UMECRA Board Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jon Wagner at 10:00 am, CDT at the Christmas Mountain Village/Mulligan's Restaurant.

Roll Call/Attendance: Board members in attendance were Maxine Bernsdorf, Sarah Maass, Sandra Wright, Tony Troyer, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Laurie Heschel, Tracy Johnson, Lynda Zimmerman, Wes Elford, Jan Sasena, Peggy Pasillas and Theresa Meyer. Sanctioning Coordinator Joslyn Seefeldt was also in attendance. Sec./Treas. Bruce Birr arrived at 11:10. Guests present were Linda Jacobson, Roberta Harms, Janet Sarver, Kimberly Fosler, Jen Moore and Deb Moe.

Approval of Minutes: The March 2019 BoD minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
Treasurer's Reports: The Treasurer's reports (Profit & Loss, and Balance Sheet) were approved upon a motion by Wes and second by Maxine following a brief discussion about the comparisons of the Balance Sheet totals from November 2018 and November 2019. Differences between the totals ($3000.00 less in 2019) was generally attributed to loss of revenue from the cancellation of two rides and a decrease in ride entries during the 2019 ride season. The P&L and Balance Sheet summaries are attached to the minutes below.

Fees update/review: Bruce provided an update on the payment of ride fees. As of Nov. 6th, there were four rides whose payments hadn't yet been made (3 beyond their due dates and 1 nearing its due date). Bruce indicated that he had recently received the three late payments and was recently informed that the fourth payment was made and that he should receive it soon.

Insurance March BoD Questions: At the March BoD meeting the board asked Jon to follow-up with our insurance company about three additional questions the board had: 1) Can UMECRA send in a ride schedule from a previous year to help or potentially speed up the quoting process? **No**, it needs to be the projected schedule for the upcoming ride season as approved at the Annual meeting. 2) Who is actually covered? The **"club" IE: UMECRA** and its **members** involved in the management of a ride. To be covered you must be a member of UMECRA, the "club". Additional Insured covers property owners*, DNR's, state clubs (AHDRA, DRAW, etc.). To be covered as an additional insured, they must be listed as such on the insurance request form. 3) Does insurance cover set-up and tear-down of a ride? **Yes, IF** set-up and/or tear-down **occurs during the dates listed on insurance request form.**

*****The board requested Jon to follow-up with another question regarding insurance coverage of a "property owner" who is also a UMECRA member.

Insurance Payment Clarifications: Jon and Bruce informed the board that they had received an inquiry from an RM regarding the payment of an "additional insured" she hadn't requested. Jon reported that after reviewing the original quote sheet provided by UMECRA to the insurance company to determine the club's insurance costs, it is likely that a number of RM's may have been inadvertently charged "additional insured" costs they did not request. A motion was made by Theresa to reimburse any RM, by check, for the amount they were over charged as determined by an audit of the original insurance requests sent to UMECRA requesting insurance coverage for the 2019 ride season. The motion was seconded by Peggy and passed by voice vote. Jon, Jos and Bruce will coordinate the auditing of the 2019 insurance request forms and inform the BoD of their results for further discussion and determination of how and when to proceed with any necessary reimbursements.

Secretary's Report: To date there have not been any requests for trail grants. Bruce explained the situation regarding the Upper Michigan Hay Meadow Creek Project where a trail grant that had been approved by the BoD earlier in September and was returned to UMECRA. The project held a fundraiser that eventually exceeded their goal and needs. The grant from UMECRA wasn't needed and was subsequently returned.

Veterinarian's Report: On behalf of a full agenda, Wes yielded his time and indicated we would be talking about vet concerns/thoughts imbedded in other areas of the agenda.

Sanctioning Coordinator's Report:

Appointment of SC and Newsletter Editor: A motion was made by Tony to approve the appointment of Jos to continue as Sanctioning Coordinator, seconded by Peggy and approved by voice vote. A similar motion was made to approve the appointment of Brenna Starch for the position of Newsletter Editor by Peggy, seconded by Lynda and also approved by voice vote.

2020 Ride Schedule: Copies of the 2020 tentative ride schedule were shared and discussed. Jos indicated that she had only received a few sanctioning requests thus far ahead of the Nov. 30th deadline.

Ride Changes/Requests and Rules and Guidelines: Jos has received a number of requests for changes to the schedule. These include date changes, names of rides changing, adding days, and changes in management of several rides. She asked the board for some guidance relative to what constitutes a "new" ride, and if it is ok for a ride manager to give their dates to someone else? After a lengthy discussion the board agreed that all sanctioning requests/changes will continue to be decided in a fair and equitable way based on the established UMECRA Rules/Guidelines. When a concern or issue arises that the Sanctioning Coordinator is unsure of, she'll continue to bring those issues/concerns to the BoD. The BoD will review all sanctioning requests again after the November 30th deadline.

President's Report: The Wisconsin Horse Council has presented a $500.00 award to UMECRA. The money will be used to supplement our own awards this year. Jon shared a copy of a Thank You letter he sent to the Directors of the Wi. Horse Council. He also reminded the board that UMECRA's memberships to the individual state horse councils are due and that they should be forwarded to Bruce.

Committee Reports:

Convention 2020 Update/Review: Kim Fosler gave an update on the 2020 Convention in Stevens Point, Wi. to be held Jan. 17-19, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. She provided a schedule of events for the day and expects all the details of the convention to be up on the website and in the upcoming newsletters soon. Becky Hart will be speaking on Centered Riding and Dr. Maureen Fehrs will speak on Lameness Issues. A convention fee for people attending the speaker/learning sessions and not eating a meal at the banquet was discussed and led to a motion by Theresa that those individuals be charged a $10.00 convention fee. The motion was seconded by Tony and passed on a voice vote.

2021Convention Info: Theresa presented four possible sites for convention 2021 in Minnesota. LaCresent, Red Wing and two on the east side of St. Paul. The LaCresent venue was favored by the board and will be held on one of the last three weekends in January 2021.

Awards Committee: The board discussed the giving of "gift certificates" as awards in replacement of the awards selected by the awards committee for Top Ten Awards. A motion was made by Tracy, seconded by Jan, that UMECRA should offer the embroidered jackets and one other item that Robin picks that ***is not*** a gift card or gift certificate. Motion passed on voice vote.

Old Business:

LD Points Proposal: The board has decided not to forward this proposal to the membership after determining that the proposal ultimately wouldn't meet the expectations contained in the proposal. Jon thanked Roberta Harms for her efforts in coming up with the initiative and thanked Deb Moe for her data/additional number crunching. The board will continue to discuss the possibilities of weight divisions in LD as a proposal.

Out of Region Rides: The board will continue to discuss/review this potential proposal via the BoD Yahoo account for now. No action was taken at this time by the board.

Gate and Go Rules Change: A motion to approve the proposed changes to Endurance Rule 9 and to forward said changes to the membership for voting at the Annual Meeting was made by Theresa, seconded by Laurie. Motion was approved by voice vote with one nay vote (Tony).

Proposed rule change: *End. Rule 9.* ***The "gate into a hold" type check is ~~mandatory at all vet checks.~~ highly recommended at all vet checks. Other checks may be used as described in The Guidelines for Control Judges and Treatment Veterinarian's at AERC Endurance Competitions. The "pulse and go" is also recommended if a hold is to be avoided. A horse is held until a set pulse parameter is met and the horse is trotted out to check for lameness.***

A. *A rider entering a vet check must present his horse for p/r's at any time within 30 minutes.*
B. *Horses passing the P/R parameters shall remain at the check area for the time specified, ~~but a minimum of 20 minutes.~~* ***However, a rider and horse may voluntarily extend their hold time if desired. Regardless of hold length, the overall ride time remains the same.***

Sec. /Treas. Position Split: The splitting of this position was discussed and committee work will continue on how to best separate the duties of these positions. It was noted that any splitting of the Sec./Treas. position will involve bylaw changes to the language relating to the Sec./Treas. position. Nicole has volunteered to take over duties relating to membership.

In-hand Trot Outs: A brief discussion about in-hand trot outs was held with the general consensus being that the current rules are sufficient.

Attitude and Fatigue Separation: A motion to split Fatigue and Attitude into two separate 20-point scoring sections on the Comp score sheet was made by Tony and seconded by Tracy. Motion approved by voice vote with one nay vote (Peggy). Wes will present rationale at Annual Meeting. Nicole will make necessary changes to score sheet.

RM Support Meetings: Peggy, Sarah and Laurie, shared copies of a Ride Management Timeline they put together with the board/guests. Feedback and initial responses were all positive. They'd like everyone to continue to review their work and forward any suggestions/additions to them.

Safe Sport: AERC sanctioned rides are requiring someone involved with the management of an AERC ride be certified in the Safe Sport Program. This would include all UMECRA rides that hold an endurance ride. Jon recommends some type of notice be written up for a future newsletter to help ensure all RM's are aware of this requirement and how to get certified.

Clarifications of Sponging: Lynda asked for some clarification about Comp Rule 3-E regarding sponging. Following discussion by the board, a motion was made by Lynda to add the **bolded** sentence to Comp Rule 3-E: *Natural water only is allowed on the trail.* ***Drinking and sponging are allowed in natural water, whether puddles, creeks, lakes or that which is declared by ride management to be natural water.*** *Drinking water only is allowed at rest stops. A horse shall not be denied drinking water from a bucket and/or other approved source at a scheduled vet check. Horses may be* *sponged after the final vet check. Depending on ambient conditions, veterinary judges may allow sponging at all vet checks.* (2018) Motion was seconded by Peggy and the motion passed by voice vote. The rule change proposal will move to the Annual Meeting for general membership approval.

New Business:

Data Integrity: Nicole discussed with the board the need for data integrity (horse and rider numbers, complete filling of results, etc.) by ride managers when submitting ride results. Submitting ride results without accurate and/or incomplete data causes extra work and time for Robin and Nicole to record results. The BoD agreed that this concern needs to be addressed at the March board meeting.

Rider Rep Voting: Jon will ask Bill Suskey to set-up e-mail voting procedures again for the 2020 Rider Rep voting.

Updating Mentor List: A review of the current list of available mentor's indicates the list needs to be up-dated. If you know of someone willing to be a mentor to another rider, have them contact Nicole and she will add them to the list.

20,000 Mile Rider Award: The board was reminded about this prestigious award (last given in 2001) and after discussion a motion was made by Jan and seconded by Tony that that an individual plaque be awarded to future recipients. The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

Comp Ride Times: No official action was taken considering the determination of Comp ride times as the board feels they are spelled out in the rules. It was however, reiterated that barring unusual circumstances, the maximum riding speed shall average 5.5 to 7 miles per hour when determining ride time.

Annual Meeting Procedures: Board consensus was to retain the same meeting procedures used last year for this year's annual meeting.

2020 Elections: President, Vet Rep, Wi. and Mn. Reps, and the four Rider Rep positions are open for the 2020 elections. Lynda, Jan and Wes indicated they are not running for re-election.

Hall of Fame/Shining Light Award: The board moved to closed session (2:59 p.m.) to discuss the nominations for the Hall of Fame and Shining Light Awards.

Announcements: No one will be doing the Mn. Horse Expo in 2020.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned on approval of a motion by Wes, second Tony, at 3:17 p.m.

/s/ Bruce A. Birr (with thanks to Theresa for taking minutes up to my late arrival)