

UMECRA board meeting

November 13, 2021

Present: Jon Wagner, President; Linda Mowrer, Vice President; Janet Sarver, Secretary; Deb Moe, Treasurer; Theresa Meyer, Past President; Dr. Jennifer Lorenz, Veterinary Representative; Barb Gardner, Director at Large. Regional Directors Nicole Mauser-Storer, Illinois; Sarah Maass, Minnesota. Rider Representative Kim Fosler.

Attending by Zoom: Rider Representatives Lynda Zimmerman, Maxine Bernsdorf, Jen Moore; Regional Director Laurie Henschel, Wisconsin.

Guests: Tony Troyer, Carol Wagner, Linda Jacobsen, Ann DeLang, Aaron Mowrer

Location: Quality Inn, Lodi Wisconsin

10:00am Meeting called to order

Minutes from March 20, 2021 meeting – approved by unanimous consent

Treasurer's report – given by Deb Moe. There was a total of 284 memberships of which 47 were new. More than half (63%) of the membership purchases were online indicating the process is working well. Discussion of awards fund. The fund now uses the previous year's ride fees to pay for this year's awards. Jon stated that the general fund makes up the difference if the ridership is down so it makes sense to have this process reviewed. Deb will create a report that shows actual year over year rider fee income, awards expenses and variance to established budgets and present these findings to the board. Deb presented the Profit and Loss report. There was no convention this year so there were fewer expenses. Jon motioned to approve the report, seconded by Linda. Motion approved.

Secretary's report – Janet Sarver read a trail grant request from Katie Bachhuber. The request asks for \$1000 for installation of electricity into the New Prospect Horse Riders Campground in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Theresa made a motion that we approve \$300. Deb seconded the motion. Jon proposed an amendment that this money be stipulated that it will fund the work as requested. Motion approved as amended by unanimous consent.

A report from Lynda Zimmerman was presented about trail grants at Crow Hassan Park. Lynda requested that UMECRA withhold any future grant funds from this park until work is completed, not given in advance. Theresa stated that this park has always worked well with our rides. The board agreed that there will be no change in how grants are distributed.

Jon would like UMECRA be a member of each state's horse council. This has unanimous consent. State forms will be sent to Deb Moe for payment once completed.

Janet passed out a report summarizing actions by board members from March 22 – November 4, 2021. This was reviewed with no changes.

Sanctioning Coordinator Report - Theresa Meyer presented the 5-year tentative UMECRA Sanctioning Schedule for review. There will be a name change for Border Battle Boogie to Trade River Run. Dead Dog Creek will happen and move to a new park in Augusta, Illinois. Grand Island North has requested to move a week later in the schedule. Maah Daah Hey will be sanctioned for 2022. Endless Big Valley has a new ride manager. Northern Lightz Run is tentatively planning to occur. Colorama will go down to 2 days. Northern Highland will have a new ride manager. There is a proposal to bring back Shore to Shore in 2023.

General Scheduling Review – Theresa has created an online sanctioning form to help with this process. She has had 13 rides responding with 20 left to go. Forms are due November 30, 2021. The Sanctioning Coordinator will provide the list of shared additional insured entities to the treasurer. It is the ride manager's responsibility to verify their additional insured information is correct and of similar name and address with others who wish to share.

The secretary will send an email blast to all ride managers that ride flyers are due to Theresa by February 1st.

Committee Reports

Awards – Jan Sasena reports that she is ordering awards and is on track for the convention. Deb Moe brought up the subject of the travelling trophy for rookie award. She will track down the trophy and see if there is space on it for new names. Deb made a proposal to look into another type of award for rookie in addition or to replace this trophy. Jon suggested that Deb present a proposal to the board with her ideas.

UMECRA Convention January 21-23, 2022 – Minnesota is the host. Theresa has speakers for Friday night with Art Priez and Joe Mattingly talking about international endurance riding. AHDRA will provide refreshments and present their awards on Friday evening. Saturday's speaker will be from Hammer Nutrition. There will be a silent auction. Deb Moe will work with Theresa to create an online registration for banquet and fees. The 2023 convention will be hosted by Illinois. Lynda Zimmerman asked about Covid protocols. These will be reviewed and posted closer to the date.

Bylaws/Rules – looking for more members for this committee

Old Business

Points Keeper and Webmaster Appointments/Approval – Robin Schadt and Nicole Mauser-Storer have agreed to continue in these positions.

Membership Directories – Kim, Nicole and Deb coordinated this process over the summer and the books have been mailed. Remaining books will be brought to the convention. Kim suggested that the return address be printed on the books for next time. Janet stated that there have been some returned and will send the names out on the IO account to try to find corrections.

Mentor List Review – Nicole stated that this list needs to be reviewed and updated. Jon suggested that this be brought up at the annual meeting at the convention to recruit new mentors. Janet will coordinate a review and of the current list.

New Member Welcome – Deb will create a welcome packet for new members. Janet and Sarah Maass will help coordinate this process.

Communications Software – Deb stated that these programs were cost prohibitive due to monthly fees. Discussion of ideas to explore. Deb will report to the board if she finds other options.

Out of Region Rides – Discussion of riders who go to rides outside the UMECRA area and whether they can get points. Jon suggested that UMECRA focus primarily on putting effort into promoting, investing, etc. our current rides. Lynda listed some benefits for UMECRA to be open to out of region rides and suggested that transfer fees be paid by the rider. Sarah and Linda presented a view from the point of a ride manager. Jon asked the board to table this discussion. If there is a request from an out of region ride manager, it can be considered a case at a time.

Reviewing Board Position Bylaw Language – The Board reviewed bylaw language regarding the 3 board positions that do not require a person to be a current ride manager (Pres., Sec., and Treas.) and if there was a need to adjust the language if one of those officers would choose to run for another position on the board immediately after their current term of office expired. After a lengthy discussion and further review of Art. IV, Sec. 1, the board agreed that there is no need for any changes to the language at this time.

New Business

Metabolic Scoring in Competitive Trail – Theresa reviewed the current rules of veterinary requirements for this area. Theresa and Dr. Lorenz wrote new language regarding metabolic indicators under Competitive Rule B: Condition. They also included wording to include tack galls and wounds under A. Soundness. 4) Saddle and Cinch Sores. Discussion of the process of a metabolic evaluation and logistics of how to manage this at a ride. Theresa, Sarah and Dr. Lorenz will work on the language and bring it back for board review prior to the annual meeting.

UMECRA General Rule 4-M, Rider Requirements review – Jon presented a review of the current wording of this rule and a proposed revision. Official notification of results and point standings will change from the newsletter to website. The newsletter will continue to publish ride results and points. Riders will be responsible to report suspected errors to the Points Keeper and Ride Manager within 30 days of publication to the website. Any discrepancies to resolve these errors must be forwarded to the Secretary to present to the Executive Board to review. Motion by Kim to accept the new wording of 4-M as revised. Seconded by Nicole. Motion passed and the proposal will move to annual meeting for general membership's consideration.

Current Rule 4.M

UMECRA General Rules
4. Rider Requirements

M. Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the points keeper, ride manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and points keeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points should be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter. (2020)

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Changes to Rule 4.M

UMECRA General Rules

4. Rider Requirements

M. The UMECRA website: www.umecra.com, shall serve as the official process of notification of ride results and point standings. Ride results and points printed therein become official 30 days after the publication date to the website (Publication dates will be logged on the site.) Riders are responsible for checking ride results and point standings for any potential errors in a timely manner and must report any suspected errors to the Points Keeper and Ride Manager within the 30 days of the publication date. Any discrepancies in the attempts by the Points Keeper, rider and/or the Ride Manager to resolve any suspected errors must be forwarded to the UMECRA Secretary. The UMECRA Secretary will inform the Executive Board of Directors of such discrepancies. The UMECRA Board of Directors will be responsible for the final resolution of these issues in a timely fashion.

**If this UMECRA General Rule, Rider Requirements 4.M passes then bylaw change must take place:

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS

Section 5. OTHER POSITIONS. An Executive Committee of the Board will nominate (a) proposed volunteer Newsletter Editor(s) for a two-year term, commencing in 1997. The Executive Committee will also nominate a proposed volunteer Sanctioning Director and a separate Points-Keeper for a two-year term commencing in 2004. The executive committee will appoint a volunteer webmaster for a two year term commencing January 2006. Commencing in 2012, the Sanctioning Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor will be appointed to a two year term, these appointments will be made on even numbered years. Commencing in 2013 the Points Keeper and the Webmaster will be appointed to a two-year term made in odd numbered years. (1/15/11) The above shall be subject to an approval vote by a majority of a quorum of the Board. The Newsletter Editor(s), Points-Keeper, Sanctioning Director and Webmaster shall be invited to attend all Board or committee meetings. Duties of these positions are as follow, but are not limited to:

- (a) Newsletter Editor(s) will edit, author and publish at least 10 newsletters per year both electronic and by hard copy.
- (b) The Points-Keeper will keep track of season rider points and division standings and provide them to the **Webmaster and** Newsletter Editor(s) for publication. Points-Keeper will also keep track of horse and rider mileages seasonally and for lifetime records. The Points-Keeper shall be responsible for record-keeping related to awards at season end, as approved by the Board.
- (c) Sanctioning Coordinator will work with the AERC Sanctioning Director to sanction and coordinate scheduling recommendations to the Board for UMECRA rides and shall edit and coordinate publishing of the yearly UMECRA ride book.
- (d) The Webmaster will edit, author and publish the website in a timely manner.
- (e) Generally, these positions are advisory and administrative Board positions, and are non-voting. These positions are also subject to the requirements of the traditional duties and standards of responsibility expected of these positions within UMECRA, subject to the authority of the UMECRA Board and as related needs arise within their areas of responsibility.

Family Award –After a short discussion, the Board passed a resolution that beginning in 2022, to be eligible for the Family Award, a nomination form must be submitted to the Points Keeper. Jon, Nicole and Robin will work on the wording needed for this change.

Requiring Helmets - discussion of adding this rule. Deb will ask the insurance company about their requirements. Linda Mowrer made a motion to require helmets. Seconded by Barb. Motion passed and will be proposed at the annual meeting.

Reinstate Top Ten Endurance Awards – presentation of letters requesting a change from the current Elite 8 back to Top 10. Sarah presented data showing that some high mileage riders miss out on awards due to the discrepancy between Elite 8 and Restricted Mileage. Discussion of pros and cons. Motion by Sarah for the board to present to the general membership to reinstate Top 10 in endurance. Barb seconded. 4 voted for, 5 against so motion failed. Motion by Sarah to return to Top 10 across all divisions. Jen seconded. Majority opposed; motion failed. Jon stated that the board acknowledges that there is an issue in this area and will continue to take a look at the fiscal and positive attributes of Elite 8 and Top 10 awards.

Protocol for Vetting Horses at Vet Checks – Dr. Lorenz stated that there is no standardized way of vetting at rides across UMECRA. She would like to create a committee of vets, riders, and ride managers across all regions to develop a protocol. Discussion. Jon proposed that Dr. Lorenz create and chair a committee to develop this protocol. Jon volunteered to co-chair.

Elections – There are 8 positions up for election: President, Minnesota and Wisconsin Region Representatives, Veterinary Representative, and 4 Rider Representatives.

Janet will create a social media online notice, email blast and contact Peggy to put an article out in the December newsletter about all open positions. The 4 positions for rider representative will need to have interested parties submit their name and a small article by Dec. 15th. Deb will create an online voting program.

Ride Attendance/Entries Review/Promoting UMECRA, Endurance Riding – Theresa reviewed the history of ride clinics in Minnesota. Discussion of ideas to promote the sport online, mailing new rider packets, ride clinics in different states, improving the mentor program, increasing outreach from the rider reps and regional reps. Nicole would like to ask UMECRA's support for a booth at the Illinois Horse Fair, will fill out the trail grant form and get to Janet to distribute to Jon and the board.

3:27 pm. Kim motioned to adjourn, Linda seconded. Meeting adjourned.