

December 12, 2022 AERC Board meeting minutes

President Nick Kohut DVM called the meeting to order at 8:04 p.m. EST.

Board members present were Olin Balch DVM, Connie Caudill, Monica Chapman, Jessica Cobbley, Gunnar Frank, Dawn Hilliard, Susan Kasemeyer, Nick Kohut DVM, Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, John Parke, Maribel Paulson, Naomi Preston, Tami Rougeau, Lisa Schneider, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Kelly Williams-Stehman, Jan Stevens, Vance Stine, Laurie Underwood and Tim Worden. Also present were Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Legal Committee members Dee McDonald and Barbara Baris.

Olin Balch made a motion to excuse Susan Garlinghouse DVM and Stephanie Palmer-DuRoss (employment conflicts), Bridget Helms (family matter), and Christoph Schork (traveling). Also to excuse John Parke from the November 14th meeting due to ride management duties. Seconded by Connie Caudill. Motion passed.

Absent- Linda Rudolphi

Lisa Schneider made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed.

Jan Stevens moved to approve the November 14, 2022 meeting minutes, seconded by Susan Kasemeyer. Motion passed with one abstention.

Nick Kohut DVM updated the Board on the Director at Large election results. The reelected members are Bob Marshall DVM, Mike Maul, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Olin Balch DVM, Laurie Underwood and Tim Worden. The newly elected Board members are Melissa Ribley and Eric Rueter.

Motion Regarding Date Change for the 2024 National Championship Ride

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the National Championship Committee for approval of a date change for the 2024 AERC National Championship ride being held in Oregon. The ride managers worked to find new dates that wouldn't interfere as much with some iconic 100-mile rides in the West region. The new dates will be August 16 – 18, 2024. The motion was from committee and passed unanimously.

Motion Regarding New Pioneer Rides

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve the following Pioneer rides.

Midwest Region

- Huntersville Hundred, Menahga, Minnesota, ride manager Sarah Maass, dates 9/29/2023 - 10/1/2023, and a one-day 100 on 10/1/2023. This ride is a new pioneer ride.

Mountain Region

- Mt. Carmel ride, Mt. Carmel, Utah, 5/4/2023 – 5/7/2023, 2023, ride manager Ann Nicholson.
- Chicken Creek, Mancos, Colorado, 6/2/2023 – 6/4/2023. This is the summer ride at Chicken Creek and is managed by Ann Nicholson.
- Colorado Fall Color XP, Mancos, Colorado, 9/29/2023 – 10/1/2023. This is the fall ride at Chicken Creek and is managed by Ann Nicholson.

Southwest Region

- Caballo Sin Nombre Pioneer, near Navajo Lake, New Mexico, 4/21/2023 – 4/23/2023, ride manager Ann Nicholson.

Motion from Sanctioning Committee to approve the Pioneer rides passed unanimously.

Strategic Plan Updates

Nick Kohut DVM stated the Governance group was continuing work on the IT and office succession plans.

Monica Chapman spoke on behalf of the Trails group and was happy to announce that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Forest Service. John Parke requested the MOU be sent to the Board. Discussion was held on how having an MOU has helped ride managers in the past by showing good relations between the Forest Service and AERC.

Budget Discussion

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith reviewed the 2023 budget with the Board. Final 2022 expenses have not yet been calculated for the full year. Membership has continued on a downward trend. The convention showed a profit this past year which was attributed to several things, including the office staff obtaining \$21,000 in sponsorship funding. The new website has been an extra expense along with some legal fees. The 2023 budget reflects a loss of \$86,000 in bond investments which is book valuation and not the actual redeemable value at maturity. All but one of our bond investments have an A+ rating. They were purchased several years before Mollie Krumlaw-Smith was treasurer and she has recommended that when the bonds mature the funds not be reinvested in bonds. The Board discussed some cost saving measures that could be implemented over the next couple of years. Endurance News continues to operate at a loss and the office is looking into printing and mailing it from an out of state company which would be less expensive. Other cost saving measures discussed include reducing the number of times Endurance News is published in print/doing more online and offering a print versus online option when members renew to save on mailing costs. Conversation was held regarding offsetting credit card fees by adding a convenience fee to those who use a credit card when making payments. The Board will be looking into several ways to help balance the budget.

Executive Session

Mollie Krumlaw-Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 9:01 p.m. to discuss staff salaries and legal matters. Seconded by Vance Stine.

A motion was made at 10:18 p.m. by John Parke to come out of executive session. Seconded by Vance Stine. Motion passed.

John Parke made a motion, seconded by Tim Worden, to approve the following statement on AERC's position on animal welfare. Motion passed.

The American Endurance Ride Conference ("AERC") has zero tolerance for equine abuse and animal mistreatment. A founding principle of our organization is to promote and encourage the care of endurance equines and the prevention of cruelty to animals. Our jurisdiction is limited to equines and individuals having a relationship with AERC. In cases

involving abuse or neglect falling outside of our jurisdiction we encourage concerned parties to contact the appropriate legal authorities. We can confirm that a current AERC member who falls within the jurisdiction of our current Bylaws and the AERC Code of Conduct has been charged by Canadian authorities for “causing distress to an animal under Section 15(1) of the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act.” AERC has no relationship with this person other than membership in AERC. As part of the Code of Conduct, all members of AERC witnessing or having reasonable grounds to believe that an equine is suffering or has suffered abuse or neglect are obligated to report the activity to AERC for appropriate action. For abuse or neglect cases falling outside our jurisdiction we encourage AERC members and members of the public to report the abuse or neglect to local law enforcement or the appropriate agency. As AERC learns more, it will be determined what disciplinary action will be taken, if any.

Motion Regarding 2023 Budget

Lisa Schneider made a motion, seconded by John Parke, to approve the 2023 revised budget. Motion passed.

John Parke moved to adjourn at 10:28 p.m. Susan Kasemeyer seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill