

DRAFT MINUTES – UMECRA Board Meeting Held March 10, 2018

The meeting was held at the Quality Inn & Suites in Lodi, WI, and was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 10:30 am CST. Also present were board members Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Maxine Bernsdorf, Laurie Henschel, Bill Suskey, Bruce Birr, Theresa Meyer, Sarah Maass, Jan Sasensa, Peggy Pasillas, and Lynda Zimmerman. Guest Linda Jacobson was also in attendance. Attendance/roll call was taken by the Secretary-Treasurer (Bruce).

Approval of BOD minutes and the Annual Meeting from January had already been approved by the board via email and have been posted to the UMECRA website.

Under **EBOD/Auxiliary Reports**, Bruce presented a Treasurer's report, (see attachments), for the period January 1 – March 5. These were approved upon motion of Tony and second by Maxine. Bruce also gave the Secretary's report, stating that he had received information and a request from Governor Dodge Equestrians regarding an upcoming fundraiser event that they are holding on June 3. The board approved offering them a free distance ride entry for their silent auction or raffle (motion by Theresa / second by Peggy). Bruce also stated that he had received trail grant requests since the last meeting from Tara LeRoy for the Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trail Assoc. for \$300 – (approved by the board upon motion/second of Theresa/Tony), and from Sarah Maass for Fort Ridgely State Park for \$300 – (also approved by the board by motion/second of Theresa/Tony). Additionally, Sandra Fett had requested \$250 for the MN Horse Expo, and as per policy, Bruce was authorized to send payment for that. {NOTE: UMECRA policy is to award up to \$350 for events of this type, so that amount was sent to MNDRA. BAB}

Bruce also stated that just a few days before, he had begun to receive insurance certs, and would soon send them out. He also sought some guidance on the length of time to hold onto paper records such as membership forms and receipts. It was the consensus of the board that it was OK to discard membership forms after 4 months past the end of the calendar year for which they were received, and that keeping electronic copies of receipts for longer was OK, that paper receipts should be kept for 3 years past the year in which they were generated.

Veterinarian's report: Dr. Elford was attending the AERC convention and will provide information from that experience at either a future meeting or in a newsletter article.

Jon gave a President's report in which he presented feedback about the Annual Meeting and the necessity to understand and locate organizational rules and procedures. He will submit an article to the next newsletter regarding the election of nominee's not in attendance at the Annual Meeting. The Sanctioning Coordinator report was also given by Jon as per the information he received from Joslyn. She has finished putting the ride books together, sent them to the printer and expects to begin sending them out soon. It was also noted that there was some confusion about "advertisement" fees and questions about the future of offering CD's. Jon will follow up on collection of the advertisement fees. Nicole will make the ride book available in pdf format on our website and Jon, Joslyn, and Bruce will come up with a new membership form for the 2019 ride year.

Under **Committee Reports**, Convention reports: Feedback concerning the recent convention was very good. Nicole, Tony and their many volunteers were congratulated by the board for their work hosting the convention. The board discussed charging a late fee for dinner reservations not made by the deadline and that we allow the 'speaker fee' limit to be increased. The 2019 convention, to be held in Michigan, is being hosted by Kathy Macki/Bruce Birr. The 2020 convention is scheduled for Wisconsin and managing/hosting of it is still open.

Awards report: The new committee makeup is Jan Sasena, (Committee Chair), Sherry Aune, and Jean Allen. The committee, with input from past Committee Chair Maxine, requested that a sperate Awards Fund be created. This will allow for better tracking of funds received, available and expended. Bruce will set the fund up and continue to manage it. The initial budget will be \$6,000 for the upcoming ride season with rider fees to continue being deposited into the account. There was some limited discussion about the need for raising rider fees. No action was taken on this but it was agreed that further discussion by the BoD should take place (by email conferencing/November Bod meeting)

Membership report: Bruce reported that to date this year we had 241 paid up members; 42 family memberships, 144

single memberships, 2 Junior-only memberships, and 5 Ride Manager only memberships. A membership directory was discussed and the approval was made to let the volunteers to proceed with a directory – Bruce will get them an updated list by April 1. The board approved of sending new members a “welcome letter”. Jon will take care of this. A second invitation had been extended to two members from Jon to attend the BoD meeting so that they could follow up on a presentation they had made to the board in November of 2017 concerning ideas and incentives for member retention. Unfortunately, the board did not hear from either member regarding this.

Old Business: Bylaw definitions: the board agreed to forward the bylaw definitions to the 2019 Annual Meeting for approval by the general membership to include them as Appendix B in our bylaws (motion made by Tony/second, Peggy). ICF Fund; the language on the request form needs to be updated. Bill Suskey is working on this.

Electronic membership fee payments was again discussed. Bill agreed to write a newsletter article explaining the boards thoughts on this. He will forward the article to Nicole for posting on the website as well.

100-Mile Horse Program: Discussed and several thoughts/ideas were expressed. Although **no action was taken, it was agreed to discuss the topic further at the November BoD meeting.**

Scheduled board conference calls; for now, they will be done on an as needed basis.

Added item to old business; Nicole asked that the board consider further discussions be held on the sanctioning of potential rides in “out of region” areas. The board agreed this topic needs to be investigated further and will place it on future board agendas.

New Business: Regarding Article IV, Section 5. PRESIDENT. subsection (d): The board discussed the problems it feels this language creates for electing a qualified nominee for the office of President if she/he cannot physically be present at the meeting due to extenuating circumstances. As a bylaw, no exceptions can be made. If the language were to be eliminated, the position of President would be subject to the same rule applicable to other officers of the Board. (Nominees are required to be in attendance, however, the rule may be suspended if 2/3 rds of the attending members agree to suspension). Tony motioned, Theresa seconded, and the board approved the following wording:

(d) To be eligible to be elected, a nominee for President: ~~must be present and a Delegate to the meeting at which the election is held~~ must be:

1. A current UMECRA Ride Manager or former UMECRA Ride Manager;
2. **Who has** been a UMECRA Ride Manager during at least three (3) seasons in the past five (5) seasons, or who has been a Delegate in the preceding two (2) years. (1/25/09) This proposed bylaw change will be forwarded to the 2019 Annual meeting for the general membership to vote on.

Minimum age requirements for Alternate/Proxy delegates: This item was brought to the boards attention by an individual member. The consensus of the board is that proxies/delegates, regardless of age, are obligated to vote as directed by the Ride Manager who selected them. Additionally, the board reserves the right to confirm the appointment of voting delegates in accordance with Art. III, Section 6 of the corporation’s bylaws.

Strategic planning: Nicole presented some ideas on how to grow the organization to aid with ride prep and promotion through UMECRA branded items. A committee was formed to study this idea, with Nicole as Chair, and other members being Tony, Theresa, Laurie, and Bill, with the goal of having a first report out in June.

Announcements; the next board meeting was set for November 10 at a location to be determined.

Adjournment: took place at 3:28 pm CST upon motion of Peggy and second by Tony.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Bruce A. Birr