

AERC Conference Call minutes 4/12/21, 8 p.m. EDT

President Nick Kohut DMV called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Board members present were Olin Balch DVM, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Chalice Coward, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut DVM, Mike Maul, Angie Mikkelson, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Tami Rougeau, Lisa Schneider, Christoph Schork, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Kelly Williams-Stehman, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, Tim Worden.

Also present were Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Kyra DeMartini and Legal Committee member Barbara Baris.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Connie Caudill and seconded by Lisa Schneider. Motion passed.

Connie Caudill made a motion which was seconded by Vance Stine to excuse Jessica Cobbley who was ill and Bob Marshall DVM, who was traveling. Motion passed.

A motion to approve the March 1 and 6, 2021 board meeting minutes was made by Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss and seconded by Christoph Schork. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel presented the Statistical report-

Membership 4/10/2020	3617
Membership 4/9/2021	3852
Sanction fees 4/9/2020	\$11,670
Sanction fees 4/9/2021	\$9,655
Rider fees 4/9/2020	\$6,992
Rider fees 4/9/2021	\$8,697
New members as of 4/1/2020	225
New members as of 4/9/2021	359

Jan Stevens presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee.

Motion Name - AERC Young Rider Championship Entry Fee Assistance

Proposed Motion - AERC Office to donate \$500 from the Office Discretionary Fund to the 2021 AERC Young Rider Championship to be used to help defray the cost of entry for the riders participating.

Background, analysis and benefit - Currently the entry fee is set at \$175 per rider to participate in the event. It is the desire of the small working group (Annie Whelan, Connie Caudill, Lynn Kenelly, Bill Stevens and Jan Stevens) to reduce this amount to between \$100-\$125 per rider. Although it is hard to estimate how many riders will participate, the amount of \$500 will help to reduce the cost of the entry fee.

Budget effect/impact- \$500 from Office Discretionary Fund

Benefit and/or Impact to Membership and/or the AERC Organization - It will help to offset entry fees for the Young Riders participating in the inaugural AERC Young Rider Championship.

Implementation plan (schedule, resources, financial) - Payment will be made to the organizer who will then reduce the entry fee from \$175 to \$100 or \$125 (depending on entry numbers). After the event the RM will provide information as to how the funding was distributed.

Motion from the Sanctioning Committee passed with two abstentions.

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee.

Motion Name - Modify AERC Ride Manager Covid Jotform plan

Proposed Motion - Remove the requirement in the Ride Managers' Covid Jotform plan that the RM is required to get permission from the county health department/commissioner. This requirement would only be bypassed if the state is open to recreational events, travel and gatherings of 50 or more. The RM would still need a permit from the landowner or manager. If the state is not open to gatherings of 50 or more, or if there are travel restrictions, or if the state is not open for recreational sports, then if permission can be obtained from the county health department or county commissioner, the ride would be approved.

Background, analysis and benefit - Ride managers are having a hard time getting anyone from the government offices to give permission, even when the state is open.

A lengthy discussion was held. It was argued that the ride manager should send an email to the county health department asking if they had any objections to their ride. Even if the RM doesn't receive an answer, they wouldn't be told they couldn't have the ride. The ride managers on the Board felt getting permission has been futile with the RM spending hours trying to get an answer that can't or won't be given. The ride manager will be responsible to make sure they are in compliance or they may not be covered by insurance.

Motion passed, with one vote against.

Michael Campbell presented for the Rules Committee a policy concerning variable/staggered start times. The policy would state:

"AERC discourages staggered starts at rides as a general practice. Ride managers must request a staggered start when they submit their ride applications and detail the reasons why a staggered start would be critical or beneficial for a specific ride. The Sanctioning Committee will review the application and may grant approval of a staggered start if it determines there are special circumstances which warrant it. Rides which have historically and successfully used staggered starts are grandfathered as of the date of this policy and do not need to seek special approval."

During the discussion, it was stated that there are not no current rides that have staggered starts. The Tevis riders use the same start time for all riders but just offer 2 different pens with the faster riders leaving just in front of the others.

It was also agreed that the sanction requests go through "Special Sanctioning" process so that the Sanctioning Committee can review it for approval. Staggered starts would not be used to obtain separate permits in order to have more riders in a ride where restricted gatherings are in place. This is a policy only and there is no rule change at this time.

Motion from the Rules Committee passed unanimously.

At 8:57 p.m. Vance Stine made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal issues, Tim Worden seconded. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion at 9:33 p.m. to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Connie Caudill. Motion passed.

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to adjourn at 9:36 p.m. Olin Balch DVM seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill