

BOD Meeting
March 17, 2007
HoChunk Casino
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Present: Sheryl Levin, Mary Mott, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Tony Troyer, Joyce Mocilan, Bettina Koehn, Sharon Hahn, Theresa Meyer, Wes Elford, Barb Gardner, Maxine Bernsdorf, Dawn Haas, Wayne Gastfield, Joslyn Seefeldt, Dianne Schmidt.

Guests: Linda Jacobson

President Sheryl Levin called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken.

Secretary's minutes from convention meetings were sent to BOD members before the meeting to read. Theresa made two small changes. Minutes were approved with the two changes.

Treasurer's report was presented by a Balance sheet and Profit & Loss report. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report as given.

Reports of Officers:

- President Sheryl Levin thanked all BOD members for coming to the meeting and putting their time in to help serve with UMECRA activities
- Sheryl also thanked Sharon Hahn for the production of her first newsletter

Committee Updates:

- Membership/Media/Advertising Committee:
 - 1000 mile horses are now being put on the UMECRA website. Joslyn Seefeldt is the contact person for this activity
 - The UMECRA brochures that Theresa produced look great! Egerers in Minnesota can print these for \$.76 each. These brochures will be used at Horse Expos/Fairs and rides to get the name of UMECRA out in the public eye. The extra copies will be kept with Secretary/treasurer Jill Feller- contact her if you need some.
 - A new UMECRA banner is being created by Jack Dewesee; it will be silver writing on maroon background. This banner will be available to use for Horse Expos/Fairs and any other activity where we want UMECRA advertised. The cost of this banner is \$50. Motion made, seconded and approved to purchase this banner. After the spring fairs, the banner will be sent to Secretary/treasurer Jill Feller for storage until needed again.
 - Elinore has put the UMECRA ride schedule in several publications and will also contact a few more. If you know of a publication where the schedule can be posted, contact Elinore Tonsor with the publication contact info.
- Mileage Awards Committee:
 - All awards are completed for the year and delivered to riders. New Endurance chevrons are needed. Motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase these chevrons from Dianne Schmidt who makes them at a cost of \$.50 each.
 - 14 UMECRA members were first time chevron winners for 2006.
- Legal & By-laws Committee:
 - In the process of reformatting the UMECRA rules for the ride book, several inconsistencies were found; one of which was the way ties are handled. The "tie" rule did not exist in the 1999 rules, but is listed in the 2004 rules. There is no documentation on when these were accepted. **The following was found in past meeting minutes after this meeting: January 26, 2002 Dale**

Lunde proposed that we change our system of averaging endurance ride ties to the system used by AERC whereby the scores of those tying are added and divided by the number of riders tying. Katie Ruckel moved to accept this concept. Tony Troyer seconded. Motion carried.

- **CURRENT:** Rule 11. Ties: In the case of ties, the points to be awarded shall be the sum of the positions divided by the number of people who tied. Example: two lightweights tie for first place endurance. First and second points are totaled and divided by two and each person gets those points. $22 \text{ pts} + 20 \text{ pts} = 42 / 2 = 21 \text{ pts}$ each.
- **PROPOSED:** Horses that tie will receive identical placings and the next placing will be omitted. (i.e. 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc). **Points for year-end awards shall be awarded in an identical manner.** An example: if two riders tie for 1st place endurance lightweight; each gets awarded first place with the first place points (22 points each). The next lightweight across the line will be awarded third place.

Joyce Mocilan reported that ties have been awarded the same points every since she become points keeper (as the proposed rule states). After a tied vote to leave the rule as is stated with dividing the points vs each getting full points, the tie was broken by vote of the president to go with the PROPOSED rule for the 2007 ride season. Discussion will be held at the annual meeting next January.

- Under Competitive Rules: 2. Management Requirements
 - **CURRENT RULE:** A. The maximum riding speed shall average 5.5 to 7 mph. In figuring whether competitive ride time falls within this speed, spot check time of **at least** 10 minutes per check must be included.
 - After rule “B”, a chart is listed showing spot check times according to miles. Above the chart it states: ABSOLUTE MINIMUM TIMES- FOR EACH SPOT CHECK ADD AT LEAST 20 MINUTES. The 20 minutes is a typo and should say 10 minutes to be in accordance with rule A listed above. The BOD approved the correction of this error.
- Under Endurance Rides: **CURRENT RULE:** Rule 1: The ride must be at least 50 miles in length per day, ~~up to a maximum distance of 150 miles in three days.~~ The BOD voted to eliminate the last part of this sentence which will allow a Pioneer ride to be conducted with UMECRA sanctioning. *A pioneer ride holds a three-day ride of 155 miles in length (one day is 55 miles).*
- Under Sanctioning Requirements: **CURRENT RULE:** 1. UMECRA RULES; A. Rides are to be sanctioned by approval of the BOD at least 90 days before the date of the ride. **CHANGE TO:** Rides are sanctioned by approval of the BOD at least 90 days before the start of the ride *or at the annual meeting.* Approved by vote of BOD.
- Under Sanctioning Requirements: **PROPOSED RULE:** Ride managers must announce their mileage to the UMECRA Secretary and UMECRA sanctioning coordinator at least 7 days before the annual meeting; otherwise they receive the same mileage as the previous year. Approved by vote of BOD.
- Technology Committee:
 - Joyce Mocilan reported that in order to build a good database that will last and not be outdated soon, the cost would be \$2000-3000. No action was taken at this time. The technology committee will look into the costs again and come back in fall with a proposal.
- New Members Packet/Ride Book Committee:

- Sheryl Levin reported that 10 of the “new member packets” would be given to each ride manager for rides. The cost of paper and printing is \$612; a \$700 budget was set-aside for this committee in January.
 - Ride Book: **CURRENT RULE:** Under Sanctioning Requirements: Ride managers must announce their mileage to the UMECRA Secretary and UMECRA sanctioning coordinator at least 7 days before the annual meeting; otherwise they receive the same mileage as the previous year. Only a few rides this year announced their ride mileage before the annual meeting, thus *the ride schedule was approved without consideration to the mileage involved with each ride. As a result; there are four-100 mile rides in the month of September in 2007.*
 - Since the ride schedule with the dates was already approved at the annual meeting, the BOD voted to approve the miles per each ride as is stated in the ride flyers. *The Ride Book committee will discuss some guidelines to present at the fall meeting.*
- Ride Manager/Vet Handbook Committee:
 - The ride managers/vet handbook was printed this year at a cost of less than \$1.00 each. They will be sent out in the ride manager’s packets with the veterinarian sign off sheet to be returned to Jill Feller before the start of the ride.
- Convention Committee:
 - The committee presented some guidelines for managing a UMECRA convention. Some discussion followed; contact some veterinarians within UMECRA, as they might be able to find guest speakers at a minimum cost or to get money to host activities. Discussion also included hosting a trade show yearly instead of every other year to spark more interest in attending the show. No action was taken.
- Website Update: Joslyn Seefeldt is now putting the 1000-mile horses on the site; contact her with any information you have for the site.

Unfinished Business:

- Veterinary Release Form: this will be sent out in the RM packets. This is to be sent to the head ride veterinarian to sign off on and return to Jill Feller before the start of the ride. This is just an acknowledgement that the vet has read and understands the UMECRA rulebook
- Insurance Costs: The insurance will be \$45/ride and \$20 for each additional insured. Jill Feller will let each ride know the cost of their ride insurance and it can be paid with ride fees after the ride. A discussion was held concerning the cost of MI ride insurance and having UMECRA pay ½ of their costs. This was tabled but will be discussed again at the fall meeting.
- UMECRA Hall of Fame Nominee: A discussion was held as to what the proper procedure is to get a UMECRA member inducted into the Hall of Fame, the costs involved and how those costs are paid. One member was nominated at this time. If anyone has a person to nominate to the Hall of Fame, they should contact one of the BOD members with their nomination; the nomination needs to be in writing. **The following was found in past meeting minutes after this meeting: November 3, 2001 minutes: Wes moved to establish a UMECRA Hall of Fame award with money from the general fund not to exceed \$500- Roberta seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The funds are available per year of the award.**
- AERC Drug Testing Policy: Sheryl and Wes passed out the AERC drug testing policy to all BOD members. Any UMECRA members wanting a copy of this policy should contact either Sheryl or Wes for a copy. *At this time, UMECRA is not going to be doing any drug testing at their rides, but will be following the AERC testing program.*
- Trail Master Class: At the annual convention it was voted to pay the tuition for two UMECRA members to attend the Trail Master class. Since that time, one of those members withdrew from the class. Another UMECRA member has expressed interest and will be going to the class if it is not full yet. Motion was made, seconded and approved to send the alternate UMECRA member if room is still available.

- Internet Communication: Sheryl Levin discussed this topic. The Internet communication should be used to discuss a topic and provide feedback. All opinions will be respected. No voting on issues will be done via the Internet. If a vote is needed by the BOD between meetings, a vote will be conducted via phone with the Executive BOD members calling members for their vote.
- UMECRA Brochure: *see Membership/Media/Advertising Committee*

New Business:

- 2006 Junior Award: Larissa Sprecher was missed in the awards at the annual meeting. A jacket for her was made and will be sent to her by the end of the month.
- Motion was made, seconded and approved to send \$250 to MNDRA to sponsor a booth for UMECRA at the MN Horse Expo.
- Sanctioning Request for New Ride: Ride on the Canal. Joann Gernant has put in a request to hold a one-day competitive ride on June 24th for a special event down in Illinois. This will be a one-year only ride. Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept this new ride.
- Sanctioning Rules needing housekeeping: There are several sanctioning rules that need to be discussed with the ride managers to see if they are feasible and worth adhering to or just eliminating. These rules will be put on the UMECRA web page to create discussion. All BOD members should provide discussions at rides this summer to get feedback from the membership. This topic will be discussed at the fall meeting after getting feedback from RM and other members of UMECRA.
- Website email address: The UMECRA website does have several email addresses that could be used for ride managers if they want an address for their ride: EXAMPLE: Northernhighlandride@umecra.com could be an address for the ride manager at this ride so riders could remember the address easier. If any ride manager is interested, they should contact Joslyn Seefeldt.
- Newsletter dates and postage: Sharon Hahn did an excellent job on editing her first UMECRA newsletter. The delay in receiving the newsletter was due to the postage; it was sent presorted instead of first class. Because of the time it took for members to receive their newsletter, future ones will be sent out via first class postage. Sharon provided the UMECRA BOD with a 'draft publication schedule' with newsletter publication dates and deadlines. This schedule will be posted in the next newsletter.
- Committee realignment: President Sheryl Levin realigned the committees from 21 to 11. They are as follows:
 - Membership Committee: *To increase UMECRA membership by 15% in 2007.* Responsible for: membership, media/advertising, education/publicity, new members packet/ride book. Members: Sheryl Levin (Chairperson), Theresa Meyer, Elnore Tonsor, Joslyn Seefeldt, Dianne Schmidt, Sharon Hahn, Dawn Haas, Tony Troyer
 - Mentorship Committee: *To seek out new riders at UMECRA rides, promote friendliness and help where it is needed.* Responsible for: mentoring. Members: Maxine Bernsdorf (Chairperson), Paula Rapp, Bettina Koehn, Sharon Hahn
 - Points/Awards Committee: *Promote all of UMECRA awards including mileage.* Responsible for: all awards promotions, selection, bid process, etc. Members: Maxine Bernsdorf (Chairperson), Linda Jacobson, Barb Gardner, Dawn Haas.
 - Finance Committee: *Work to achieve a workable budget for UMECRA.* Responsible for: finance, audit, budget, and insurance. Members: Mary Mott, Sheryl Levin (Chairperson), Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Wayne Gastfield, Dawn Haas, Tony Troyer and Barb Gardner
 - Rules Committee: *To clarify rules and housekeep current rules and recommend procedures. Work on written procedures between officers, sanctioning coordinator and point's keeper. Be the 'go to' people at rides if questions regarding rules come up.* Responsible for: legal, rules and by laws submission of changes to BOD, housekeeping and knowledge of rules at rides. Protests go the

- VP of UMECRA and not to this committee (per by-laws). Members: Theresa Meyer (Chairperson), Tony Troyer, Joyce Mocilan, Paula Rapp, Wes Elford DVM, Bettina Koehn, Wayne Gastfield, Art Priez (advisor).
- Protest Committee: *Promote UMECRA rules and fairness at rides.* Members: Mary Mott (Chairperson), Tony Troyer, Dawn Haas, Dianne Schmidt
 - Ride Manager/Vet Committee: *To promote and offer support and knowledge of our sport and help new ride managers and vets become familiar with UMECRA.* Responsible for: ride fees and vet committee, ride managers/vet handbook. Members: Jill Feller (Chairperson), Elinore Tonsor, Theresa Meyer, Wes Elford DVM.
 - Technology Committee: *Create a web-based database for horse/rider mileage.* Members: Joyce Mocilan (Chairperson), Joslyn Seefeldt, Sheryl Levin.
 - Trails Advisory Committee: *Promote and encourage other members to be trail advocates.* Members: Tony Troyer (Chairperson), Wayne Gastfield, Elinore Tonsor.
 - Sponsorship Committee: *Promote UMECRA to interested personal/business contacts to promote sponsorship of costs of rides.* Members: Rick Nelson (Chairperson), Mary Mott, Dianne Schmidt, John Sturm, Wes Elford DVM.
 - Convention Committee: *Create guidelines for convention organizers.* Members: Jill Feller (Chairperson), Dianne Schmidt, Kathy Schauer.
- Other: a request was made by Elinore Tonsor for \$250 from the trail fund: \$200 to go to the Clark County Department of Parks and Forestry and \$50 to the Town of Seif. These are the trails used for the Wildcat rides. Motion was made, seconded and approved to award the money.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer