

# UMECRA Board of Director Meeting

3/25/23

Quality Inn Lodi, Minnesota

Present: Theresa Meyer, Sarah Mowrer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Maass, Linda Jacobson, Peggy Pasillas, Deb Moe, Janet Sarver

Present by Zoom: Dr Wes Elford, Barb Gardiner, Kim Fosler, Jon Wagner, Robin Schadt, Karen Jarvi, Tracy Johnson, Dr. Jen Lorenz

Other present: Jan Sasena, Romona Radtke

Absent: None

Meeting officially called to order by Sarah Mowrer at 10:07am

Minutes from January 21, 2023 Annual Meeting were approved by the board.

## Treasurer's report

- The convention had a net loss of \$1000. This does not include any silent auction allocation.
- Fees from ride managers are all paid in full.
- The insurance premium that included the \$5 increase has been paid. Deb stated that Insurance cost total was \$4000. Deb thanked Robin for volunteering to take over the tasks for insurance.
- Memberships remain stable, similar to 2021 and 2022. Last year UMECRA IDs were given to novice clinic members and nine clinic attendees have joined UMECRA as a paid members. If someone attends a clinic, they are now given a member number.
- Deb stated the number of paid members as of 3/25/23 is 195 of which 18 are new members. In addition to this number there are 30 complimentary memberships for clinic attendees.
- Barb asked about the increase in the award receipts. Jan stated that there was an increase in the restricted mileage awards. Discussion of costs of awards. Deb and Jan will create a report.
- Discussion of checking account balance. Deb suggested that half of this amount be put into savings. Deb will do an investigation into putting some funds into a certificate of deposit and review later with the board. Peggy will work with Deb on this process.
- Deb will check all final numbers and send out to the IO account. Dr. Wes moved to accept, Peggy seconded. Passed.

## Vet Committee

- Dr. Jen stated that there are no changes or additions to the Veterinary Guidelines. Theresa will be sent out with the Vet handbooks.

Rules Committee – Theresa stated that there was nothing to report.

## Ride Calendar

- Nicole stated that they are looking at a way to evaluate requests for new rides and how they are added to the existing schedule, along with the impact of potential ride rotation between ride managers. Nicole will present a sample scoring system for the ride calendar at the next meeting.

## **Old Business**

### Insurance

- Peggy stated that the motion at convention for the insurance premium increase of \$5 a day for a ride was not well understood by the membership. Discussion of what insurance for our rides cover. Sarah Mowrer summarized that there are three options: 1) Continue the same; 2) Have ride managers absorb \$5; or 3) Change the split between club and ride managers. Peggy would like to see a clear proposal at the 2024 annual meeting on this issue.

### International Committee

- Theresa talked with Susan Edwards, USEF Endurance Committee, who no longer holds this position. There has been no replacement named. There are no LITE rides scheduled at this time.

### LD Weight Divisions/Sweet 16

- Discussion on LD in UMECRA and differences with AERC. Some have concerns that the competition has been reduced because LD riders are changing the way they ride. There are also fewer riders in some rides. Statement made that adding ride divisions isn't changing competition level. Sarah Maass reviewed that in 2022 there were 162 LD riders, 80 endurance riders, 45 competition riders and it isn't fair to the LD riders to not give equal access to awards. Theresa stated that having HW awards in LD keeps some riders coming back. Increasing rider numbers would be one solution. Awards committee will review current awards structure and present ideas in November. Agreed.

### UMECRA awards structure

- Deb suggested that a committee to look at awards could be formed to look at what will bring in riders. Discussion of what other ride organizations offer. Kim stated that the UMECRA rules would need to change. Deb stated that it will take time to review this area. The issue is that the sport is losing riders. Deb, Janet, Jan, Sarah Maass, Linda, Kim, Karen will be on this committee.

### Photo website

- Deb presented her website [www.umecraphotos.com](http://www.umecraphotos.com) and its functions. She has reached out to other photographers to see if they want to move their ride photos to the site. When a photographer uploads, it submits a form that a team of administrators review to ensure that they are appropriate. Discussion of guidelines for photos to be developed and brought to the IO account.

## Rules and Bylaws – Article VIII Membership

- Currently reads that any *“family membership shall be entitled to as many votes, up a maximum of two votes per family membership as there are adults within the family unit.”* These votes are for Rider Representatives. Jon stated that in 2017 the votes were linked to email addresses of adults. He stated that juniors do not count as an individual member as these are for 18 years of age or older. Deb stated that to run the online election she would need two emails of the adults in the family to send the information. Theresa referred to Section 1: Eligibility does not have an age for an individual membership. Nicole suggested that every current member who has paid for that year could vote as it would simplify things. Jon clarified that the basic question is allowing juniors to vote or not. Rules committee to review suggestion of having members with a rider number be allowed to vote.

## Awards

- Novice Jackets. Reviewed photos of Novice Jackets over the years. Agreed that the Novice jacket should have the same back as the awards jackets with the Purina logo on the front. There will be a standard color chosen by Jan. Peggy made a motion that the Novice jacket will be red, have the full UMECRA logo, will be a different style from the Elite 8. Janet seconded. Kim stated that a decision on color should not be chosen at this time. Motion amended to prefer red but to allow other colors. Peggy accepted that amendment. All agreed.
- Shining light award. Theresa stated that an article was to be written in the newsletter about this award. Sarah Mowrer will write an article on this award. Sarah Mowrer stated the name of the award should not be changed. Board agreed to look into the history of the name of this award.
- Discussion of alternate awards for Elite 8 instead of a traditional jacket.

Break for lunch

Start 1:49 pm

## Trail Grants

- Janet reviewed the current form and made a recommendation that the maximum is \$500 up from the current \$300. Deb reported that UMECRA has \$5071 balance in the trail account. This does not include proceeds from the silent auction. Peggy motioned to establish \$500 as a standard trail grant and the form will be updated. Theresa seconded. No discussion, passed. Jon asked if funding for horse expos comes out of trail fund. It does not.

Janet presented the trail grant requests.

- 1) Trail grant request for \$300 from Jesse Shadrick for Governor Knowles Equestrian Campground to improve high ties. Motion made by Theresa to grant \$500 and Peggy seconded. Passed.

- 2) Trail grant request for \$300 from Jon Wagner to clean up trail and improve footing for the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Association. Motion made by Deb Moe to grant an extra \$200 to this request. Seconded by Peggy. Passed.
- 3) Trail grant request of \$300-\$500 from Theresa for Forestville/Mystery Cave equestrian campground to add gravel to high ties and trails. Peggy motioned to approve \$500, Deb seconded. Passed
- 4) Trail grant request of \$300 from Peggy for Three Rivers Park District to add additional high ties to the River Bend equestrian campground at Crow Hassan Park . Motion by Deb to approve \$500, Sarah Maass seconded. Passed.

#### Scholarship Fund

- Dr. Wes asked about details of the scholarship fund. He suggested that he and Jon form a committee to communicate with the manager of the fund. There is a question about the annual distribution of silent auction funding. Currently a set amount goes into the scholarship fund as decided by the membership. Jon stated that the board could make suggestions to the membership about redistribution but that the membership is the only one that can make changes. Sarah Mowrer stated that the information can be brought to the November meeting or the IO account.

#### AHA National Ride Update

- Sarah Maass reports that there are many riders stating their interest. She went to the AERC convention with her banner and connected with attendees. Henry Gruber has offered to be the official ride photographer.
- Discussion of UMECRA sponsorship for the national ride. Sarah Maass will put together some ideas and amounts and send them out to the IO account.

#### Convention

- Michigan is hosting. Sarah Mowrer will reach out to Bruce Birr for details.

#### Other

- Nicole brought a folder of history from the early years of UMECRA. Theresa will take the documents to be scanned for the website.
- Mona Radtke presented ideas to grow the awareness of UMECRA. Discussion. Robin suggested that UMECRA set up an official social media position. Agreed to advertise for volunteers.

Deb motioned to adjourn, Peggy seconded. Passed.

Meeting adjourned 3:32pm