

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

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 9:06 a.m. February 13, 2021.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Bill Wingle, Laurie DiNatale, Cara Liebman (R4 Alternate), Kim Murphy, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray, Marla Stucky, John Zeliff and Sarah Rinne, Executive Director. Also attending: Patsy Conner, Sanction Chair, Andrea Rogers, Donna Stidolph, R1 Alternate, and Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair.

MINUTES. February 13, 2021. **Walls moved to approve the minutes. Diaguila seconded. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff. Shared the state of the sport and rides. She discussed a recent email discussion about leg wraps and the need to review our philosophies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Rinne. Shared current renewal numbers as of Feb 5, 2021. Renewals are steady. Resolving website issues resulting from changing to January 1 renewal date. Rinne requested to roll the Insurance Report into the Executive Director's report since both are covered and managed by Rinne. Board agreed to roll them into one. Provided updated insurance information to both Directors and Officers (D&O) and ride insurance policies. D&O carrier now covered by Traveler's (previously Philadelphia), is now brokered by Equisure instead of Mountain Plains with no rate change. We are actually getting more policy for the money, including an added theft and vandalism policy.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Would like to present monthly financials so we can stay on top of our cash flow. Memberships - \$30,000 income to date. Believes the virtual challenges helped with this. Rider fees/drug fees down due to few rides. \$10,460 in revenue for the virtual challenges to date (not including income from memberships related to virtual challenges). Discussed expense from the virtual challenges. *Hoof Print* expense will change with the elimination of the print copy. Loss of \$3,500 for 2020 which isn't bad considering the disruptions due to COVID. We had budgeted a loss of \$24,000, so we came out much better than expected.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Wingle. No bylaws changes.

Rule Proposal – Make date of determination of junior age consistent. More of a clarification on family memberships. No discussion.

Rule Proposal – Allow membership in multiple regions. Question about impact on President's Cup. Dieterich wonders if we should clarify wording for PC regarding primary region membership and secondary. Diaguila said a possible clarification could be to state you must ride in two or more regions. It would eliminate the implied membership component. Walls stated you could add the word "domicile" in front of region to clarify "home" region. Agreed to table wording changes around regional clarification to 2022 if needed. Under awards section. No changes. Dieterich suggested we take time to review potential clarifications over the next year since we can't change it now. Meroshnekoff stated it could be a rule clarification for the fall. **Walls moved to accept the amended wording ("inform the NATRC Executive Director of which region(s) s/he is" ...), Wingle seconded. Motion carried.**
Walls moved to change s/he to rider in Section 1 B 5. Diaguila seconded. Motion carried.

Rule Proposal – Correcting region definitions with the Canadian territories. Clarification, no discussion. No changes.

Rule Proposal – Clarify limitations for Novice Division. No discussion or changes.

Rule Proposal – Two proposal options for lowering the age of Junior competitors. Meroshnekoff discussed ages and the need for adult sponsor. Gray inquired what would be the appropriate age for requiring an adult sponsor? Meroshnekoff stated at this time there is no requirement in our sport that a junior have an adult sponsor. Gray said she thinks it would be good to have an age requirement for being

supervised by an adult during the ride. Meroshnekoff personally believes any rider 10 and under should be required to have a sponsor on the trail. Wingle stated we could still adjust this language. Gray thinks it is important to add this language, and that it might help it to pass. Consensus that adding language regarding juniors 12 and under must ride with an adult sponsor is necessary. Rinne pointed out language should reflect "riders" 12 and under rather than "juniors" or you could have a 10-year-old sign up to ride Novice Lightweight, for example, and ride without a sponsor. Changing language to "rider" would eliminate that loophole. **Diaguila moved to amend the wording to reflect riders 12 and under are required to have an adult sponsor on the trail. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal – Clarify leg protection allowed in DO and Leisure. No changes.

Rule Proposal – Allowing additional leg gear during stabling. Clarify that protective devices on the trail are only allowed in Distance Only and Leisure Division. Meroshnekoff inquired if we should add a statement to Section 5. E. 6. to clarify that no prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks (see Drug Appendices). **Gray moved to accept the amended wording (No prohibited substances are allowed in conjunction with the application of wraps or socks. See drug appendices.). Wingle seconded. Motion carried.**

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. In the Foundation, we proposed to elect directors in February as opposed to November. Bev Roberts has been working to clarify breed partner program. Wingle had a question about 15b. (Foundation) regarding annual Foundation board meetings held at the time of the annual NBOD meeting. Walls stated the annual meeting is already defined legally. Dieterich said the annual meeting is defined as the spring meeting. **Walls moved to approve changes. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.**

PROTEST. Lori Allen. No protests.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. No report. No changes to existing status of Planned and Charitable Giving.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Conner came across the company that offered to scan all of our documents. It was going to cost about \$600. Company would pick up the boxes, scan and return the boxes. Conner is requesting permission to go back to this company to follow up on the possibility of pursuing this again.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Rides have applied for sanction with reservation. Meroshnekoff asked if managers need to do anything in particular regarding the rollover of sanction fees. Rinne stated most rides rolled over their fees, but managers just need to notify her of fee status. Very few requested reimbursements in 2020. Conner asked about adjustments to P & R protocol in order to accommodate COVID safety precautions; for example, have a P&R in camp to avoid transporting teams. It was agreed that making exceptions for safety is simply a good judgment call given the circumstances. Wingle stated there are 43 rides planned for 2021.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. No report.

MANAGEMENT. Swiss. Report filed, no discussion.

RULES INTERPRETER. Wingle. Report filed. It was suggested to merge the Rules Interpreter and Safety Chair Report into one role and one report. Agreed that it made sense to merge the two but have it listed as Rules Interpreter and Safety so that it is not overlooked.

INSURANCE. Rinne. Covered; merging with Executive Director's report on future agendas.

SAFETY. Swiss. This will be merged with the Rules Interpreter report and duties.

E-NEWS. Kim Murphy. Report filed. Difficulties with RMS communication regarding rides and clinics still going to Jean Green instead of to Kim. Murphy requested that ride managers have reminders to let Kim know about ride info so an E-News can go out when rides open for registration.

MARKETING/Social Media. Gray/LeeAnn Dreadfulwater/Jonni Jewell. Report filed. Gray indicated that free marketing on Facebook has been a good option. Social media will be a part of marketing since it is virtually one in the same. Discussion about the plan to do a fundraiser with Custom Ink. Gray stated that is still the plan.

BUSINESS MODEL & MEASUREMENTS. Gray. Gray asked if this should be rolled into the Treasurer's Report. Board agreed this is captured in the Treasurer's report due to the structure of reporting that Gray has implemented.

SPONSORSHIPS. Shari Parys. No report. No changes.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich. Report filed. Need materials for Hoof Print. Members like to know what's going on, and it keeps people engaged.

RIDERS AND JUNIORS. Perryman. No update.

FOUNDATION. Conner. Foundation meeting will follow this national board meeting. Appears to be no changes to senior board members, but the national board does need to vote to reelect Mary Jo Malone to the Foundation board and also identify and vote to elect each senior member to the board. **Walls moved to elect senior directors Angie Meroshnekoff – R1, Bob Inkso –R2, Bill Wingle – R3, Elaine Swiss – R4, Esther Diaguila – R5, and Marla Stucky – R6 to the Foundation board. Dieterich seconded. Motion carried. Walls moved to reelect Mary Jo Malone as member at large. Dieterich seconded. Motion carried.** Foundation board to meet following NBOD meeting.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. Report filed. More rides on the schedule for this year, so she is building the drug testing schedule as well. We will be able to use the new custom drug testing panel this year.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. Report filed. Dieterich said there is still discussion in the committee about the use of maintenance dose Omeprazole. The question is if it is detectable between levels. Murphy asked if there is something else we can ask for. The Veterinary Drug Committee would need to determine what level is considered therapeutic versus maintenance level.

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. DiNatale. No trail grant applications. Meroshnekoff has become a certified sawyer with BCHA. Meroshnekoff stated all of their trail work is unfunded.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. Report filed. The Riders Manual is done and online. Questions have come up about printing it. It was decided a long time ago that it would not be printed, however a region inquired about printing it on their own. The RM committee determined with it being a national publication that it shouldn't be locally printed and charged for. Dieterich said it's hard to regulate independent printing, Gray believes for printing purposes we need to manage it nationally for consistency in quality and expense. Meroshnekoff is comfortable with the board taking the position that it is national's responsibility for printing and rights to printing. Gray said we shouldn't tie up the capital on this right now.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. Zeliff. We have an official active national membership committee with a representative from each region. Updated the national membership chair description, and now the committee is identifying goals and putting together a list of resources to share amongst regions.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Lory Walls. Report filed. We have a running discussion on the compression socks and leg wraps. Walls said they are working to put together an online training for judges. Walls needs a vote to allow virtual challenge judging to qualify as criteria for horsemanship judges ongoing

education. **Wingle moved to approve the renewal criteria. Murphy seconded. Motion carried.** Walls brought up the need to pay attention to the minimum requirements for LeD judges.

HALL OF FAME. Rinne. No applicants.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Kay Gunckel. Application submitted by Hannah Steele for a scholarship. Dieterich shared the application with the board. Although she's not going into an animal science field, she's an excellent candidate. Inkso said \$1,000 per year is reasonable for non-animal science fields, \$2,000 for animal science fields. **Inkso moved to approve \$1,000 for Hannah Steele. Wingle seconded. Motion carried.**

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS. Stucky. Report filed. Not much to report since we didn't have awards for 2020. She will be in touch with our breed organizations about 2021.

AHA. Insko. No update. Did not attend the virtual convention due to expense.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Certificates were printed and mailed to recipients.

TECHNOLOGY. Andrea Rogers/Wingle. Report filed. How much do we want accessible about member and past data? How much do we want locked down? Appears to be confusion about what would be shared. Meroshnekoff asked what member info is actually visible that we wouldn't want shared? Rinne stated what we currently share is similar to AERC and other organizations. No personal data is actually shared. General consensus that what is shared currently is not problematic, but making sure someone has to have a log-in to access certain information is reasonable. In Rogers report, issues with Novice limitations and Novice eligibility reporting has inconsistencies with the wording of the rules.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. 2022 convention is still planned for Omaha, NE February 25-27. Committee will be starting to meet again this month and work on plans.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1 - Meroshnekoff. Nothing set now, but five rides are proposed, with possibly two more. Everything is hinged on COVID restrictions. R2 - Insko. No rides on schedule yet, but hoping to have at least one to two LeD with maybe one Type A ride. R3 - Wingle. Four rides on the schedule with dates. A few more rides in the works. A couple of LeD in preliminary planning. R4 - Murphy. Rolling ahead with rides and a regional convention. Convention at Marker Cellars. Eleven to 12 rides scheduled with two in Louisiana where we haven't had rides for years. R5 - Diaguila. NYR had to be canceled due to COVID and low ridership. The schedule is up in the air right now. Some rides could happen if they could find managers. R6 - Stucky. Twelve rides on the schedule. One will be a "border war" to encourage regional teams to compete and get more people involved. Two clinics planned in May and a booth planned for Equifest the first weekend in March. Working on national convention also. Five or six standard rides on the calendar with seven Leisure rides. Still several locations that are possible but need managers.

SHARED BOARD – No shared board.

Meroshnekoff said we need to discuss voting rights for members declaring membership in multiple regions. Inkso believes if a member is paying two full fees that they should get two full votes. Wingle thinks the fee should be reduced, and only one vote as it is now. Cover the cost of the additional regional membership plus a little extra administratively. Gray believes it will be extra work for national and also an extra expense for awards potentially. Meroshnekoff suggested they would still get their domicile region vote, but not a vote in each extra region. The additional regional memberships outside of domicile region could be identified as "competing non-voting memberships". **Wingle moved that for a member to be a member of an additional region, the charge will be 50% of their original competing membership. Walls seconded. Motion carried. Wingle moved that the additional regional competing memberships are non-voting at national and regional levels. Walls seconded. Motion carried.**

Board discussed discontinuing in person July and November meetings, and only meet in person for national convention. Meroshnekoff proposed Zoom meetings going forward.

Next full board meeting will be July 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Stucky moved to adjourn. Gray seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.