

AERC BOARD minutes conference call 11/12/18

The meeting was called to order by President Paul Latiolais at 9:03 pm

Present were- Paul Latiolais, Monica Chapman, Connie Caudill, Michael Campbell, Angie Mikkelson, Jan Stevens, Tonya Stoud-Oaks, Mary Howell, Nick Kohut DVM, Stephanie Teeter, John Parke, Lisa Schneider, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Troy Eckard, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Shawn Bowling, Andrew Gerhard, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Olin Balch DVM, Terry Woolley Howe, Heather Reynolds, Mike Maul, Paul Sidio, Robert Marshall DVM, Christoph Schork and Executive Director, Kathleen Henkel.

Paul Latiolais stated that a brief announcement would be added to the agenda concerning the International Equine Excellence Award.

Christorph Schork made a motion to accept the agenda, second was made by Vance Stine. Motion passed

Kathleen Henkel updated the AERC Board with the statistical report

Membership report November 2018

Membership as of 11/15/17	5052
Membership as of 11/12/18	4913

Sanction fees as of 11/12/17	\$ 16,157
Sanction fees as of 11/12/18	\$ 14,925

Rider fees as of 11/12/17	\$ 75,813
Rider fees as of 11/12/18	\$ 64,797

New members as of 11/15/17	617
New members as of 11/12/18	612

Michael Campbell explained that there wasn't much of a response for the newly created International Equine Excellence Award and felt the timing was not good. He made a motion to return the fees to the people that nominated horses and send a note thanking them and stating that the award was being postponed indefinitely. Mike Maul second the motion. Motion Passed

Andrew Gerhard presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve the Torrey Creek Pioneer ride in the West Region on May 24 – 26. Erin Riley Kelley as ride manager. Motion passed

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the National Championship Committee for the 2019 NC ride site. Ride Managers Robert Ribley and Brian Reeves with the help of the Valley Riders are requesting to host the 2019 AERC National Championship Ride at the Twenty Mule Team ride site at the Ridgecrest, California fairgrounds on the weekend of November 23, 2019. The National Championship Committee has approved the ride.

This is a long established ride in the PS region (over 35 years). Base camp is at approximately 2500 feet in the Mohave Desert. The footing is mostly packed sand with some areas of deeper sand and several miles or rocky footing. The course has moderate climbs.

There were concerns from some board members about the time of the year and traveling with horses and also with the daylight hours being so short. Some were hoping the ride managers could change the date to Oct. This will be discussed with them and the sanctioning director. Changing the date is a possibility but they would need to bring it back to the Board for another vote. Motion Passed 15 yes, 9 no and 1 abstention.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2019 Board meeting, Christoph Schork 2nd. Motion Passed

Steph Teeter presented the Limited Distance rule modification motion from the Rules Committee. She explained how the motion will revise completion time on the LD rule by allowing the horse 30 minutes to reach pulse criterion when the horse has completed the course by the maximum time allowed by the rules. The revision also allows an hour after completing the course to receive the final “fit to finish” completion exam.

Revised rules;

L3.2 Course completion time, which is the maximum time competitors are allowed to complete the specified course from start to finish, will be according to the Limited Distance chart in Appendix A.

L3.4 At the finish, ride time of the competitor continues until pre-set judging criteria of 60 heartbeats per minute or less is met. (Finishing time is recorded as the time in which the rider ask for and subsequently meets this preset criteria.)

Change the Limited Distance chart in Appendix A to read:

Limited Distance Maximum Course Time Hours: Minutes

(time rider must be off the marked course, including all Holds and Checks)

L4. Completion requires meeting all of the criteria used for endurance rides with the exception of maximum pulse criteria upon completion of the course (see L4.1.2)

L4.1 All equines must stand a mandatory post-ride evaluation within one hour of crossing the marked finish line. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one hour period. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within one hour of arrival time shall be disqualified. Once a completed equine has passed the post-ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons.

L4.1.2 The equine must meet a reasonable pulse recovery based on ambient conditions within 30 minutes of arrival at all control points. Maximum pulse criteria upon completion of the course is 60 beats per minute, and must be met within 30 minutes of arrival at the finish line. Respiration should be evaluated on

its own merit. Ambient temperature and humidity effects need to be recognized and their effects considered.

Mike Maul commented that the software would need some modification to accommodate the change but didn't believe it would be an issue to adjust. Implementation will be on December 1, 2018. Steph Teeter will write an article for the Endurance News. Immediate notification will be sent to all members via email.

Motion passed unanimously.

Paul Latiolais presented the motion from the Research Committee - Request Funding for AERC Research at the 2019 Tevis Ride.

This is a request to reinstate funding that was approved for the 2018 Tevis Dehydration Study, which did not occur because of illness of one of the Principal Investigators. The funds requested herein are in the same amount as those requested for the 2018 Research. AERC to provide funds in the amount of \$4,000 from the AERC Research Fund to continue studies on dehydration of endurance horses traveling to the 2019 Tevis Ride and during the Ride. *Jerry Gillespie attached a budget request in which he propose the AERC and the Tevis Foundation share in the cost of the proposed 2019 Tevis study; \$4,000 funded by AERC and \$2,450 funded by Tevis Foundation; TOTAL \$6,450.*

The proposed Tevis Research will be an extension of the AERC Research at the 2016 Cooley Ranch Ride and the 2017 Virginia City Ride. The results of these studies were report at the 2017 and 2018 AERC Conventions.

The 2019 Tevis Study will focus on a very important ailment in endurance horses, **dehydration**. The studies have shown that horses dehydrate (lose body water) during transport to rides if the journey requires more than 2 hours. The horses do not usually have time to rehydrate before the start of the rides and will continue to dehydrate during the ride in both 50 mile and 100 mile rides. It will be important to investigate the extent of dehydration in the Tevis horses during a 100 mile ride with ambient temperature around 100 degrees F. They expect to collect home-stable body weights and ride-arrival weights to assess the extent of dehydration do to transport to the Tevis venue. Motion passed unanimously

Paul Latiolais introduced Bill Moroney, CEO of USEF. In Mr. Moroney's opening statement he noted that there has been speculations about the future of endurance and much will depend on the recommendations from the newly appointed FEI Temporary Endurance Committee, of which Meg Sleeper is a member. Key discussions for the committee are -will Endurance remain an FEI discipline and if so, does the format of the sport stay as is or will emphasis be taken away from racing and more toward other measures of success like AERC? Clearly there is a fundamental difference in the two types of endurance. If the Temporary Committee thinks option of having two different FEI divisions of endurance; one being flat track the other being traditional endurance they could present this option to FEI. He feels the future of endurance depends on the outcome of this temporary committee and their recommendations. People who have ideas on the future of endurance should push them forward to Meg Sleeper so that she can get them in front of that committee. Actual solutions need to go forward with rational, reasonable

recommendations. He feels that the recommendations of the temporary committee will drive the future of endurance. The timeline for changes to take place is the issue facing AERC.

Questions had been sent to Mr. Moroney prior to the meeting. He said there were some questions he couldn't answer since he doesn't come from an endurance background and the best place to get answers would be the Endurance Sports Committee. The following is a summary of the question/answer discussion.

The first sets of questions discussed were on the affiliate status. There were 8 items sent to the AERC Board that enumerates what is in place in order to have affiliate status. These 8 requirements must be accepted by AERC if they want to continue to be an affiliate. If the AERC Board determines they unable to abide by any of the requirements, USEF would take the steps to decertify AERC as the affiliate organization.

- Comply with and be bound by all applicable USEF Bylaws, USEF Board of Directors' actions and USEF Rules;
- Agree not to become affiliated with or recognize or support any other organization or association or group seeking recognition as the NGB, as long as it remains an Affiliate as herein provided;
- Recognize and reciprocate all USEF Hearing Committee decisions regarding the suspension, or other disciplinary action taken against a USEF or Recognized Affiliate member;
- Reciprocate all penalties issued by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport regardless of sport designation of the individual found in violation;
- Recommend members to the appropriate USEF Committees and Councils, when applicable;
- Adhere to USEF's Non-Discrimination Policy;
- Maintain good standing with USEF; and pay the \$200 fee

Mr. Moroney said that USEF has not identified another organization to take the place of AERC as the endurance affiliate. If AERC terminates the agreement, USEF has determined that the Endurance Sports Committee would act in the role of the affiliate. If the affiliate process opens up later, AERC and other organizations would be eligible to apply but would have to agree to the 8 affiliate status requirements.

Concerning drug testing, Mr. Moroney stated that USEF is in the process of investigating a relationship with the University of Kentucky for drug testing. At this time USEF will not be able to test non affiliate organizations until they have completed this process with the University of Kentucky since this may lead to a different situation with the laboratory and may lead to a different testing process.

In answering some questions during the discussion, Mr. Moroney stated the following fall would fall under the Endurance Sports Committee (ESC) role.

1. ESC could to discuss the idea of having a USEF award to honor longevity of endurance horses.
2. ESC could discuss the defunding of teams competing overseas.

3. ESC could discuss withholding funding for the Young Riders Championship since it will be on a flat track course. USEF doesn't make the rules or have control of the format or the site of these FEI events but USEF can advocate for a format change through the ESC.
4. Funding the International team events should be discussed between the ESC and the affiliate.
5. It would be the decision of the ESC to support and take the Change.org Global Horse Welfare Petition to FEI
6. ESC would need to look at the selection process to see if it were successful or flawed and then report back on it.
7. ESC is charged with plans going forward for selection process and funding. The ESC needs better communication with AERC.
8. AERC can ask the ESC- what are they doing to support young riders?

USEF is only permitted by the Center of Safe Sport to train USEF members in Safe Sport. Safe Sport Training is provided for a \$20 fee from the Center of Safe Sport.

USEF provides access to international competitions, access to selection process, safe sports training, drug testing, magazine, promotion of endurance, etc. USEF spends roughly \$300,000 a year on endurance programs and staff services, the revenue is just \$41,000. USEF promotes Equestrian sports as a whole but they are not a marketing program for each discipline. There is one type of endurance USEF is involved with and promotes and that is under FEI rules.

Any FEI competition held in the US must be licensed by USEF as well as FEI and if not FEI could consider those events to be unsanctioned events and could impose restrictions on USEF members and officials. AERC can hold events outside USEF license but those events will not count towards any qualifying or selection process to compete in any FEI championships.

Mr. Moroney explained that USEF received a clean audit. Donations that are sent with restrictions can only be allocated in accordance to those restrictions. Some AERC members felt that a donated fund could be spent better to promote the sport. Mr. Moroney said that perhaps the communication between the Endurance Sports Committee and AERC should be better as they determine how funds are spent. He also felt that there was some miscommunication from a USEF staff member concerning the funds.

USEF communicates all their concerns of horse welfare to FEI leadership and staff and the Endurance Committee of FEI. The new FEI Temporary Committee is charged to review the future of the sport of endurance and make recommendations for change. Mr. Moroney hopes to see steps from the committee that will deal with the deaths and the situation in Group 7. He hopes they will come up with comprehensive solutions for sanctions and changes in the format.

Mr. Moroney did not have answers concerning which rules would be applicable to AERC /FEI co sanctioned rides since he is not familiar with endurance. He will have that reviewed by the Competition and the Endurance department and get back with an answer.

Mr. Moroney would have liked to had some town hall meetings to discuss USEF/FEI/AERC issues with the endurance members in November but now feels the meetings should be after FEI decides how they will move forward. He is open to having ad hoc committees meet to discuss the future of endurance.

Mr. Moroney felt if AERC terminates their affiliation that co sanctioned events will be not be allowed by USEF but he will check with the competitions department about that particular roll and get back to the Board with an accurate answer.

He stated that USEF sanctioned events are required to follow the FEI rules but the national events will fall under the affiliate rules. An example asked was the wearing of helmets and he said that if the national organization didn't require "hats" that was up to them in the national rides but the national AERC rides would not count toward qualification or recognition of awards from USEF. Riders in an USEF event would have to abide by the FEI rules. Jan Stevens will seek clarification on this statement as she believes only the riders in the FEI division would fall under the FEI rules.

In closing Mr. Moroney stated that the AERC Board needs to do what's best for their organization but if they decided leaving was best for them at this time it wouldn't preclude that AERC wouldn't be welcomed back and eligible to reapply.

Paul Latiolais thanked Bill Moroney for attending the meeting and answering the questions. After he left the meeting Board member was asked for comments.

Eight Board members stated their disappointment in Mr. Moroney's answers. One person said it was what he expected. Some felt that he deflected the questions and put many of them on to the Endurance Sports Committee and believe he should have had answers from the Committee. Two of the members were very concerned about the future of drug testing while others felt we couldn't be held hostage on just drug testing so must look for other means of testing. Some were concerned about losing members if we disaffiliate and another organization replacing AERC . Two people wanted to get definite answers concerning the allowance of co sanctioned rides- Jan Stevens will investigate the rules and report back. There were some concerns about the current FEI/AERC rides that are already sanctioned on the calendar and felt we may want work out a compromise with USEF to be fair to those ride managers who have already paid their fees. Some felt the USEF problems weren't addressed. One person was interested to see if FEI will have the nerve to address things that went wrong at the WEG.

Some Board members stated they want to vote on the affiliate termination at the December meeting while others felt the vote should be taken at the AERC convention in a face to face meeting. Some wanted to see what happens in the FEI General Assembly this week before making a decision. One member has mixed feelings and thinks we should move slowly and think through the consequences because we are all endurance riders and there is value in International riding. A few are still undecided. Some felt we should stay to have a voice in making changes within FEI and to be a voice for horse welfare.

It was felt that USEF leadership didn't seem to be pushing for changes but waiting for FEI to handle it with the newly formed committee advising. Felt there was lack of direction from Mr. Moroney and there was confusion within FEL

Paul Latiolais stated that the Board needs to focus on AERC.

Connie Caudill asked Paul Latiolais the date of the appeal on a protest. Paul Latiolais will send an email to Lisanne Dorion and plans to schedule it for Monday, December 17.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn, Terry Woolley-Howe second the motion. Motion passed