



**BOD Meeting
January 21, 2012
Rockford, IL**

- **Called to order by President.**
- **Attendees:** Bonnie Mielke, Diane Schmidt, Max Bernsdorf, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Joslyn Seefeldt, Wayne Gastfield, Theresa Meyer, Rick Nelson, Jill Feller, Robin Schadt, Marty Power, Wes Elford, Linda Mower, Peggy Pasillas, Tony Troyer
- **Secretary's report approved:** Motion by Wes to accept as printed, seconded by Marty. Motion passed.
- **Treasurer's report:** Report was presented with a Balance sheet and P&L report for 2011. There was a clarification on the amount of money spent for the computer account. \$641 was spent to purchase a LCD projector for UMECRA. Motion by Rick to accept as printed, seconded; Wayne, Passed.
- **Dr Beecher's proposal-** Dr. Beecher presented his proposal for a realignment of UMECRA. Some of the main points of the realignment are that each UMECRA member would get a vote and each ride would get votes. This proposal would make UMECRA a rider's organization instead of a ride manager's organization. A recommendation was made to send the proposal to a "Blue Ribbon Committee" and spend a year researching the different aspects of the proposal and present it to members at the 2013 convention. The proposal involves the creation of a 'regional' UMECRA and get away from the states and the small organizations such as DRAW, MNDRA, GLDRA, AHDRA, etc.
 - Julie: I think we should be very specific about taking this to the membership. We need to be very clear before we talk to the general meeting.
 - Marty: There should be several committees to look into this proposal but one 'main' committee over the top to pull it all together.
 - Tony: We are looking at the pros and cons of the feasibility of making changes to UMECRA.
 - Dr. Beecher: I see rides losing riders and some are losing money. This proposal could make UMECRA stronger.
 - Theresa: Can I get some clarification- if UMECRA becomes a riders organization, would the smaller organizations be eliminated?
 - Beecher: it would depend on the committee to make this decision.
 - Joslyn: I don't see any advantages for DRAW: Dr Beecher- there is NO advantage for the smaller organizations. Awards would become regional and not be a state organization.
 - Marty: There would need to be representatives from each organization for input on the committees. The small details would be looked at later but it is too early to answer some of these questions.



- Julie: We should take this one step at a time. Moving to a rider's organization would get more people to attend the conventions.
- Dianne: The MNDRA bylaws say members need to be a UMECRA member so this proposal would increase the UMECRA membership as some other organizations do not make members be UMECRA members.
- Robin: What we are discussing is procedure- do we have to have the membership vote on forming a committee? A discussion now with the general membership would get by-in.
- Wes: I have tried to get UMECRA to move to a rider organization for years; I like that part of this proposal. I don't think we should ask for a vote from the general membership at this time.
- Joslyn: Joslyn made a motion to form a committee with a representative from each organization to look at a restructure of UMECRA; Wes seconded. When is the committee being formed? There are 7 organizations; there should be people outside of the BOD to be on the committee. President and VP will appoint a core committee and then seek other outside of the BOD. Passed.
- Committee: Marty, Joslyn, Robin, Elizabeth Laurie, Wayne, Bruce Birr, Tony Troyer, Barb Gardner (volunteered). ApDRA and AHDRA need to appoint someone. The committee will appoint a chairperson.
- **By law/rule changes:**
 - **Novice division- PROPOSAL:** *The Novice division must be a one horse/rider team. To enter this division for year-end awards and individual placings, the rider must not have completed more than 90 total miles in a regular distance ride; competitive, limited distance, or endurance. Only one 25 or 30 mile competitive ride may count per year toward year-end awards. Rides longer than 30 miles will NOT count toward awards; whether endurance, LD or competitive, but they will count toward the 90 total miles.*
 - Bonnie: This would allow a rider to compete in a 50-mile ride; the proposal should be changed and the 90 should be 45 to eliminate a 50 mile ride.
 - **PROPOSAL:** *A rider placing Top Five novice for three years is not eligible for further Novice Awards. Horse/rider teams not meeting these criteria may enter novice rides for mileage only.*
 - Wes feels that this statement will force some people who cannot ride more than 12 or 15 miles out of the sport. These people would need a new division to move into that would not be Novice.
 - Bonnie: if someone cannot move up, why can't they just ride for mileage and fun; UMECRA should not create a new division. We would end up with professional novices.



- Joslyn: We have to think of our own business philosophy; if we don't support this group, these members would be pushed out to CTR or some other sport.
 - Theresa: Tony worked two years on launching the Novice program; it may take as long as make changes. We would have to host another division at each ride.
 - Dianne: Would there be a liability if we have a person who isn't physically able to ride longer than a novice ride?
 - Linda: I don't think we should consistently give awards to novice year after year when long-term riders who don't get to many rides don't get awards.
 - Julie: I think this division could be good for older riders who no longer want to ride the longer rides.
 - Bonnie: How many actual novice riders switch into regular, longer rides. The numbers are low and getting lower. Why should we support these riders if they do not move up?
 - Marty: These riders do support the ride and pay their fees. We could get some sponsorships for the awards. What is the question: do we not want this division or can we not afford the awards?
 - Joslyn: I'm more concerned with the older riders who don't want to ride the longer rides; we will lose these members.
 - Should we do some more research into this? Jen Allen gave Theresa some names in November to talk to about keeping members in this division. One of the riders supported the new division while the others did not. Could we put all of these riders' names into a hat and have a drawing at the convention for the novice 'mileage only' people.
 - Dianne: We should track how many novices are repeating year after year. Dianne only has had 2 riders return the following year.
 - Motion made by Julie to accept the new rule with a slight wording change; Tony seconded the motion: Passed- this will be taken to the general meeting this afternoon.
 - Peggy: Suggestion to rule: *Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for top 5 award can ride for mileage only.*
 - Bonnie: New suggestion: ***Horse/rider teams who are not eligible for placing in the Novice division can ride for mileage only.***
 - Ride managers now have to ask Novice division if they are riding for mileage only. This rule could cause some novice riders to switch to mileage only in mid-year.
- **Other:** *Thirty days after the mailing of the UMECRA newsletter ride results printed therein become official. Errors must be reported to the pointskeeper, ride*



manager and UMECRA secretary within the 30 days. Riders are responsible for checking ride results and points standings. If errors are found after 30 days, the UMECRA executive board, ride manager and pointskeeper must be petitioned in writing by the rider and informed of the error. The secretary will inform the board of the petition. Correct placings and points would be awarded unless intentionally delay of error notification is suspected. This will be considered fraud, and may result in no change in ride results or points awarded. All ride results and points are final 30 days after the publication of the November newsletter.

- Dianne: The 30 days in November could cause issues with the awards committee.
- Robin: This past year, any errors would be on the last ride as everyone did a great job this year as getting points in and riders checking points.
- Peggy: I did not know I needed to get the November issue out quicker; I send it out to the printer and he may not get it out immediately.
- Dianne: I feel we need to 'soften' the "this is a rule" mentality.
- ***If we have a rule, we need to enforce it otherwise we should not have it.***
- Theresa: In looking at other clubs and enforcing rules, I found nothing similar to this rule so I can assume they have nothing in place. Louise's final point standing always had scribbling on them so this is not a new thing in our organization.
- Marty made a motion to accept this rule; Julie seconded: PASSED- move to general meeting
- **Update on 2012 insurance costs**
 - Theresa: The MN DNR is requesting a \$1.5M policy; however with the combination of AERC and UMECRA insurance, this is no longer an issue. Jill made a motion to keep the UMECRA insurance costs the same for 2012 rides. UMECRA will pay for ½ the cost of the daily insurance and the rides will pay for all the additional insured costs. Motion was seconded by Dianne. Passed.
- **Rider Rep – should there be a minimum age limit to be a Rider Rep**
 - **Theresa:** Table until March meeting
- **ICF committee update:** Tony did not have an update but there will be info presented at that March meeting. Rick: as a group, we need to think about the funds in ICF and if we don't use it, we should consider re-appropriating the funds. We do not have any information about ICF on the website; that could contribute to the lack of use of the funds. There was a discussion last year with a rider requesting that fund but it was not approved. Bring any ideas about ICF to the March meeting.
- **Winter ride- Michael Liang** Michael would like to put on a winter ride. Julie suggested if we do that sort of item it should be more of a fun ride. If Michael organizes the ride- would UMECRA sponsor it? Since it is a fun ride and there is no sanctioning involved, the BOD does not need to take any action.



- **Committee reports:**
 - **Membership-** Marty presented a report on membership numbers. Should we compile a list of past members and send out a ride book?
 - A motion was made by Linda to compare the 2010 members to the 2011 members and send a “we miss you” letter along with the 2012 ridebook cover and a membership form. Motion was seconded by Julie: Passed. The membership committee will oversee this project.
- **Ride schedule:**
 - The 2012 ride schedule was approved at the November BOD meeting; however a new ride in ND has requested to sanction with UMECRA on October 6 & 7. The ride is over 500 miles from DRAWARAMA which is on the same weekend. Marty made a motion to accept the new ride; Jill seconded. Passed.
- **By Laws:**
 - No changes with bylaws at this time.
- **Other:**
 - MNDRA will be voting in March on their bylaws. It is very possible, that MNDRA will vote that members will not be required to join UMECRA. The most number of UMECRA members reside in MN; however if the MNDRA bylaws change, those numbers may change.
 - If the majority of members continue to reside in MN, should the corridor for the convention move further west in WI to the LaCrosse area?
 - There is no one hosting the 2014 convention at this time. Dianne volunteered to host it in Rochester, MN. It was pointed out that Rochester is outside the corridor and the convention cannot be put there in 2014. Marty made a motion to ‘waive’ the current corridor rule and to allow Dianne to host the convention in Rochester in 2014. Julie seconded motion: Passed
- Bonnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Linda; Passed

Respectfully submitted

Jill Feller

UMECRA Secretary/Treasurer