

UMECRA General Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2024

Terrace Bay Hotel, Gladstone MI

Call to Order 1:15pm by Sarah Mowrer

Secretary Roll Call of Delegates - The number for quorum is 45 and the number of delegates after roll call is 65. A quorum has been reached.

Minutes of Last year General meeting - approved

Treasurer Report – Deb Moe reviewed the year end report. UMECRA will continue cover the additional cost to ride managers for 2024. Memberships increased by 30 for a total of 311 members of which 45 are new members. Deb stated that final budget numbers will be available after awards and convention costs are finalized. Tony Troyer motioned to approve the report, Donnie Hamrick seconded. Passed.

Deb reviewed the new ride manager resource page on UMECRA Payments Online site. This site will allow ride managers to download their insurance and look up their ride insurance payment. Elinore Tonsor asked for details on what the liability insurance covered. Deb offered to send a copy of the policy to anyone who asks.

Committee Reports

Award Committee - Sarah Maass reviewed the AERC Year End Statistics of number of starters by region and there are significant decrease since 2009 across all regions. Sarah talked about the point structure of UMECRA and what points are awarded to riders. Sarah stated that every other region she looked at gives riders points per mile. UMECRA currently gives placings so much weight that it doesn't encourage people to just complete more rides. Discussion. Robin motioned to change the point structure to include one point per mile starting in 2024. Alana McNutt seconded. Discussion. Sarah Mowrer called the question. Motion passed.

Sanctioning Coordinator Report – 2024 Ride Schedule - Theresa reviewed the schedule for 2024 ride year. Theresa motioned to approve the schedule. Peggy seconded approval. Motion passed.

Veterinary Committee – no report

International Fund – Peggy stated that they are waiting for USEF to move forward with details on international rides. Peggy called for an additional person to serve on this committee. This person does not need to be a ride manager.

Old Business

Scholarship Fund update – Sarah Mower reported on the scholarship fund balance. Dr. Wes gave more details on how the fund creates the interest that funds scholarships. The silent auction proceeds will continue to put into this fund.

Insurance – already covered

Report on 2023 AHA Nationals - Sarah Maass reported on this ride and stated that the funding from UMECRA helped with completion awards. A commemorative book was made for this ride by photographer Henry Gruber that is for sale. AHA provided additional social media and video coverage.

New Business

Ride Manager Requirements / Safe Sport – Sarah Mowrer reviewed that Safe Sport Representative cannot be riding when the ride is occurring. She emphasized that we are all here for fun, no matter what happens at a ride.

Rules Committee – Proposed Rule Changes

GENERAL RULES – (Apply to both endurance and competitive rides)

1. Eligibility

A. Each ride must be open to all breeds. On a ride of 35 miles or less the ~~horse~~ **equine** must be at least 48 months old. The equines entered in distances of ~~50~~ **40** or more miles must be at least 60 months of age at the time of the ride with the exception of those entered in single day 100 mile rides. Equines entered in single day 100 mile distances must be at least 72 months of age at the time of the ride. (2015)

- Tony motioned to accept this change. Peggy seconded. Discussion. Motion made to change the term horse to equine and the mileage from 50 to 40.. Elinore seconded. Passed.

2. Management Requirements

I. If ride management, **veterinarians, rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family** feels that any ~~personnel~~ **person(s)** have been abused or harassed by a member, they ~~(management)~~ have the right to notify the Board who will respond in the following order: Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event. ~~Then~~

- If deemed warranted, the Board will privately warn that member; part of the warning being that if the offense continues, the member will be publicly warned.

- If the conduct continues, the Board can take whatever further action it deems appropriate, including prohibiting the member from entering ~~the~~ **offended** **or attending** a ride or from managing any other UMECRA event in the future.
- Theresa motioned to approve. Deb Moe seconded. Discussion. Passed.

ENDURANCE RULE 14.F, 14.G, 14.H

Previous Rule 14.F

F. In the event of an emergency and in order to remain in competition, the junior who is in last place and whose pre-registered sponsor is pulled, and there are no other qualified sponsors to follow, the Junior may be sponsored by an unentered qualified rider through the completion of the ride, with ride management and ride veterinarian approval. He would receive last place junior points. This emergency sponsor will receive no credit for mileage or points. The junior may also be sponsored by an adult on foot from the last veterinary check with the approval of ride management.

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NEW F.

F. In the event that the pre-registered sponsor of the Junior is unable to continue, and if no other willing entered adult sponsors in any distance and on the same loop of trail are available, the Junior may be sponsored by un-entered adult rider(s) through the completion of the ride with ride management and control judge approval. The Junior would receive **last place points among those Junior riders that completed that ride.** The un-entered sponsor will receive no points or credit for mileage. The Junior may also be sponsored by an adult on foot with the approval of ride management. Any un-entered sponsor must be either a current member or a Single Event Member **of AERC.** (also commonly known as “day member”).

- Sarah Maass motioned to approve. Robin seconded. Discussion. Passed.

New G.

G. In order to ensure equine welfare and in accordance with the provisions of Rule F, any equine being ridden by an un-entered sponsor shall receive a substantive physical examination by the control judge of metabolic and mechanical parameters at all control checks and, if practical, before the equine is ridden by the un-entered sponsor. Any equine being ridden by an un-entered sponsor may be disqualified from participation during the ride by the control judge. Any equine being ridden by an un-entered sponsor must also receive a veterinary safety check at the finish.

New H. An ~~horse~~ **equine** ridden by a junior is eligible for best condition.

- Theresa explained the proposed changes. Sarah Maass motioned and Theresa seconded. Approved.

UMECRA General Rules

4. Rider Requirements

H. Official competitors may not be accompanied by horses **equines**, on trail or at checks, that have not entered or have been pulled from the ride. **Exception: A junior rider who loses their original sponsor due to an emergency, or the sponsor is unable to continue in the competition. In emergency situations an ad hoc sponsor can be secured on the trail until a qualified, ride-documented sponsor can be secured.**

- Theresa motioned for approval. Peggy seconded. Discussion. Change horse to equine. Approved.

UMECRA LD Rule - Previous Rule13

13. All equines must stand a mandatory post ride evaluation within one half hour of finishing the course. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the one half hour period. An equine that does not meet the established criteria within one half hour of arrival time shall be disqualified. Once a completed horse has passed the post ride examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only). No horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of finishing regardless of whether it has passed its final check. Such horse/rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.

NEW UMECRA LD Rule 13

13. **The equine must meet an established pulse rate criterion within 30 minutes of arrival at all control points.** All equines must stand for a mandatory post-ride evaluation within one hour of finishing the course **(reaching the timer)**. Riders may present their equines for the final examination at a time of their choosing during the **one-hour** period. An equine that does not meet the established **completion** criteria within **one** hour of ~~arrival time~~ **reaching the timer** shall be disqualified.

Once a completed equine has passed the ~~postride~~ **final** examination, it may not be removed from completion for veterinary reasons. (AERC only).

No equine horse will be certified for UMECRA completion if it needs or receives treatment for metabolic reasons within 1 hour of **reaching the timer** finishing, regardless of whether it has passed its final

check **examination**. Such horse **equine** /rider combination may still receive AERC points and mileage credit.

- Theresa moved to accept. Peggy seconded. Discussion. Theresa stated that this is an attempt to clarify the AERC rule that already exists. Discussion. Sarah Mowrer called the question about the change in the second sentence of *finishing the course (reaching the timer)*. Sarah Maass seconded. Passed. Theresa read the LD Rule 13 text as changed. Passed.

Article VIII Membership

ARTICLE VIII

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY. Membership in this organization shall be limited to active members only. Such active memberships shall be granted to individuals, to families and to endurance and/or competitive trail rides.

(a) All persons shall be eligible for an individual membership.

(b) Family memberships shall consist of one or more related, or coupled as significant other, adults and/or children of such adults who are less than 18 years of age, all of whom reside in the same household.

(c) Endurance and/or competitive rides shall be granted a membership on proper application approved by the Board of Directors.

(d) Each member shall abide by the rules and regulations established by the corporation.

Section 2. DUES. No endurance or competitive trail ride, individual, or family shall become an active member of this organization unless or until it/s/he shall first pay to the corporation the annual dues which shall be set by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 3. RIDER REPRESENTATIVES. Individual members and family memberships of the corporation shall be entitled to vote for the four Rider Representatives who shall serve as delegates to the annual or special meetings of the corporation. Ride managers are not eligible to be elected as Rider Representatives. Family memberships shall be entitled to ~~as many votes, up to a maximum of two~~ **votes** per family membership ~~as there are adults within the family unit.~~

- Robin moved to accept. Peggy seconded. Discussion. Passed.

New Business – Elinore Tonsor made a motion that any money donated to a UMECRA ride must be matched and donated to the rides preceding the ride and also the ride afterwards. Tony seconded. Discussion. Linda Mowrer motioned and Donnie seconded that this issue go to the March board meeting. Topic is tabled.

Results of Rider Representative Voting - Sherry Aune, Debbie Weisbecker,, Crystal Esqueda and Kim Fosler will serve a two year term as the rider representatives.

2025 Convention – Convention will be in Wisconsin. Kim Fosler stated she is looking at venues and has a speaker confirmed with Dr. Melissa Ribley coming in from Florida. There will also be a certified yoga session for equestrians. Kim stated she would appreciate help with the convention.

Elections

President - Robin Schadt nominated, Linda Mowrer seconded. Passed.

Secretary – Janet Sarver nominated, Linda Mowrer seconded. Passed.

MN Director at Large - Sarah Maass nominated, seconded. Passed.

WI Director at Large - Barb Gardiner nominated, seconded. Passed.

Veterinary Representative – Alana McNutt nominated by Peggy, seconded. Passed.

Director at Large (to replace Robin Schadt for the last year of her term). Jim Andriakos nominated Emily Schupp, seconded. Passed.

Points Keeper – there is a current vacancy.

Barb Gardner motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting ended at 3:55pm