

NATRC National BOD Minutes November 13, 2021, via Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 9:02 a.m. CST November 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Bill Wingle, Laurie DiNatale, Elaine Swiss, Kim Murphy, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Marla Stucky, John Zeliff and Sarah J. Smith, Executive Director. Also attending: Beni DeMattei, R2 Alternate, Cathy Cumberworth, R3 Alternate, Sallie Kudra, R5 Alternate, Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair.

MINUTES. July 10, 2021. **Motion by Gray, second by Walls to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff. Talked about low number of rides and ridership in 2021. We need to continue to focus on how we build this back up. It is more important than anything (even membership) at the moment. Elections for new and returning national directors that have occurred were announced; R1 Director Angie Meroshnekoff, R3 Director Cathy Cumberworth, R4 Director Fran Muench, and R6 Alternate Director Margaret Reynolds. (R2 Director Bob Insko and R5 Alternate Director Sallie Kudra reported later).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Working on some additional member benefits; one is an "on the horse" medical coverage program for accidents while riding in competition or recreationally. Currently working out annual member pricing similar to our platinum liability upgrades and also a per day per person event pricing that could be built into entry fees if affordable. A final proposal will be shared with the board in December.

JUDGES COMMITTEE SPECIAL PRESENTATION. Dr. Keri Riddick and Dr. Carrie Porter-Stoddard. Trends on judging issues were presented along with proposed needs and solutions. Proposed adjustments to scoring, scorecard language, judges training and general judging standards were shared. It is more structured and more clear cut. Stucky suggested an informational webinar for members about the changes. **Motion to implement the task force recommendations and program by Swiss, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray. Currently at a minor loss. Virtual challenge participation was down. Ridership and sponsorships are down. Memberships however are up. Gray will prepare the 2022 budget proposal for the December meeting.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Wingle.

Rule Proposal – Change the start of the ride year to December 1. Through discussion the motion was adjusted to read the ride year ends the last Sunday in November rather than starts December 1. **Motion to carry forward the amended proposal by Insko, second by Walls. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Combine Division Classes. Two options were proposed.

- Option 1. Emergency rule proposal to combine weight classes for 2022 was discussed. Redefine limit for lightweight class so all riders would effectively be lightweight. With little competition in weight classes, it is hard to keep people joining and coming to rides when it is difficult to get points and qualify for national awards. Meroshnekoff questioned if we can implement as an emergency. The Rule Book allows the board to add divisions, but even that seems vague. Meroshnekoff expressed concerns about circumventing our rule proposal system and bypassing membership input for emergency purposes is the major issue on the table. **Wingle made the motion to carry forward the proposal to combine weight classes on a temporary basis for 2022, Swiss seconded. Wingle, Stucky, Zeliff, Murphy, Swiss and Gray voted in favor. Dieterich, Walls, Insko, Diaguila, and DiNatale opposed. Meroshnekoff voted opposed to tie the motion. Motion failed.**
- Option 2. Weight classes would be combined based on an analysis of ride participation in the divisions. Although administering the rule could be in Policies and Procedures rather than the Rule Book, the implementation would be complicated, and we really need to keep it simple.

- Discussion led to option 3 to simply remove all lightweight and heavyweight language and have a single adult class. The board would re-evaluate and decide on weight classes or not each year. Bill will work on the necessary wording and send after this meeting.

Rule Proposal – Sweepstakes points would be based on the number of starters in the division rather than on the number of starters in the largest class. **Motion to carry forward by Insko, second by Wingle. Insko, Murphy, Swiss and Wingle voted in favor to carry forward. Gray abstained. Dieterich, Zeliff, Walls, Stucky, Diaguila and DiNatale opposed. Motion failed.**

Rule Proposal – Novice and LeD Adult Eligibility Consistency. The proposal would remove discrepancies and the requirement to maintain two separate lists. Not only is it a challenge for the data team, it's confusing for riders and ride managers. **Motion to carry forward by Walls, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Lower the age of Junior Leisure Division competitors to 8. **Motion by Wingle, second by Diaguila to carry forward. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Junior Leisure Division Class Eligibility. Adds language on minimum age eligibility to Section 4 D 1. **Motion by Insko, second by Wingle to carry forward. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Junior eligibility to compete in the Adult or Experienced Leisure Division. **Motion by Insko, second by Diaguila to carry forward. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Junior Competitor Supervision. Riders 12 and under must have an adult sponsor or a Junior sponsor with more than 250 miles. **Motion by Diaguila, second by Wingle to carry forward. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Adjust scorecard language from Trail Ability & Manners to Maneuvering Trail/Behavior. From the "Trends in NATRC (Horse Scoring) Task Force. **Motion by Dieterich, second by Walls to carry forward. Motion carried.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. There are no action items at this time.

PROTEST. Stucky. One protest was filed and the committee is being formed now.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. Nothing happening while we are stagnant. We are continuing to accept donations in lieu of flowers or other contributions.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. No new updates.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Report filed. Starting to get 2022 sanctions in. Asking regional coordinators to help and get rides on the calendar even with tentative dates.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. Report filed. One clinic was held since July.

MANAGEMENT. Swiss. Trails and timeliness continue to be an issue. Keeping things on time is very important as a manager and is one of the things that can be relatively controlled. If you can keep on top of trail markings and timeliness, it makes a lot of things go right.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. Report filed. 42 events held; 10 cancelled events due to a variety of reasons. Several safety events have occurred over the past few months - most resulting in the need for clearer policy (i.e. dangerous equine policy and dog policy).

MARKETING/SOCIAL MEDIA. Gray/LeeAnn Dreadfulwater/Jonni Jewell. Gray said they need help on the marketing team to help with Facebook and other aspects. The marketing team is still doing free advertising and no paid ads at this time.

BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS. Gray. Report rolled into the financials.

SPONSORSHIPS. Shari Parys. No report.

MEDIA/HOOF PRINT ADVISORY. Dieterich. Dieterich still needs someone to assume the duties but has not found anyone to take it on. Laurie Knuutila's Hoof Print editor contract is due for renewal. **Motion to renew the contract by Dieterich, second by Walls. Motion carried.**

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Perryman. No report.

FOUNDATION. Conner. No changes for the Foundation. The annual meeting will be at the national convention in February. Foundation members are senior directors Meroshnekoff, Insko, Wingle, Murphy, Diaguila, and Stucky. At large members are Conner, Mary Jo Malone and Laurie Knuutila.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. Unfortunately, the drug testing tubes had expired and it wasn't caught until it was too late to conduct fall drug testing. The new tubes have been ordered at no cost to NATRC and we are ready for the new season.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. The committee made a proposal to allow for sunscreen products in the drug appendices because it continues to come up. **Motion to amend the drug appendices to allow sunscreen products by Walls, second by Murphy. Motion carried.** The committee inquired if the board would like them to seek and present evidence-based data on the use of low dose maintenance omeprazole for competitive horses for possible allowance in the future. AERC currently allows a low maintenance dose. **Motion to ask committee to research by Walls, second by Insko. Motion carried.**

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. DiNatale. No applications. Gray stated she will likely have an application for the St. Stephens ride location as the trails were in really bad shape. The site has a lot of potential but needs a lot of work.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. A great deal of time and effort has been made to focus on educating and supporting Leisure Division judges in addition to adding to their pool of resources. Several Zoom meetings have been held for training throughout the year,

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. Zelif. An updated membership form has been completed. Zelif stated an article will be done for *Hoof Print* regarding multi-region membership to clarify how it works as there seems to be some confusion around it. Smith suggested a membership drive with time-based incentives to encourage people to renew. Smith suggested a NATRC jacket for renewals by November 30, Wingle offered a \$50 gift card for renewals by December 30 and Gray offered a Custom Ink item for renewals by January 30. **Motion to implement the renewal incentive program by Diaguila, second by Walls. Motion carried.**

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls. Report filed. The committee is working on Leisure Division updates and scorecard revisions. Horsemanship judge Norma Newton has met the criteria for reinstatement by successfully judging a ride as a provisional. The committee recommends reinstatement. **Walls made a motion to reinstate Newton, Wingle seconded. Motion carried.** Fran Muench applied and has met the criteria to become a horsemanship judge apprentice. **Motion to move Muench to apprentice status by Walls, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.** The committee recommends provisional veterinary judge Verona Chaffin, DVM be approved as a full veterinary judge. **Motion to approve Chaffin as a veterinary judge by Walls, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**

HALL OF FAME. Smith. Meroshnekoff submitted an application for her horse, Desert Reinbeau. Wingle shared stats and comparisons of past winners. Desert Reinbeau has an impressive history both in and out of the sport. **Motion to accept the nomination by Diaguila, second by Walls. Motion carried.**

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Kay Gunckel. No new applications. Hannah Steele's scholarship (\$1,000) has been sent to her school.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS. Stucky. Preparing to work on year-end award communications with the breed organizations.

AHA. Insko. No update. Insko will not be attending the annual AHA meeting due to expense.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Nominations due by November 21 with ballots to the board prior to the December 7 meeting for voting.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. Omaha. February 25-27, 2022. Zelif stated there are a lot of activities planned and information is available on our website. Reservations can already be made online. Currently seeking vendors, sponsors and silent auction items. The convention committee would like to get gift baskets with locally unique items from each region for the silent auction. Also seeking ride entry donations, premier parking passes etc.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1 – Meroshnekoff – regional convention not yet scheduled. Five rides set for 2022 with the potential for six. R2 – Insko – five rides in 2021, and the last ride had a great turn out. Planning for the same rides in 2022. R3 – Wingle – four confirmed rides for 2022 with four more probable. Cathy Cumberworth is the newly elected director. R4 – Murphy - full slate of rides in 2021 and a full calendar of rides planned in 2022. Doing their regional convention in conjunction with the Scamper ride. Fran Muench is the newly elected director. R5 – Diaguila – Georgia ride had 27 LeD riders which was great. Currently 12 A/B rides on the 2022 calendar with four stand-alone LeD. Mini convention will be in March. R6 – Stucky – still very low attendance at rides. Several rides planned next year so hoping for a better season.

SHARED BOARD – No shared board.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Dangerous Horse Policy – final wording discussed. **Motion by Walls to accept pending final review by Denise Farris, second by Wingle. Motion carried.**
2. Webinars. Wingle is proposing five webinars for 2022. Could use assistance rounding up potential topics and presenters for the year.
3. Virtual Challenges. Zelif shared a proposal for using the Top Trail program for the 2022 virtual mileage program. It would be at no cost to NATRC to use the platform and it would allow for instant results and tracking for members participating. Meroshnekoff added Zelif to the VC Committee and directed that the proposal be turned over to the committee for review, discussion and a decision on implementation.

NEW BUSINESS.

1. Dog Policy. The final policy was presented to the board. The section regarding service dogs and identification vests in restricted areas was amended to read “requested” rather than “required”. **Motion to accept the policy with amended wording by Wingle, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Treasurer. Diaguila nominated Kris Gray. No other nominations. Gray elected by acclamation. Vice President. Diaguila nominated Bill Wingle. No other nominations. Wingle elected by acclamation. President. Meroshnekoff nominated John Zelif. No other nominations. Zelif elected by acclamation.

Next monthly meeting will be December 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. CST. Next full board meeting will be February 24, 2022. **Motion by Walls to adjourn, second by Wingle. Approved. Meeting adjourned.**