Upper Midwest Endurance and Competitive Rides Association, Inc.

Board of Director Meeting

JANUARY 18, 2025

Holiday Inn & Suites Madison West, Madison WI

Present: Deb Moe, Robin Schadt, Nicole Mauser-Storer, Sarah Mowrer, Sarah Maass, Peggy Pasillas, Kim Fosler, Karen Jarvi, Theresa Meyer, Barb Gardner, Janet Sarver, Crystal Esqueda, Debby Weisbecker, Sherry Aune, Dr. Alana McNutt, Emily Schupp

7:00am Meeting officially called to order by Robin Schadt

Minutes from the board meeting November 16, 2024 were approved.

Secretary report - Janet Sarver presented a trail grant request for $500 for Early Bird Ride. This request was approved.

Treasurer report – Deb Moe stated that UMECRA ended the year with $1400 net income. Assets continue to grow and there is no outstanding debt. Quickbooks online is working well to get financial information from Stripe online payments which makes accounting more streamlined overall. Membership is 291 paid members, 39 new paid members and 18 new clinic members. Treasurer is now able to generate invoices and take ACH payments directly from a bank account to try to reduce the 3% fee charge. The insurance fee for rides will remain the same. Clinic insurance will be covered by UMECRA if the clinic by January 30 each year. Motion made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded. Report approved.

Committees

<u>Vet Committee</u> - Dr. McNutt introduced the topic of what vets are paid by different rides in different states. Sarah Maass stated there is a new AERC rule that all ride veterinarians need to pay $45 for AERC membership. Ride managers need to ensure this happens or results may not be honored. This will be researched and brought to the spring meeting. Deb Moe stated that in regards to standardized vet fees, private rides do not need to report their vet payments. Information will be gathered to discussed in the April meeting.

<u>Rules Committee</u> – Theresa Meyer reviewed the rule change proposals that will be discussed at the general meeting. 1) Final ride results need to be reviewed by riders the day before Thanksgiving. After that will be no changes. 2) Equine inhumane treatment rule revision – everyone will be accountable for equine welfare, not just ride managers and vets. 3) Complaint procedure – a

missed a step in the process that will be clarified that the complainant will notify a board member who will notify the president. The president will then notify the board.

Awards – Jan Sasena stated that the embroidery process for the awards went well. Jacket prices did have an increase.

Awards Committee – Sarah Maass will bring ideas from this committee at the April board meeting.

Technology Committee – This is a new committee. Purpose will be the rebuilding of the UMECRA website to make it more user friendly. The committee can explore technology that might be helpful for ride managers and general membership such as Ride with GPS, spreadsheets that get sent to ride manager etc. This committee will not include social media. Nicole Mauser-Storer and Deb Moe have met a couple times and will set up more meetings after convention. A couple volunteers have been found for the committee.

2026 Convention – Minnesota is hosting. Theresa Meyer attempted to get proposals for a location but has had difficulty is in getting responses from the hotels. She will ask for volunteers to assist in this process.

Old Business

Protest Investigation Process – Janet Sarver will present a draft through the IO account to be discussed at the Spring meeting.

Ride manager code of conduct – paused at this time

International Competitions – no changes to report

Ride Calendar - Theresa Meyer presented the draft of the 2025 UMECRA Ride Calendar. Rides that are paused for 2025 still need to pay sanctioning fees to hold their calendar spot for 2026. Discussion of how to set up a clear process for accounting. Review of rides. Need to ensure that out of region rides are using UMECRA forms. Motion to approve the draft, seconded and approved.

New Business

T-shirt inventory – first ride t-shirts inventory to be bought from Lucy's Embroidery. The first ride tshirt form will be revised.

Bookkeeper position - Deb Moe proposed to divide the duties of Treasurer between the elected Treasurer and a new, non-voting, Board appointed Bookkeeper position. The Bookkeeper would handle the transactional and accounting functions with access as an authorized signer to the UMECRA bank accounts. The Treasurer position will oversee the financials for the club and make the reports to the board. Robin Schadt stated that the bylaws allow for this Bookkeeper volunteer role to be created. Motion to approve creation of a non-voting Bookkeeper position with Jessica Sonnek appointed into the role. Seconded. Discussion. Approved.

Elections

The following positions are up for election:

Vice President

Treasurer

Illinois Director

Michigan Director

Director at Large

Director at Large

Appointments: Newsletter and sanctioning coordinator positions are open. Motion made and seconded for Maria Eischens to take over the sanctioning coordinator position from Theresa Meyer. Approved. There were no volunteers to take over the newsletter so Peggy Pasillas will continue to do this role.

Other business: Discussion of how to streamline and update rider manager to do lists, communication about award forms, reviewing the website information, creation of ride forms and veterinarian list.

8:45am Meeting adjourned by Robin Schadt

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Sarver

UMECRA Secretary