

UMECRA Board Meeting

November 16, 2024

Quality Inn, Lodi Wisconsin

Present: Robin Schadt, Sherry Aune, Kim Fosler, Theresa Meyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mower, Crystal Esqueda, Barb Gardner, Debbie Weisbecker, Peggy Pasillas, Emily Schupp, Janet Sarver

Others: Jan Sasena, Linda Jacobsen, Ann DeLang

Absent: Sarah Maass, Alana McNutt, Karen Jarvi

Meeting called to order by Robin at 10am

4/6/24 board minutes approved.

Secretary report – Janet reviewed activities of summer actions by the board. Report was motioned, seconded and approved.

Treasurer summary – Deb stated that club finances remain steady and that postage costs increased due to mailing out ride books. Conversion to online finance program is complete. This will provide a new way to submit expense reports which include reimbursement requests, trail grant approvals, and card purchases. Ride fees are holding steady and memberships are also holding steady at 291 total. Trail grants are down this year. Motion to approve, seconded. Treasurer report approved.

Committee reports

Vet committee – Recruitment of vets continues. Positive reviews on the vet students that came to some of the rides this year.

Rules committee

UMECRA 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.)

a. 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.

b. The year-end final points and standings published on www.umecra.com will become official the day before Thanksgiving. Riders must check their year-end points, standings, and miles and report any discrepancies before this date. Please note that although the last ride results, final year-end points, standings and miles may be available on the website for less than 30 days, it is the responsibility of the riders to review and address any issues before the deadline.

(2020) (2022)

Request to bring Rule M. off the table and suggest the a. and b. section. Theresa moved and Peggy seconded. Approved. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

UMECRA Rules 4. Rider Requirements

E. While the welfare of an equine participating in a ride is the primary responsibility of the rider, it is also the responsibility of everyone participating in the event whether as a rider, crew member, ride official, veterinarian or spectator to protect the welfare of equines at the ride. Any inhumane treatment of ~~horses~~ **an equine** may be cause for disqualification.

Theresa moved for the change as highlighted. Motion to approve, seconded. Approved. Will go to membership.

UMECRA General Rule 2. Management requirements

I. If ride management, veterinarians, rider(s), crew, volunteer(s), or family feels that any person(s) have been abused or harassed by a member, they have the right to notify ~~the a~~ Board **Member who will respond. The Board Member will forward the information to the President or Vice President who will notify the Board.**

- Upon review, the Board will ask for comment from the **complainant**, alleged offending member and other people who might have witnessed the event.
- 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 or attending a ride or from managing any other UMECRA event in the future. (2024)

Motion to approve, seconded. Discussion. Suggestion to add complainant to the first bullet point. Motion to approve suggestion, seconded. Approved. Will go to membership

Awards committee – Jan Sasena gave a report on the new vendor. Review of first LD rider tshirts process. Form will be changed for rider manager to send form directly to Jan who will direct to the vendor. Secretary will update the form with new information with cost forwarded to the treasurer. Discussion of the design on the back of the UMECRA award jacket. Peggy made a motion that all UMECRA jackets will be standardized. Motion seconded and approved. Midwest Distance Drivers Association (MDDA) would like to subsidize the cost of an award jacket for their top driver starting in 2024. Motion to approve, seconded. Approved.

Technology committee – Robin proposed a committee to coordinate technology, website and social media. Deb Moe and Nicole will be co-chairs. A request will be made for volunteers who are interested in this area.

Convention update - Kim reported that a contract was signed for Holiday Inn on the west side of Madison for January 17-19, 2025. The previously arranged speaker is unable to attend so a search will start for another presenter. Minnesota will host the next convention in 2025.

Ride Representative reports – Crystal reported on her survey of members: 1) question about new point system that adds in mileage; 2) issue of top ten vs elite eight awards; 3) online registration for UMECRA rides; 4) GPS tracking ability for trails at rides; 5) new ideas for member recognition. Discussion of structure of points for awards. This will go to the awards and points committees for review. Debbie reported that she showed riders the resource on the UMECRA website. She will write something for the newsletter. Sherry stated that she enjoyed connecting with people, suggested identification of board members and rider reps at rides.

Old Business

Protest Investigation Process – Janet has gathered different protest forms from equine organizations and will work to develop a draft of a form

Ride Manager Code of Conduct – referred to committee

International Competition (USEF) – no news at this time

New Business

2025 Ride Calendar - Theresa presented the draft. Discussion of inquiry from Distance Riders of Manitoba about sanctioning with UMECRA.

Electronic ride registration/payment to ride managers – question about developing this capability for all UMECRA rides. There is a current website that a ride manager can purchase this feature for

their ride that Deb Moe can set up for their ride upon request for a reasonable fee. This will be tabled for now.

Ride with GPS service/club membership – this is a website that can be purchased by an individual at \$80 or a club at \$250. If UMECRA purchases the membership, any ride manager could use it for free to map their trails. Motion for UMECRA to spend \$250 to purchase a year membership for 2025. Seconded. Approved.

Recognition of lifetime mileage for 1000 mile horses competed by non-members – discussion of pros and cons. Current rule practice will not change. Riders need to be UMECRA members.

Intro vs. Novice rides – motion that intro ride entries be subject to the \$2.50/rider reporting fee charged the same rider fee as novice ride entries require. Seconded. Approved. This will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Horse Protection Act – inquiries have been made by board members about this new law. Will wait for clarification from AERC.

Elections - Vice President (Peggy), Treasurer (Deb), Illinois Rep (Nicole), Michigan Rep (Karen), Director at Large (Emily), Director at Large (Theresa). Appointments are also open for newsletter and sanctioning coordinator.

General meeting is adjourned at 2:02pm.

Closed session.