

AERC Board Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2022

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. EDT.

Board members present- Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Susan Kasemeyer, Jessica Cobbley, Gunnar Frank, Bridgett Helms, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Garlinghouse DVM, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Linda Rudolphi, Tami Rougeau, Lisa Schneider, Christoph Schork, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Kelly Williams-Stehman, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood, Tim Worden.

Also present were Robert Ribley, Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Kyra DeMartini, Legal Committee member Dee McDonald.

On behalf of the Board, Nick Kohut DVM acknowledged and congratulated Kathleen Henkel for her 29 years of service to AERC.

Lisa Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda, Connie Caudill seconded. Motion passed.

A motion was made to excuse John Parke for a business-related reason by Connie Caudill, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

Absent- Olin Balch DVM

Laurie Underwood made a motion to approve the 2022 Convention minutes for 3/3/2022, 3/5/2022 and 3/6/2022, seconded by Lisa Schneider. Motion passed with one abstention.

Robert Ribley officially swore in Regional Directors Susan Kasemeyer and Linda Rudolphi, who were unable to attend the convention.

Kathleen Henkel presented the statical report-

Membership 4/7/2021	3,817
Membership 4/8/2022	3,720
Sanction fees 4/8/2021	\$ 9,655
Sanction fees 4/8/2022	\$10,830
Rider fees 4/8/2021	\$ 8,697
Rider fees 4/8/2022	\$ 8,863
New members as of 4/7/2021	346
New members as of 4/8/2022	295

Nick Kohut DVM, appointed the following new committee chairs and stated all the others would remain the same.

Maribel Paulson- Junior/Young Rider Committee, Barb Baris and Dee McDonald co chairs- Legal Committee.

Susan Garlinghouse DVM made a motion to approve the new committee chairs and to confirm the returning committee chairs, Tami Rougeau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION Pioneer ride

Jan Stevens presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve – Colorado Fall Color XP Pioneer – October 7-9, 2022, Ann Nicholson is the RM and Dave Nicholson is the head control judge. The sanctioning committee approved this ride. Motion passed unanimously.

Connie Caudill stated that a ride sanction had come through indicating the ride manager would be using an app called “ride with GPS” to mark some of their trails and not using trail markers. The Sanctioning Committee couldn’t see a rule against this type of marking but felt the ride calendar should state “GPS marking only” so riders will be prepared. In the discussion the committee left open the idea of special sanctioning for these types of rides.

MOTION Trail grant

Dawn Hilliard presented a motion from the Trails and Land Management Committee.

The Trails and Land Management Committee moves that AERC, using designated Trails Grants, help fund the rehab of a portion of the Ewing Mountain Trail where it accesses the Collins Cove Horse Camp. This horse camp is located in the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, Ivanhoe, VA. Funds from dedicated Trails Grant fund. Funds requested: \$2,000.

Background, analysis and benefit.

A large mud hole, total length 300 feet, has formed on the trail impeding access to the horse camp. Riders have created trails around the mud, which are now also muddy, causing potential environmental impact. This project will raise the trail bed with a turnpike structure in the worst area (100’) and harden the approaches before and after (200’). Drainage will also be improved. The result will be a sustainable trail bed.

There is an established ride, the Iron Mountain Jubilee, which uses this trail. Reduction in mud will improve safety for equines and benefit all trail user groups. Signage will be provided to show AERC’s contribution. Many AERC riders routinely train and camp at this facility, so it is important to keep equestrian trail interests at the forefront with the local land managers. Work will begin in the spring 2022.

In kind funds or volunteer work – BCHA has contributed \$1,200 and this same group has obtained a grant in the past for this same trail system for \$15,000 from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

Motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan

Lisa Schneider would like to have a meeting with the group chairs next week to help get the groups started on their plans.

Some of the directors gave updates from their regions. A ride in California had 33 intro riders. Susan Garlinghouse DVM offered to help the Education Committee put together a double-sided page for intro riders. Mollie Krumlaw-Smith conveyed that she had put together an instructional page for intro riders that she would send to the office. Kathleen informed the Board that there is a FAQ page for new riders on the AERC webpage.

Kathleen thanked the Board for the good wishes on her 29th anniversary of working for AERC. She would like to continue in the Executive Director position through and beyond next year’s convention. Currently she has no plans to retire soon but indicated that she would give plenty of notice when that time comes.

Laurie Underwood made a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Vance Stine seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by
Connie Caudill