

NATRC National BOD Minutes July 14, 2018, Kansas City, MO

CALL TO ORDER by President Angie Meroshnekoff, 8:02 a.m., July 14, 2018.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Alternate Linda Thomason, Mary Jo Malone, Alternate Lory Walls, Bill Wingle, Kay Gunckel, Alternate Elaine Swiss, Gayle Muench, Bill Moore, Esther Diaguila, Shari Parys and Mary Hanson. Sarah Rinne, Executive Director. John Zeliff, Carolyn Mills, Hannah Clark, Operation NATRC Development Committee members and Ruth Mesimer, Honorary and Appreciation Chair, guests.

MINUTES. February 8, 2018. **Gunckel moved to accept the minutes as recorded, Moore seconded. Motion approved.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Meroshnekoff talked about the need to keep in mind goals of our progressive committee when considering rule proposals and all business moving forward. It is critical we don't spin our wheels and make sure to act on the things we need to move forward as an organization.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Rinne. Membership numbers continue to decline. The time to act is now; we can't discuss needs at meetings and not follow through. Technology needs to be improved as none of our systems communicate. It is cumbersome and not user friendly.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Muench. See Treasurer's Report in this issue.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Parys. See Rule Proposals in this issue.

POLICY & PROCEDURE. Dieterich. Report filed.

PLANNED & CHARITABLE GIVING. Swiss. "In lieu of flowers" is still in the works however, it is on hold until committee work is in place and NATRC direction is known.

HISTORIAN REPORT. Conner. Meroshnekoff will pick up the boxes of historical documentation from Joan Throgmorton and get them to Conner possibly in Reno at national convention.

SANCTION REPORT. Conner, report filed. Noted that mileage is missing from rides. Wingle and Rinne stated it is from rules interpreters not submitting maps with the reports. There was discussion about ride managers switching out at the last minute so they can ride, which could be a liability. It also makes it difficult to determine who is accountable during the ride. Moore believes the manager is the manager and there shouldn't be a cross over. Swiss stated all of the paperwork should reflect the person who is officially managing the weekend of the ride, even if a "phantom" manager does much of the work behind the scenes. Meroshnekoff stated we need to communicate this to our management whether it's by email or in the ride packet. It was determined Conner will need to follow up and confirm expectations around management changes when the sanction is approved to ensure the person managing the weekend of the ride is the one on the official paperwork.

CLINIC SANCTION. Linda Clayton. No new clinic sanctions received.

MANAGEMENT REPORT. Hanson. Ride Management Facebook group was created and has generated good discussion. She suggested it be an open group, rather than closed as there is little discussion that would be regarded as private. Discussion occurred on the Good Samaritan rule but couldn't locate it to put it into writing. Equisure wants us to track any volunteers over the age of 75 in order for them to be covered under the accident policy. They are covered for liability, but not accident/injury. **Moore moved we add a provision on our worker liability form to include a statement and check box acknowledging the statement regarding no accident coverage over the age of 75. Diaguila seconded. Motion carried.**

RULES INTERPRETER REPORT. Wingle. 22 rides completed to date, but missing four rules interpreter reports. Hold times have been averaging in the 10 to 15-minute range with the longest being 25. Ten accident reports have been received to date, but none were major injury accidents. Wingle stated we need to tighten down qualifications for horses and riders to be safety. Judging issues were addressed that were delivered via riders through rules interpreters. All of these issues need to be delivered to the judge's committee for discussion and action. Thomason suggested that a RI bullet point checklist be given to the RI with the rule book and report would be helpful.

INSURANCE. Rinne. Assets and liabilities policy with Mountain Plains Agency renewed.

SAFETY REPORT. Vacant. Meroshnekoff stated we still do not have a Safety Chair. She would like to see the Safety Chair collect accident report data, review it, analyze it and report on it. They also need to educate on accident prevention. Swiss stated she would accept the position of being Safety Chair. She stated one of the biggest liabilities is unqualified safety riders. We need higher expectations of our safety riders who are responsible for rider/horse wellbeing. Horses that are unfit/unsafe to do the job are being used at too many rides. Meroshnekoff made the appointment of Swiss official.

E-NEWS. Jean Green. Several E-News have gone out on various topics to members, riders, and ride management. Very timely and well done.

MARKETING. Dieterich/Roberts. We need to remember as we move forward, to acknowledge the work done. Margaret Reynolds recommended that even with a marketing specialist on board, that there is still a marketing liaison on the board. Reynolds recommended the marketing person is on as a contracted party or company, and possibly moved to permanent

employment with the organization if appropriate. Hiring a company would be more expensive than hiring a sole proprietor. A job description has been provided to the committee. **Swiss made a motion to approve the \$24,000 marketing expenditure, seconded by Parys.** Meroshnekoff proposed we make the Operation NATRC committee official and have them also as a marketing committee going forward, with Reynolds as the designated chair. **Swiss withdrew her initial motion.** Reynolds proposed the current committee remain in place, and the board approve our subcommittees led by core Operation NATRC committee members. Moore suggested that they are labeled as a Development Committee. **Moore moved to accept the existing committee as the formal Development Committee, seconded by Parys. Motion carried. Moore moved that the Development Committee be empowered to move forward with the plan, seconded by Swiss. Motion carried. Swiss moved the board approve up to \$15,000 technology expenditures as presented by the Development Committee, seconded by Parys.** Muench questioned if we need a vote to enter into a contract. Meroshnekoff stated this motion empowers the committee to take that action. **Motion carried. Swiss reintroduced her motion to approve up to \$24,000 marketing expenditure, seconded by Parys. Motion carried.**

SOCIAL MEDIA. Jonni Jewell. No report filed.

BUSINESS MODEL AND MEASUREMENTS. Muench. Report filed. Ride participation is flat from last year and on the number of competitors per ride also. Meroshnekoff recommended continuation of the free memberships in 2019. Parys believed it should be continued, as it will complement the work we are doing. **Motion by Muench to continue free memberships, seconded by Hanson. Motion carried.**

SPONSORSHIP REPORT. Parys. Riding Warehouse is continuing the gift cards for our raffle, and the raffle tickets are ordered. Renegade Boots is changing direction in terms of sponsorship, rather than paying a monetary amount, they will donate boots to each ride across the regions.

MEDIA ADVISORY. Dieterich. Report filed. Dieterich would like each committee chair to submit an article for each *Hoof Print*. They don't have to be lengthy, just something to provide information to the membership.

RIDERS & JUNIORS. Cindy Keen. No report filed.

FOUNDATION. Conner. No report filed.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Kim Murphy. Report filed. Meroshnekoff discussed Murphy's recommendation to test on Saturdays so we can also test B riders. She is looking for guidance on that. Meroshnekoff suggested rather than setting a day to test, just include B riders in the testing lottery and test accordingly whether it is a Saturday or Sunday B ride.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Mike Peralez. No report filed. There was discussion about omeprazole. It is allowed in AERC. Swiss stated she attended the Fort Stanton ride and Dr. Bob Rogers stood up and talked about its allowances within AERC. Moore stated the board should submit a recommendation that omeprazole be allowed, as it is in AERC, to the Veterinary Drug Committee.

TRAIL ADVOCACY & GRANTS. Hanson. Report filed. National Trail conference is scheduled for November 2-4, 2018 in Scottsdale. Hanson was recommending sending someone from NATRC, however the organizers are not sending her requested info so this is tabled. \$100 was requested for us to be a partner in the Equestrian Land Conservation. Funding was already approved. Hanson received one formal grant request for Trail Funds to improve trail signage and camp provisions at Big Hill Lake by BCHA. Currently the board has to approve all trail fund grants, but Hanson would like to see a committee established to make more rapid decisions. Hanson recommends supporting the grant. The grant for \$500 was approved by the board. There is federal funding available through the states via Department of Natural Resources, Recreational Trail Grant Program.

EDUCATION REPORT. Dieterich. Dieterich is struggling to get assistance with the Riders Manual, so no progress has been made.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. Alice Perryman. No report filed. Swiss recommended tabling this committee work as the Development Committee works on strategy.

JUDGES COMMITTEE REPORT. Kim Cowart/Pam Hess. Report filed. Judges Committee has voted to recommend that Esther Diaguila be approved as an NATRC horsemanship judge. The board voted to approve. Meroshnekoff discussed our need for veterinary judges and that we have many barriers to recruiting new applicants. There are many barriers with time, leaving practices, a lot of work and low pay respective to other judging venues. Thomason inquired if we've contacted vet schools to seek out interested interns.

HALL OF FAME. Rinne. No applicants at this time.

STUDENT LOAN & SCHOLARSHIP. Gunckel. No new applications for loans or scholarships.

BREED ORGANIZATION/A.H.A. Insko. No report filed. We still need a breed liaison.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION AWARDS. Mesimer. Report filed. Mesimer has requested a lead person in each region to submit honorary and appreciation award write ups. She is concerned she may be missing some each year. Swiss recommended that it default to the national directors of each region.

ANNUAL POINTS DATA & RECOGNITION. Andrea Rogers/Rinne. Mid-year audits are in progress. Two rides left to process, and mid-year standings will be posted.

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS. Rinne. R1 conducted a regional board meeting via conference call, and it was reported to have worked very well.

CONVENTION AND NATIONAL AWARDS 2019. Walls. Walls discussed the need for continuation of co-hosting with AERC due to not having enough volunteer support to do it alone. Walls stated she knows there is contention with the late date, however it is the only option for Region 2.

REGIONAL REPORTS. **R1**, Meroshnekoff, three rides, two held C rides which were successful. Mt. Diablo, their foundational ride, is teetering, but they are looking for outside help. Meroshnekoff advertised on Facebook for their benefit ride, and the boosted Facebook ad had 3,000 hits. This resulted in 17 contacts for interest garnering one A rider, two B riders and most of the C riders. **R2**, Malone, had one ride scheduled this spring that canceled at the last minute, but Bob Insko arranged for a new location for the ride. **R3**, Wingle, nine rides scheduled, with one ride recently cancelled due to area fires and safety concerns. Four rides are complete, with two C rides held and other clinics. Four more rides are scheduled this year and one more C ride. Novice numbers are low. **R4**, Muench identified several ride locations. They are losing Robbers Route, their longest standing ride. **R5**, Moore, seven rides and two clinics have occurred to date, one was rescheduled from spring to fall due to flooding. A trail master's clinic was held to help support ride management as trail master is crucial. Considerable erosion in attendance in their rides that are primitive camping, as opposed to those with electrical hookups. **R6**, Parys, seven rides are on the schedule, two are completed. Exploring Sandhills had 22 in the C ride. There are C Rides scheduled for PonyXpress and Indian Cave. NECTRA was invited to South Dakota to put on a C ride in conjunction with an AERC ride in August. NECTRA also hosted a clinic at Ponca Hills near Omaha. New R6 President John Zelif.

Shared BOD amount for July 14, 2018 is \$447.33.

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Electronic Scorecards – covered in technology plan.
2. Riders Manual - on hold.
3. Equitrack – Wingle stated there are glitches creating barriers. It works well with iPhone, but not with Android applications. He is looking into other options such as MotionX. There was discussion about All Trail apps and its limitations. Unfortunately, there is nothing that is really perfect for what we want to do unless an app is specifically developed for our organization, which is being discussed in the technology plan.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NATRC Development Committee

Motion by Gunckel, seconded by Swiss to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Minutes on file at the National Office.

Next meeting to be held November 9-10, 2018, at the Hyatt Kansas City airport hotel, Kansas City, MO.