

Call to Order by President
Reading of minutes of spring BOD meeting
Financial report (copies distributed to members)

Old business:

- Committee Reports
 - Insurance update
 - Ride manager/vet handbooks (proof of receipt needed?)
 - Ride manager training/mentoring
 - Budget for UMECRA
- John Sturm's sponsorship for completion awards update
- Louise Reidel's 'lifetime membership' mention in by-laws
- 1000 mile awards update – Maxine Bernsdorf
- UMECRA memorial fund- define purpose & use
- AHA sweepstake update – Tony Troyer
- Newsletter costs
- UMECRA brochure – Theresa Meyer
- Thank you letter to Art Priez
- Update on hand-held heart monitors at competitive rides – Tony Troyer
- Move secretary/treasurer position to 2-year term – Tony Troyer

New business:

- Thank you letters for donations
- Trail Master class
- State horse councils- should regional directors be the state contacts?
- Procedure for moving ride date:
 - RM contacts Sanctioning Director (SD)
 - SD checks available dates & contacts affected RMs
 - SD contacts BOD with above info and their approval/disapproval
 - BOD responds
 - SD contacts original RM with answer
- Letter from insurance carrier regarding accident at Rock River ride
- UMECRA accident report and procedure
- Procedure for refunding sanctioning costs when ride is cancelled
 - Refunded in full 1st year
 - Refunded 80% second year
 - No refund 3rd year- ride date lost
- Angel Okker (15 yrs in April) is requesting to ride unsponsored as jr in competitive rides
- Jordanne Bruns (15 yrs) requesting to ride 4 yr old stallion in LD rides
- Financial reports in NL- balance sheet listed quarterly
- Convention fund
- BOD email decisions- what should be decided? What % of responses are needed?
- Handwritten ride results should be required to pay an additional .50/entry
- Competitive ride rules:
 - Buddy horses
 - Hazing

- o 2-mile marker
- o Tentative ride schedule for 2007
- o UMECRA pays insurance on all clinics and the Louise Reidel Memorial ride
- o Secretary/treasurer position be divided into two different ones
- o UMECRA pays insurance premium for all competitive rides
- o NL editor position
- o Multiday rides: riders/horses should get mileage for the days they completed if they do not finish the ride
- o Trail grant request for Ukarydee Equestrian Campground
- o Procedure for sending flowers/memorials to UMECRA members
- o Use PP for annual meeting to avoid cost of copies
- o Election of BOD members: should nominees have to put article in NL so members know up front who is running for office?
- o Rider reps nominated

Other business:

Adjourn meeting

Board of Director Meeting
November 11, 2006
HoChunk Casino
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Present:

BOD Members: Howard Ketover, Dawn Haas, Bettina Koehn, Paula Rapp, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Mary Mott, Peggy Brush, Maxine Bernsdorf, Dianne Schmidt, Theresa Meyer, Joslynn Seefeldt.

Non-BOD Members: Sheryl Levin, Elinore Tonsor, Tony Troyer, Jeremy Olson, Ellyn Rapp, Linda Jacobson, Sharon Hahn.

President Rick Nelson called meeting to order.

The minutes from the spring BOD meeting had been emailed to all board members the week before the meeting to read. A motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes as presented.

Several different reports from the treasurer were presented; these included detailed expense and income reports. A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports as they stand.

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

- o A report on insurance costs for 2007 was presented. Three companies declined coverage due to the events being open to anyone and that it was a competition. Equisure provided a quote of \$7800 and Horse Insurance Specialists (HIS) provided a quote of \$4200. HIS is the current company that UMECRA insures with. If these costs were broken down into cost per day and additional insured the costs would break out as follows: \$53/day and \$20/additional insured. This is a \$3.00/day increase over the 2006 insurance costs. A motion was made by Dianne and seconded by Theresa to go with the HIS insurance for the 2007 season; motion passed.
 - o Dianne made a motion and Peggy seconded it, that the cost of the insurance would be paid out of the UMECRA general fund and no costs per ride would be incurred. Howard pointed out that this would be ¼ of UMECRA's entire operating funds. This motion passed and will be presented to the voters at the annual meeting at the UMECRA convention.
 - o Jill Feller presented a form and a proposal that accidents happening at rides would be reported to the BOD for review. Jill spoke to Art Priez (our advising attorney) about tracking ride accidents, looking for patterns and the need to report them to our insurance carrier. Art and Jill created a form to use for ride managers to complete and send to the Secretary/Treasurer. The executive committee would review these accident forms and decide what accidents get reported to the insurance company. Art will also be an advisor on these matters. These accidents would be for horseback riding accidents only that happen at the rides. Howard proposed a friendly amendment that *ALL* accidents get reported for a one-year basis to see if we are missing anything that we should be tracking. The friendly amendment was accepted; motion passed.

- o Theresa Meyer reported on the Ride Manager books. There was discussion at some rides about ride managers not receiving their books. A sign off acknowledgement sheet may need to be included in future mailings. This book is also available on the www.umecra.com website for the general membership. The rules for rides are also posted on the website and are included in the ride booklets that are sent out each year. The head ride veterinarians are required to return their acknowledgement of receipt of their book into the secretary/treasurer within two weeks before the ride they are vetting. *Any acknowledgements not returned will cause the ride to be placed on probation for the following season.*
- o Theresa Meyer mentioned that UMECRA should provide some ride manager training to new ride managers. Jill Feller has a document prepared for DRAW ride managers that she will modify and pass around to other BOD members to add to. Once this is completed, the document will be put onto the UMECRA website for access to anyone. *Although this document will be a good guideline, it is the BOD opinion that the best instruction for a perspective new RM is to attend a ride and assist the RM all weekend.*

Rick Nelson discussed the update of John Sturm obtaining a sponsorship for UMECRA completion awards. John and Rick are still working on this project.

A motion was made and seconded to remove the *Louise Riedel was granted a lifetime membership* out of the by-laws; motion passed.

Maxine gave an update on the top ten awards. John Sturm and Dr. Beecher sponsor these awards. Maxine will be purchasing these awards once she gets the names from Joyce Mocilan.

At the springboard meeting, a UMECRA memorial fund was established with funds donated in Louise's name. No purpose or guidelines were established for these funds at that time. After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded to divide the UMECRA memorial fund and put half into the scholarship and half into the trail fund. In the future, any funds sent to UMECRA without specific designation, will be divided equally between these two funds. Currently there is \$170 in this fund. Jill Feller will take care of getting the funds divided correctly. Motion passed.

Tony Troyer gave an update of the AHA sweepstake process. Ride results from these rides can be sent to AHA using the AERC formatting, no stewards will be needed at these rides, lifetime membership for horses will be established regardless of the owner and to promote rides, AHA may waive the sanctioning fee for 2007 rides, however, they may limit the number of rides in each region. More on this topic will be presented at AHDRA meeting Sunday morning at the annual convention.

A UMECRA brochure was discussed at the spring meeting. Both Lynn Reichert and Theresa Meyer would work on this. Theresa reported that this project has not been very active, but she will revisit it and work on getting some information to move forward.

Tony Troyer gave an update on using hand-held monitors for competitive rides as his Rock River ride held a test program. Tony created a chart to track points accurately to fit into the competitive scale. There were no problems at the ride, no one complained and the flow of horses moved along well. This process would only be used at rides that have minimal help. Stethoscopes are still the

preferred method of checking pulses at competitive rides. This discussion will be brought to the annual meeting in January.

A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Peggy to make the secretary/treasurer position to a two-year term. A discussion followed with a new motion being made: The entire executive board would be elected to a two-year term. The president and vet rep would be elected on even years while the VP and Secretary/Treasurer would be elected on odd years. This motion passed and will be presented at the annual meeting.

A discussion was held about rider reps. Dianne proposed that the riders reps should be from each state and be voted upon at the annual convention for a two-year term. There are currently four rider reps on the BOD; this number was increased when the UMECRA membership increased over 400 members. After a discussion, it was proposed that the rider reps would be a two-year term, but they would not be regional. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Dianne made a motion and Theresa seconded to divide the secretary/treasurer position into two offices. This motion failed.

The Hall of Fame nominees were discussed. Due to the nature of this subject, no names will be provided in these minutes.

New Business:

Thank you letters were read from the American Cancer Society and the Wisconsin EMS Association for donations from UMECRA. UMECRA members for donation purposes gave these donations; no money was depleted out of the UMECRA general fund.

A letter was read from Lucy Bagot about hosting a "Trail Master Class". This is the class that is mentioned in Endurance News; it instructs students in how to create and maintain trails. Lucy Bagot is hosting this class in June in Illinois and is hoping UMECRA members will be attending. If a UMECRA member is interested in attending this class and needs financial assistance, a letter of request should be sent to any UMECRA BOD member for consideration. Lucy will be providing information about this class in the newsletter.

The regional directors will be the contact person for each of the state horse councils. All horse council information will be sent directly to these individuals.

Clarification of the steps to move a ride date was discussed. The steps are as follows:

1. Ride manager (RM) contacts the Sanctioning coordinator (SC) about moving the ride
2. SC checks on available dates & contacts any RM's on those dates that the new ride could affect.
3. SC contacts the UMECRA BOD with the information from step 2
4. BOD responds to request
5. SC contacts the original RM with approval or denial of ride date.

These steps were approved.

A discussion was held on how or when to reimburse RM's when a ride is canceled. The following was approved:

- o The \$40 sanctioning fee can either be used for the next year sanctioning fee and date reservation or it can be refunded and the ride date will be lost.

The insurance company with proper notification will refund any insurance costs.

A motion was made by Peggy and seconded by Paula to change the rule of competitive rides to say "500 accrued miles in competition" will qualify for a junior to ride unsponsored. The current rule says "500 competitive" miles. This will allow juniors who have accrued 500 miles in *any* discipline (endurance, LD or competitive) to ride unsponsored. This motion passed and will go before the members at the annual meeting.

A request was made to the BOD for a junior rider to ride a 4-year-old stallion in LD competition in the 2007 season. A discussion followed. There is no rule in UMECRA to prevent this situation, however there are some states and 4-H groups that do specify that any stallion needs to be handled by a person over the age of 18. Each state could be different. Art Pierz will be providing some guidelines for this situation also and a letter will be sent to the junior rider with an explanation of the findings.

A discussion was held on how often the balance sheet for UMECRA should be published in the UMECRA newsletter. Howard commented that in other organizations that he is an officer in, it has been recommended that financial reports should be not made public and members are able to get this information by request. A motion was made and seconded to publish the balance sheet quarterly in the newsletter (January, March, June & September). Motion passed.

A convention fund was discussed. Should a fund be started to assist with the costs of the UMECRA convention? Currently, there is no such funding and the convention manager charges a convention fee to recover costs incurred with the speaker, renting rooms, etc. In the past, the convention manager has kept the convention records of expenses. This year and in future years, all financial expenditures will be run through the secretary/treasurer for tracking purposes. Developing a convention fund may be visited at a later date when more information is available.

Throughout the year, decisions need to be made by the BOD. When this happens the BOD group email is used. To make a decision with this format, the by-laws will be followed:
At all meetings of the Board, a majority of the Directors shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the act of a majority of the directors present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

It has been requested that ride managers send in their ride results to the points keeper using electronic format as hand written results are very time consuming to enter. Joslyn Seefeldt stated that there is some free software on the AERC website that ride managers could use.

Some competitive rules were discussed: buddy horses, hazing horses and the 2-mile marker. These rules are all in place at this time and no changes are being made; however it was noted that ride managers need to **enforce** these rules.

Roberta Harms, the UMECRA sanctioning coordinator, provided a tentative ride schedule. The schedule was approved as presented. *Note: not all rides have responded to Roberta with confirmation of their ride dates.*

A request was made that on a multi-day ride, horses and riders receive mileage for the days that were completed, even if the *all* days are not completed. Example: a three-day 100-mile competitive ride is entered but the horse is lame on day three. The horse and rider would receive the mileage for days one and two, but not day three. No motion was made to take action on this request.

A discussion was held as to when to send flowers to a UMECRA member for a tragedy in their lives. Although it would be nice to send flowers to any UMECRA member, it would be impossible to be consistent due to the wide geographic area of our organization. The smaller organizations within UMECRA (MNDRA, DRAW, etc) would be better able to provide that service to their members. A motion was made and seconded to send flowers only to UMECRA BOD members. Motion passed. A limit of \$50-60 was set.

The following UMECRA members have been nominated for rider reps for 2007: Kathy Schauer, Sharon Hahn, Bettina Koehn, Paula Rapp, and Maxine Bernsdorf.

Sharon Hahn has expressed interest to be the UMECRA Newsletter editor for the next two years. If any other UMECRA member is interested, they should send their request to President Rick Nelson.

Other new business:

A letter was presented concerning the UMECRA sanctioning coordinator. This position is due to be appointed this year for a two-year term. Roberta Harms expressed her interest in retaining this position. Any other UMECRA member interested in this position should express their interest to President Rick Nelson.

The UMECRA BOD requests that if any UMECRA member sees any issues with a BOD member or an appointed member of the board, they should bring those issues forward immediately to a member of the board where it can be investigated and solved as soon as possible.

The Points Keeper position is also up for reassignment this year. Any UMECRA member interested in this position should send their request to President Rick Nelson.

The rules for drives states that the distance must be no less than 10 miles and a maximum of 25-miles. A request is made to eliminate the maximum distance. This will be brought to the annual meeting.

Theresa brought forth two requests for *competitive* rule changes. One change was related to completion criteria. The rule change is as follows:

- o Competitive horses shall be certified for completion if they: have met the pulse *and* respiration criteria of 68 within 20 minutes of the final 10-minute p/r check. NOTE: Ride

managers should remember to score the final 10-minute p/r check and recheck (30 point deduction) if applicable. The change requested is in *italics*. No motion was made on this rule change.

- o The second item would be adding a new rule. The rule requested is :
No ponying allowed. Ride committees may make exceptions in dangerous areas. If a horse & rider team is ponied during competition in areas beyond those deemed dangerous by the ride committee they will receive mileage credit only. A discussion followed. *Several BOD members feel* that ponying is the safest way to start a younger child into the sport. No motion was made- this rule will not be brought forward to the annual meeting.

Paula Rapp started a discussion as to why more drug testing is not done in our region. Several concerns were brought to her this past ride season with suspicions of riders using illegal substances on their horses. Dr. Howard pointed out that the cost of these tests are quite high and the time involved to collect them properly would not be fair to the ride vet. AERC already does random testing and has a system set up. Should UMECRA push AERC to conduct more tests in our area? This subject was tabled to the next meeting, as several members will conduct additional research to bring for further discussion. *If ANY UMECRA member suspects a horse is being drugged at a ride, they are strongly encouraged to go directly to the ride manager, a board member and/or the head vet and voice their concerns. An investigation can be conducted in the most confidential manner as possible. These type of concerns need to be addressed immediately.*

A request was made to not raise junior ride prices as to make them cost prohibiting to these riders. It was pointed out that rides are not making money on junior riders and it would be difficult for rides to lower prices for the 2007 season. The 2006 ride season did see lower rider numbers at rides and many ride managers may be raising prices for 2007 to make ends meet. It was suggested that if several juniors come to a ride from a ride clinic, the ride manager could be approached *before* the ride for a discount for multiple riders; this would be a ride-by-ride decision made by the ride manager of that ride. The AERC fees will still be required if the junior will be riding LD or endurance.

Sheryl Levin was assigned to work with Peggy Brush on a membership committee.

The awards committee presented several ideas for year-end awards: the UMECRA jacket, blankets, picture frames and a glassware set that could be added to yearly. The awards committee will decide what the awards will be offered.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
Jill Feller, UMECRA secretary/treasurer

