers had discussions and concerns about California state land issues and permits, also drug testing and bad weather along with poor turnout. The discussion included suggestions on recruiting new ride managers with programs to steer them financially. Also the committee is still focusing on policies concerning bad behaving riders as well as an ADA policy.

Susan Kasemeyer gave an update on the Equine Hall Of Fame. She reminded people that nominations need to be made before midyear. When the committee feel they have no deserving nominations they will not award it.

Steph Teeter presented the update for Junior/Young Riders Committee. The committee and juniors in attendance would like to have some seminars geared toward them at future conventions.

They would like to organize volunteer team for the junior riders like they currently have for the young riders.

Connie Caudill presented the National Championship Ride Committee update. The committee would like to have more oversight on the ride to ensure it has the atmosphere of a NC and will follow up with the ride manager in the months prior to the ride. The AERC President should go to the ride. Paul Latiolais has agreed he would be going. The committee would like to invite and give entries to both 50 and 100 mile winners for the following year also inviting them to the convention giving them the free seminar tickets. The committee will request to add open 50 and 100 mile rides to the NC. The committee would like to add an additional way to qualify for the 100 mile by adding a pioneer ride. Connie asked for a sense of the Board as she would be bringing the motions next month to them and would like to prepare the current ride managers. All agreed that these were good changes.

Monica Chapman presented the Trails and Land Management Committee updates. She asked that all Board members read her 35 page report in the convention binders for a complete report. She emphasized that keeping track of your trail work hours was helpful in dealing with both state and federal agencies, especially when talking with our congressmen in Washington DC. She is happy to enter the hours for anyone that can't do it themselves.

Paul Latiolais asked for approval of committee reports that were in the convention binders. Steph Teeter so moved with Vance Stein as the second. Motion passed.

Paul Latiolais requested approval of the appointment of the "new" committee chairs:

Trails and Land Management- co chairs Monica Chapman and Alex Uspenski, P & G- Diane Rowley (Nicole remain mediator), Sanctioning- Susan Kasemayer, Executive Committee- Michael Campbell, Ad Hoc Communications Committee- Christoph Schork, Hall of Fame- Monica Chapman

Susan Kasemayer made the motion to approve and Lisa Schneider second. Motion passes.

Discussion was held on the role of the Legal Committee. First order of business for this committee will be to create a charter and bring to the Board.

Paul Latiolais appointed Lisanne Dorion to be chair of the Legal Committee. John Parke made a motion to approve, Heather Reynolds second. Motion passes with one no vote.

Paul Latiolais appointed continuing chairs to the following committees:

Elections- Robert Ribley, Finance- Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, International- Meg Sleeper DVM, Junior/Young Rider- Stephanie Teeter, Membership- Mary Howell, National Championship- Connie Caudill, Research- Jerry Gillespie DVM, Ride Managers- Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Rules and Bylaws- Lisa Schneider, Technical- Mike Maul, Veterinarian- Jay Mero DVM, Welfare of the Horse- Nick Kohut DVM.

Motion to accept the chair appointments was made by Heather Reynolds and second by Steph Teeter. Motion passes with one no vote.

Christoph Schork would like to create a committee to communicate with USEF. Paul Latiolais stated that the Executive Committee could handle setting up the committee. Terry Woolley-Howe

withdrew her motion pertaining to riding in group 7 as she felt we need to put something together that will comprehensively cover everything. Susan Kasemeyer requested that we concentrate on AERC business not Group 7. Troy Eckhard agreed but feels our members want action of some kind. After some discussion, Paul Latiolais and the Board agreed that we need a statement. He wants to gather knowledge on research on the facts before passing a resolution.

Paul Sidio presented motion:

It is hereby resolved that the AERC Board of Directors finds that the current state of Endurance in FEI Group 7, excepting the venue at Boudheib, is detrimental to the best interests of the sport of Endurance. It is far removed from the AERC Mission of To Finish Is To Win. We call on USEF and other Equine Organizations to take a more pro active stance against the continuing rule violations and unacceptable level of equine fatalities that continue in Group 7.

Troy Eckard seconded the motion.

Heather Reynolds asked if Paul Sidio would accept an amendment to change the wording so as not to include individuals in group 7 who don't fall into the abusive category and suggested using "parts of the Group 7". Troy Eckard stated "portions of group 7" would be better wording. John stated that the word "mission" needed to change as it is the AERC "motto". Paul Sidio and Troy Eckard accepted the amendments to the motion. Amended Motion: It is hereby resolved that the AERC Board of Directors finds that the current state of Endurance in portions of FEI Group 7 is detrimental to the best interests of the sport of Endurance. It is far removed from the AERC motto of "To Finish Is To Win". We call on USEF and other Equine Organizations to take a more pro active stance against the continuing rule violations and unacceptable levels of equine fatalities that continue in Group 7. ceptable level of equine fatalities that continue in Group 7."

The amended motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion on the possibility of co sanctioning rides with the EDRA organization. Steph Teeter would like for AERC to make it possible to have both events run concurrently. This will be a continued discussion as Steph Teeter said at this time she is not presenting it as a motion. Some members of the Board felt this would be a good chance to have riders come to the EDRA rides and still have the opportunity to enter the AERC ride. Some felt this would not help AERC in the NW region. Connie Caudill felt that AERC should be pro active and go on a membership drive in the NW region and recruit Ride Managers, giving them a break in rider fees and non member fees until the region can get more AERC rides.

Heather Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 1:30 pm, Terry Woolley-Howe second. Motion passes.

Submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary