

AERC BOD Conference Call Minutes - 1/13/20

President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:05 pm. Board members present in the meeting were Monica Chapman, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Angie Mikkelson, Jan Stevens, Dawn Hilliard, Jessica Cobbley, Naomi Preston, John Parke, Lisa Schneider, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Andrew Gerhard, Gordie Cowan, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Heather Reynolds, Christoph Schork, Troy Eckard, Nick Kohut DVM and Olin Balch DVM and Tim Worden . Chalice Coward was on the call in listen only mode. Also present- office representative Troy Smith and Executive Director Kathleen Henkel.

Monica Chapman revised the agenda, adding a NW Pioneer Ride for approval. Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to accept the revised agenda, seconded by Troy Eckard. Motion passed.

Michael Campbell made a motion to approve the December 19, 2019 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

Gordie Cowan made a motion to excuse Tonya Stroud-Oaks due to being out of the country and Shawn Bowling. Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel presented the Statistical report

Membership 1/07/2019 2522

Membership 1/10/2020 2477

Sanction fees 1/10/19 – \$ 9,370

Sanction fees 1/10/20 – \$ 8,210

Rider fees 1/10/19 – \$ 304.00

Rider fees 1/10/20 - \$ 399.00

New members as of 1/07/19 101

New members as of 1/10/20 108

Connie Caudill presented motion from the Sanctioning Committee for Board approval of the Still Prineville Pioneer ride, May 2-3, 2020. This is the second year for this ride managed by Elizabeth Batterson. Motion passed.

Angie Mikkelson presented a motion from the Membership Committee - Greenbeans Convention Reimbursement Funds.

This motion would authorize reimbursement of \$500 for one or more of the directors from the Greenbeans program to be reimbursed for attending the AERC annual convention. The funds would come from the Greenbeans program funds and only be offered if the funds are available in that account. \$500 total, with a maximum of \$250/ person. Greenbean funds are currently at \$9,304.68 The Greenbeans program has a vendor booth at the AERC convention, in order to make the most of this booth they would like to have a director (or directors), who deal with this program on an ongoing basis, to run the booth.

Some members had concerns over the funds and if they were collected for this purpose? After discussion in which some Board members requested of Angie Mikkelson that the Greenbeans give a report during the convention Board meeting. Mollie Krumlaw-Smith has requested that the Green Beans submit a budget (as part of the membership budget) just like all other committees are required to do. The Greenbean website needs to be under control of the AERC website, not just a link from it. Motion passed 19 to 3.

Kathleen Henkel updated the Board on the status of the new website. She relayed there had been a few snags with the writers of the program, The AERC website is very complex. Mike Maul has had several meetings with the programmers. The bid for writing the program was approximately \$42,000 with an addition it became approximately \$45,000. They hope to have it running by the convention.

The AERC Office will continue with the “Ride one more”. It has been beneficial as an incentive and goal for many riders. They are planning another role out of a new program soon.

Monica Chapman reported that the Executive Committee had two items that were voted on to report back to the Board. 1. Approval for a Date Change by one week due to heavy rain on a ride managed by Ann Nicholson. 2. A Florida ride request for approval for an extremely late sanctioning, which was denied.

Monica Chapman asked the Board members for ideas on “Hot Topics” discussions during the convention. After a brief discussion it was decided that the topics would be; 1. Ride distances and measurement; 2. The AERC Legacy Foundation and growing membership.

Monica Chapman asked Olin Balch DVM to give a summary of his research study “Mitigation of 100-mile ride fatalities associated with the American Endurance Ride Conference (2002-2018)” presented at the 2019 American Association of Equine Practitioners Annual Convention (co-authors were Drs. Nick Kohut, Jeanette Mero, Wesley Elford & Alina Vale). She stated that she was really proud that AERC was in the limelight and recognized at the largest annual meeting of equine practitioners. Olin Balch gave a very brief summary of his report. He stated the AERC identified 127 fatalities in 335,456 starts and additional ride-site horses attending AERC rides from 2002-2018. Overall fatality rate was low. 21 of the fatalities occurred in horses that were not actually competing but were at the ride site. Some were due to escapes from their containment pens which is an important issue. 77% of fatalities were metabolic related of which most were colics. 67% of the equines were eliminated (pulled) on course or at finish, but 33% received completions. The lesson learned is that a colic may be slowly brewing and may not be clinically identified until after the horse was awarded a completion. The distance attempted had a dramatic effect on frequency of fatalities. 100-mile horses were 12 times more likely to be a fatality than horses competing in LD rides; LD fatality rates were similar to those predicted by a 2007 USDA baseline, multi-state equine mortality study of a similar aged population. In 2015, AERC Board approved ride protocol and veterinary rule changes (accompanied by more stringent rules of individual 100-mile rides) that significantly reduced fatality rate in 100-mile horses. 2002-2018 Tevis 100-mile starts accounted for 23% of all 100-mile starts in the US. Tevis has pioneered changes in ride and veterinary protocols (such as a safety check after ride completion) which very likely reduced frequency of 100-mile deaths. Fatal fractures in competing AERC horses were very rare. According to a 2010 study (Equine Veterinary Education, “Management of fractures in endurance horses”), FEI endurance horse fatal fracture rates in the Middle East were comparable to those in flat-track horse racing. AERC’s conferring Decade and Double Decade awards emphasize an underappreciated perspective of horse welfare which highlights horse-and-rider team longevity in equestrian sports. Olin Balch DVM reported that the presentation (and horse welfare within AERC) was well received at the AAEP convention. He noted that Hal Schott DVM was instrumental in gathering and interpreting data. Monica Chapman praised Olin Balch DVM for presenting factual, measurable data that demonstrated AERC’s commitment to horse welfare.

A brief discussion was held concerning the AERC Insurance. Vance Stine explained that the AERC insurance covers AERC (including ride managers and volunteers) for what we are legally liable. It is advised that people have their own individual insurance. AERC offers coverage on a personal liability insurance through Equisure for a minimal fee.

Connie Caudill presented from the Sanctioning Committee a rule revision for clarification concerning trail measurement. If approved (at a later date) this would be an addition to rule number one.

1. The ride must be 50 miles in length per day, up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days. For special sanction rides, see rule 16.2 and 16.2.1. *Mileage is expected to be measured accurately. A 5% variance is acceptable due to human and mechanical error.*

A brief discussion was held explaining that this revision would allow a 5% variance of measurement due to errors in measurement devices. The ride manager is expected to measure accurately but it is realized that measurement is not uniform in all devices. This will be discussed as a motion at the convention meeting.

John Parke gave an update of the Supporting organization, AERC Legacy Foundation. He has completed an article explaining the foundation which will be in next months Endurance News. He explained that the attorney that is filing the application felt the bylaws needed a procedure for the removal of Board members by the AERC Board. John Parke did not believe that was needed but in order to get the filing completed he agreed to update the 7.09 bylaw to include the language that a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote from the AERC Board could dismiss a Board member from the supporting organization. John Parke believed it would be completed this week. We are waiting for authorization from the IRS which could take anywhere from 6 weeks to 5 months. John Parke will be explaining the Foundation during the "Hot Topics" at the convention.

Andrew Gerhard presented a thorough outline of the Education Strategic Plan followed by Nick Kohut DVM who presented a thorough outline of the Welfare of the Horse Strategic Plan.

Monica Chapman stated that at the convention she would like to have all the implementation plan put together to begin moving forward on them. She will have the strategic plan placed on the AERC website.

Monica Chapman reported that the Legal Committee and Governance group are working on the bylaws revision/update. Her timeline is for them to present the revision to the Board at the convention for Board input and further revision, then be sent to the rules committee to see which rules would need to be updated to co-exist. At midyear go over them to finalize so they can be sent to the membership for a vote during the DAL election.

Action items were reviewed by Monica Chapman.

A thorough review was held by the Board on the AERC termination of the USEF affiliate agreement and the interpretation of what was in the details. Monica Chapman stated the best way to review what has been taken place is to go back and read the November-January minutes. Why did AERC terminate the affiliate agreement? USEF was requiring AERC to abide to their bylaws, of which some were in conflict with AERC bylaws. Example; USEF required the suspension of riders who have positive FEI drug test without going through AERC's suspension procedures. They also refused to suspend riders who failed an AERC drug test and refused to respect AERC suspensions. There would be no reciprocation from USEF. Another important issue; AERC didn't feel USEF was forwarding our letters/concerns to FEI concerning group seven horse abuses. AERC decided to terminate the affiliate agreement but in order to be fair to the

FEI ride managers and riders made the termination date for the end of the season. (USEF actually terminated the agreement unbeknownst to AERC, a couple of days earlier). To continue through the end of the season, USEF and AERC signed an operating agreement.

Bill Moroney had stated in a previous meeting with the Board- That with termination of the affiliation with USEF that USEF would not be able to co sanction any rides” but later rescinded the statement.

Ride managers may sanction their rides with other organizations. AERC has a policy requirement on co sanctioned rides that All riders must be entered in the AERC portion of the ride and follow AERC rules.

Jan Stevens gave an update on the current situation with USEF sanctioned rides with non affiliate organizations. FEI leaves it up to the National Organization to determine which organizations are unsanctioned. USEF has decided to allow all endurance organizations in the US to sanctioned events and allow the International riders to ride in these events without penalty at this time until USEF obtains an affiliate organization. This is subject to change but USEF has agreed to give the riders fair notice before making any changes. Initially USEF had stated that FEI rides could not be held on same trail at the same time but has now taken that statement back. Currently there is no USEF affiliate, but they are actively seeking and hope to have one this year.

After the discussion, the Board felt a clear statement should be made to clarify the USEF termination motion. AERC is no longer represented by USEF. AERC welcomes all riders. AERC requires that all riders at any co sanctioned ride must be entered in the AERC portion of the ride. The motion never stated that the rides could not be co sanctioned. Some members felt, the Board, in voting for termination included terminating the co sanctioning of FEI/AERC rides. AERC needs to focus on what we need to accomplish and support our ride managers in their decisions. USEF hasn't supported the ride managers but AERC should support all of them as well as our international members.

Some members didn't have a good understanding of the motion. AERC is no longer the affiliate of USEF for many reasons but at the same time AERC needs to be the leader in endurance in the United States and should support everyone that wants to ride. The AERC International community should not be ignored. Co sanctioned rides held in the US are well managed by AERC members.

Monica Chapman will work with the office on a statement and will bring it back to the board for input. Time is of the essence, so the subject of the statement is the important issue.

Connie Caudill made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 pm, seconded by Nick Kohut. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill, Secretary