



**Morning BOD Meeting
November 12, 2011
Rockford, IL**

Meeting called to order: VP Theresa Meyer in the absence of President Rick Nelson (he was late).

Present: Julie Jackson-Biegert, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Max Bernsdorf, Jeanne Crispin, Robin Schadt, Marty Powers, Theresa Meyer, Lynn Reichert, Peggy Pasillas, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Tony Troyer, Linda Mower, Wes Elford, Jill Feller, Rick Nelson, Bonnie Mielke, Marge Dixon

Guests: Sara Mower, Sue Herrick, Jen Allen

Secretary's report: minutes were on website for review and in newsletters. Motion made by Tony Troyer, seconded by Maxine Bernsdorf to accept minutes; passed.

Treasurer's report: Balance sheet, and P&L statement was provided to attendees. Wayne Gastfield made motion, seconded by Lynn Reichert to accept reports as presented; passed.

Agenda items:

- **Ride schedule update 2012**
 - Jeanne Crispin passed out the proposed schedule with changes for 2012. There is a proposal from a member to change the distance between rides to a longer distance than is currently used; if approved, the new proposal would go into effect for the 2013 ride schedule.
 - AHDRA 1 wants the last weekend in June in 2012 and Endless Valley wants the weekend closest to July 4 each year. After discussion, it was decided that for 2012, AHDRA 1 will get the last weekend in June and Endless Valley gets first weekend in July. If AHDRA I would be approved for the last weekend in June on a permanent basis, it will fall on the same weekend as Dead Dog at some point in the future. Jen Allen communicated that AHDRA I is a 'floating' ride that will change when the weekends change. The RM of AHDRA I understands that the ride date will change when the calendar changes.
 - There is a request for a new ride from MI called Grand Island North and they would like to put the ride on July 7 & 8 against Endless Valley. The first request for the ride was for July 21 & 22. The next request was that AHAM (which was scheduled for July 7 & 8) would switch dates to July 21 & 22 if that would work better for the Grand Island North ride. The discussion that followed included: Do we want to sanction more rides when we have such a complicated full schedule? If people want to put on a ride they must feel that they can make money at it.



Riders have more choices; UMECRA is a ride manager organization but if the rides can co-exist, we should allow them to. Let the consumers make the choice on which rides to attend. Any new ride will have an effect on existing rides so what can RM's do to get the riders? Bonnie commented that rides need to do something to bring in riders- a good meal, good awards, etc.

- Are the rides consumer driven instead of organized by the BOD? Yes, that has been the theory of the past years and continues to be. If a new ride meets all of the criteria set forth in the sanctioning guidelines, how can it be denied?
- Due to the opposing rides in July, would it be better to give Grand Island North the weekend of July 21 & 22 and keep AHAM July 7 & 8? After looking at the distances of the existing rides in July, the BOD approved Grand Island North for July 21 & 22 and AHAM will remain on July 7 & 8.
- There is the new rule that was passed in January for getting rides sanctioned by November 30th so there may be more changes on the ride schedule in January if there are open dates.
- Motion was made by Julie and seconded by Max to accept the current schedule as presented and discussed pending proper sanctioning forms being received. Passed.
- Jeanne will contact the RMs that have not yet sanctioned and remind them to get the paperwork in before November 30th.
- **Sanctioning Coordinator position**
 - There is no one who wants to take this position over at this time and Jeanne's assignment ends this year. Should this position be eliminated and absorbed by the BOD? The most time consuming part of the position is the ride book which takes about 40-50 hours to put together and it needs to be done in 2-3 week period of time. The information on the front cover needs to be changed besides collecting the ride flyers. After some discussion, Jeanne Crispin has decided to continue to do this position for the next two-years. Our regular printer will be asked to assist in putting the ride book together.
- **Rules issues- not following the rules**
 - A rider approached AERC to protest a MN ride. Connie Caudill, president of AERC, contacted UMECRA to see if the issue could be solved at our level. The issue was that the rider was not allowed to 'trot for completion' at the end of an endurance ride if he was going to show for BC. The vet told the rider when he presented for BC, he would get his completion; it was one exam. This is in violation of the AERC rules.
 - Wes received an email from the AERC rules committee chair about this situation also. She wanted to call the veterinarian involved and discuss the rule.
 - Wes also brought up the MI rides that do not use the competitive cards for the riders at stops. If rides don't want to use the ride cards, should we change the rule? If the rule is there, we need to follow it. The rule could be changed to say



that the use of the cards are optional if a different, effective tracking system is used to record rider times and P/R's.

- o There is a rule that says that the RM cannot question the vets decision; however, that rule is in regards to the horse's health and not procedural as is the case in the ride about to be protested. The question was not about the horse's health, but it was a matter of following the rule that the rider can present for completion and the return to present for BC; it is two different exams.
- o Since Wes is the Veterinarian Representative of UMECRA, he will talk to the veterinarian of the ride. Vets need to understand the rules and sign the form saying they do; this is a requirement each year before they agree to be head vet of the ride.
- o The protest was not officially filed at this point. Last year, the same veterinarian was talked to about some other issues. Wes will have another talk the veterinarian and if needed, Dr. Mero from AERC will call the veterinarian and discuss the rule.
- o There were some issues with this same veterinarian with pulling completions if the pulse goes up at the one-hour exam.
- o There are two different things here: one is the completion and one is the BC standing. BC says 'you have to complete the ride in order to be considered for BC'. If the completion exam is not done first, how is the rider eligible to stand for BC?
- o Should Wes send a letter to the veterinarian that he needs to sign stating he will follow the rules?
- o Should the BOD take action against the RM who allowed this to happen? One of the problems is that some RM's don't read the rules or understand them. It is easy to let little things slip away because there are a few differences between AERC and UMECRA and a RM can think they are following both AERC and UMECRA when they are not; they do not realize there are some differences in certain areas.
- o Should we have a rules meeting at the convention to discuss rules? If there are rules that are causing issues, we need to address the rule or the actions of not following them. RM's should be there to discuss these issues so we know what we need to do with the rules.
- o At this point, it appears to be only one veterinarian who is not following the AERC rules and that needs to be addressed before AERC steps in.
- o MI rides don't use the cards because they have a different system; should the rule be changed to make the cards optional? They do track the times on a chart and fill in the information on the ride sheets later.
- o Tony explained how he had a similar issue at one of his rides and he was proactive with the correction once it was brought to his attention. The RM needs to be held accountable and the rules have to be consistent.



- Could the NL put in a section each month with a discussion on a rule and how it should be interpreted? This could be a great forum to get riders and RM's to better understand the intent of the rule and also to see if the rule needs to be adjusted for better understanding.
- Wes made a motion; seconded by Joslyn that *UMECRA writes a letter to all of the RM's that they need to follow the rules as stated in AERC and UMECRA and their vet staff also needs to follow the rules.* Friendly amendment by Julie: include an example of BC scoring and state that RM's that allow rules to not be followed will risk loss of sanctioning. Wes does not allow the friendly amendment. A second friendly amendment was suggested by Julie: consequence of not following the rule is listed in the letter. Wes accepts this amendment. The motion with the friendly amendment passed.
- Wes stated that the action of sending the letter to RM's will be reported to AERC as follow up action. Wes will also talk to the veterinarian in question.
- Even if the rules are read, there is still interpretation with them. How do we make sure that the interpretations are the same?
- Should we have a rules symposium or clinic on how to determine rules at the annual convention?
- Will there be any consequences if the rules are not followed after the person has been notified of not following the rules? There is a protest process in place right now that can be used. However, if the BOD is approached with a problem, the BOD needs to remedy the situation before a protest is received.
- **Members names listed on website – update**
 - Is it working to put the member's names and the date their membership is received on the website? We need something in place so members know they have paid their membership. It is the rider's responsibility to look at the website. There is no receipt for paying the membership in UMECRA. Robin highlighted the names with the points posting on the website; however that did not work well in the printed newsletter as the color did not come through well. There is still approximately 45% of the membership that receive hard copy newsletters. If the highlights are in yellow, they will not show up in the printed newsletter. How many people will watch the website? Joslyn made a motion, seconded by Wes to create membership cards and send them out to members. Robin and Marty, from the membership committee will work on sending out the membership cards.
- **Rider reps names that have nominated or been nominated**
 - Bonnie Mielke
 - Max Bernsdorf
 - Elizabeth Laurie
 - Ayla Spry (junior rider)
 - Lynda Zimmermann



- o Robin Schadt
- o Pamela Fullerton
- o Are juniors eligible for rider's rep? Is there an age limit? Years ago we had a discussion about who can sponsor a junior and it was voted to be age 21 therefore a rider rep should be at least 21. Sara: I agree with the fact that people need to be at least 21 years old. Members aren't very open to coming up to talk to a junior so it would not be a good person as a rider rep. No formal action was taken on this subject at this time.
- o The December newsletter will need to be mailed out with the voting ballots. Family memberships receive 2 ballots, single memberships receive 1. Linda made a motion, seconded by Joslyn to send out the December NL as usual and send the voting ballots out separately. Passed.
- **Voting by email**
 - o Theresa handed out a document explaining the rules of voting in MN. Jos: I would like to see all votes as roll call votes and published for members to see.
 - o Art's over all impression of this issue is that no matter what issue there is, historically UMECRA has followed Robert's Rules of Order. If a Roll Call vote is asked for, then we do a roll call vote; otherwise we can continue with the way we have been.
 - o If the results are published, will riders come up to those voting and ask questions, or will they 'shun' those who don't vote the way they felt they wanted the vote to go without any discussion? A full explanation would need to be published with the voting results so the issue is explained in full. Would this be a deterrent to voters?
 - o Motion made by Julie, seconded by Marty to continue to use email voting for BOD issues. Passed.
 - o Under what circumstances should we use a roll call vote? We can continue to do what we do now. Motion made by Theresa, seconded by Marty that the BOD web group and the BOD meetings will operate under Roberts Rules: Motion failed 7/6. The vote was by roll-call. The roll call roster is attached.
- **Convention update**
 - o The convention in January will be Thursday-Sunday morning. Rooms are \$89 and the reservation window closes on Dec. 20. By contract, UMECRA is liable for 103 rooms for the weekend; UMECRA will have to pay for the amount under 103 rooms. The committee is working on the events for the weekend. Friday- registration at 2:00; AHDRA awards with snacks and a band called Nuttsie Turtle band and will play until 11 pm. The committee is willing to take any donations from other organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, GLDRA, etc. Saturday morning will be the BOD meeting, trade show will start; speaker will start at 9 am (Dr. Meg Sleeper) at a cost of approximately \$500. BOD meeting will start at 7:00 with breakfast before. Annual meeting from 1-4 pm. Meal price is still being



negotiated but costs are up from last time. There will be a DJ on Saturday night. There will be a silent auction this year: Peggy P. will run the silent auction along with Jen Allen, Marge Dixon, and Stephanie Huss. Should we put a couple of packages together for a raffle to assist in paying for the convention? No decision was made on this topic.

- Robin suggested a 'split the pot' may be a good option and earn a lot of money. Could do a 50/50 each night with all proceeds going to the convention fund.
- Bonnie is encouraging everyone to come on Friday to meet the UMECRA pioneers people. She suggested it might be fun to put a panel together to ask questions to and maybe a group lunch or dinner where everyone can eat/seat together. Would like to encourage people who rode in the 70's to bring some of the old awards to show.
- Will be a convention fee of at least \$5.00 to assist with the costs of the convention.
- Wes Elford made a motion, seconded by Joslyn to transfer \$500 from general into the convention fund. Passed.
- Do we want to limit the amount a convention can use out of the convention fund? *Table this discussion until spring meeting.*
- **Awards committee update**
 - Everything is on track for the awards and the budget is figured out. Lynn and Max are working on all the awards. Robin is working on finalizing the points and placings and the top ten awards. ABC has paid for the Top Ten awards.
- **Hall of Fame nomination**
 - The requirements for Hall of Fame were read. What is the purpose of this award? The requirements are that they must have contributed to UMECRA.
 - Motion by Linda Mower to accept the nomination; seconded by Joslyn; passed.
- **Update on Scholarship fund**
 - Jill read the memo from the scholarship fund and what is available to award in January to qualified UMECRA members: there is \$3600 to award.
- **Bylaws and Rules- GO TO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY**
 - Proposal from Gene Dake with changes to sanctioning rules in increase the distance between rides; the proposal would require the current rides to abide by the new distances and there would be many rides affected. Wayne said that this proposal was never brought up at the GLDRA meeting for discussion last week. There was no motion; no action was taken.
 - Driver's rule: Current rule: *The driver must carry a whip in hand at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Proposed change: *The driver must have a whip within reach at all times while in the cart, but not during the pre and post drive veterinary exams.* Tony made the motion, seconded by Wes; passed.



- UMECRA general rule in regards to discrepancies in point standings was discussed. Theresa will work on this proposal more and will send it via email for approval.
- Endurance Rules and weight divisions. Both endurance and competitive rules in regards to weighing heavy weight riders are not consistent. To correct this problem Theresa made the motion, seconded by Marty to replace both rules with the following: *There shall be weight divisions for endurance and competitive; lightweight- 179 pounds and under; heavyweight- 180 pounds and over WITH TACK. All heavyweight riders may be weighed with tack prior to the ride.* Passed.
- Competitive Novice Division rule was discussed: Should the novice riders be able to place in the Top Five for more than 3 years? Should there be an advanced novice division? This division would be for people who physically are unable to ride more miles but still like the competition. What would be the issue to split up the division as they are due paying members and support the rides? Wes suggested that we not make a motion at this time and that we study this some more and talk to the riders who this will affect and come to January meeting with it.
- **Saddle Up Magazine**
 - This magazine sent an email to several BOD members asking if UMECRA would like to advertise in their publication. The publication goes to over 11,000 members in OH and MI; no motion was made; no action taken.
- **Trail request**
 - Theresa made a motion, seconded by Wayne for \$250 request for Zumbro's Bottom for putting electricity into the shelter; passed.
- **Rules symposium at convention- could you do it over lunch?**
 - The NL would be a great way to publish the rules and get participation.
 - We will host a symposium at the convention and see what happens.
- LD weight divisions- table until January meeting
- Committee updates- table until January meeting
- ICF guidelines (brought forward from spring meeting)- table until January
- Others
 - Michael Liang- winter fun ride- table until January meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Feller
UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer



Voting Roster			
NAME	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Joslyn Seefeldt	x		
Julie Jackson-Biegert	x		
Wayne Gastfield		x	
Maxine Bernsdorf		x	
Marty Powers	x		
Tony Troyer	x		
Linda Mower		x	
Marge Dixon		x	
Wes Elford		x	
Bonnie Mielke		x	
Jill Feller		x	
Rick Nelson			x