

NATRC National BOD Minutes February 24, 2022

CALL TO ORDER by President John Zelif, 8:16 a.m. February 24, 2022.

ROLL CALL. Angie Meroshnekoff, Jamie Dieterich via Zoom, Bob Insko, Lory Walls, Cathy Cumberworth via Zoom, Bill Wingle, Fran Muench, Cara Liebman, R4 Alternate, Esther Diaguila, Kris Gray via Zoom, Marla Stucky, John Zelif and Sarah J. Smith, Executive Director. Guests Sanction Co-Chair Patsy Conner attended via Zoom and Mary Anna Wood joined in person.

MINUTES. November 13, 2021. **Motion by Walls, second by Muench to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT. Zelif welcomed our board members to our first in person board meeting in quite some time! He has been trying to communicate with everyone by sending board and membership updates each month to push information and hopes it is appreciated. Has reached out to most of the committee chairs and felt we have a lot of great people and volunteers! Zelif encourages the use of our partner, Trailmeister, for posting our rides and ride locations. Wingle stated if we can get the Trailmeister location link, we can add that to the event page on our website for each ride.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. Smith. Renewed our partnership with Equine Land and Conservation Resource group. The early renewal incentive drawings in November, December and January were successful and put renewals (246) ahead of where we normally are this time of year. We are continuing to pick up members from states (VA, OR, OH, PA, NY, NH, UT, MD, MT, ID, WY) without active competitions most likely due to the virtual challenges.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Gray. Membership drive early helped, and we didn't have to dip into savings to cover expenses. Need to be cognizant of expenses however. Anniversary ad sales were decent. National award income and expense was noted. We actually came out ahead in 2021 by a little due to the early renewals.

BY-LAWS & RULES. Wingle. We are revising language today on rule proposals for final voting in July. Out of the normal order, one proposal has been added today coming out of the sanction committee.

Rule Proposal #1 – Change the end of the ride year to last Sunday in November. **Motion by Walls to carry forward, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #2 – Combine division weight classes into adult classes (temporary one-year action). Muench questioned what appeared to be duplicated language. Dieterich stated it isn't extraneous and that it is there for clarification as there was confusion in the past. Insko stated in the Region 1A section the wording regarding juniors aging up needed the word "weight" stricken from the proposal. **Motion by Wingle to carry forward, second by Muench. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #3 – Novice and Leisure Adult Eligibility Consistency. Meroshnekoff suggested retitling it Consistency in Novice Division and Leisure Adult Class Limitations. Question regarding past judges being able to compete in Leisure Adult, but it was agreed that they should be required to ride Experienced. **Motion by Walls to carry forward, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #4A – Lower Age of All Junior Competitors to 8. **Motion by Wingle to carry forward, second by Stucky. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #4B – Lower Age of Leisure Division Junior Competitors to 8. Adjustment of language under Section D, Eligibility of Riders. Only considered it if #4A fails in July. **Motion by Wingle to carry forward, second by Stucky. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #5 – Junior Leisure Class Eligibility. It was determined this proposal is not necessary as it is already addressed. **Motion by Wingle to eliminate this proposal, second by Diaguila. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #6 – Junior Competitors Supervision. Discussion about safety with other junior riders supervising juniors. Meroshnekoff stated by the time a junior has 250 miles they have a pretty good handle on things and can do the job. If we limit it to where only adults can sponsor, we will limit riders. Adjusted language to 13 and older with 250 miles or more if acting as a junior sponsor. **Motion by Wingle to carry forward as revised, second by Meroshnekoff. Motion carried.**

Rule Proposal #7 – Title of Trail Ability/Manners to Maneuvering Trail/Behavior. Recommendations from the Judging Task Force. Preference from more than one board member for Trail Ability and Behavior versus Maneuvering. (Concerned maneuvering is confusing. Walls suggested flipping the order to Trail Behavior and Ability.) Recommended to table voting on the language until the April meeting. Dieterich will take it back to the committee.

Rule Proposal #8 – Sanction Language. This will be reviewed for the April meeting.

POLICIES & PROCEDURES. Dieterich. Added the Dog Policy which the board had approved 11-13-21. Working on the sanction revocation policy and the Dangerous Horse policy which will be addressed.

PROTEST. Stucky. One protest was filed; however, it was determined that it was not a rule violation so it was rolled into a formal complaint for the Judges Committee.

PLANNED AND CHARITABLE GIVING. Elaine Swiss and Kim Cowart. There is no report; however, both members are willing to stay on the committee and will plan to work on options going forward.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN. Conner. Working to make a complete inventory. Most of it is done and it has been very helpful.

RIDE SANCTIONS. Conner. Report filed. Conner and Cumberworth are working well on reviewing and sanctioning rides. Wingle is assisting on the technical side and keeping the events up to date on the website.

CLINIC SANCTIONS. Linda Clayton. Several clinics on the board so far and more in the works. Zelif would really like to see two per region to encourage new ridership.

RIDE MANAGEMENT. Elaine Swiss and Diaguila. Focus on increasing our numbers and reestablishing what the committee needs to do to build up management and increase ride attendance. Increasing our presence on YouTube was suggested.

RULES INTERPRETER and SAFETY. Wingle. Four rides so far. One ride has led to some policy changes being discussed. Several safety incidents, most non-injury. One injury accident with EMS care but no hospital transport. Maximum individual wait time was 14 minutes; maximum combined wait time was 20 minutes. Wait times mainly due to bunching.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY/E-NEWS. Gray/LeeAnn Dreadfulwater/Jonni Jewell. Continuing to do free advertising and trying to maximize social media. Murphy shared an update on E-News. Believes we are seeing a good response from the correspondence.

VIRTUAL CHALLENGES. Zelif. Top Trail and the mileage challenge is going really well. Troy Lynn, the Top Trail organizer, is doing a great job and has been very helpful and responsive. Kim Murphy and Hannah Clark have been added to the committee and will help develop a new obstacle challenge for the summer.

SPONSORSHIPS. Shari Parys. No report. Zeliff talked to Parys and Muench about sponsorships. This area needs some attention and there will be catch up work to do.

HOOF PRINT ADVISORY. Dieterich and Muench. Deadline for the next HP is rapidly approaching. Zeliff complimented Dieterich on the anniversary edition of the HP.

JUNIORS. Meroshnekoff. Contact 4-H clubs, pony clubs, college rodeo clubs or other sports groups. Meroshnekoff suggested Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts as contact options for informational talks or visits. Invite them out to your farms or rides for an activity. Ask around and get contact information.

FOUNDATION. Conner. Foundation meeting of senior BOD members to follow board meeting.

NATIONAL DRUG TESTING. Murphy. No report.

VETERINARY DRUG COMMITTEE. Dr. Tamara Gull. No report.

TRAIL ADVOCACY AND GRANTS. Insko. Newly appointed chair. No grant applications at this time.

EDUCATION. Dieterich. We need to identify and promote what we are so it is clear what we are not. We have an image of being too picky and we need to overcome that. We've been looking for consistency amongst our judges for a very long time, and it is a whole organizational process that doesn't only apply to judges.

MEMBERSHIP. Zeliff. Renewal incentive was very successful. Decals were sent to each region for distribution to new members. Each region will determine how to best hand those out. The new rack cards were added to the shared Dropbox file for the membership chairs in each region. The committee works on different ways to bring up numbers. Encourage people to sign up for rides early as it really helps ride management, and if you can't make it to a ride, make a donation to the ride.

JUDGES COMMITTEE. Walls. **Motion by Meroshnekoff second by Diaguila to approve the Judges Committee appointments. Motion carried.** Veterinary judges: Keri Riddick, DVM, Co-Chair, Carrie Porter, DVM, and Kay Gunckel, DVM. Horsemanship judges: Lory Walls, Co-Chair, Priscilla Lindsey, Esther Diaguila. Rider reps: Jonni Jewell, Shari Parys, Angie Meroshnekoff.

HALL OF FAME. Smith. Recipient being awarded at this convention: Desert Reinbeau owned and ridden by Angie Meroshnekoff.

STUDENT LOAN/SCHOLARSHIPS. Vacant. Need a new chair for this committee.

BREED & ORGANIZATION LIASONS. Stucky. Sent out emails to all of our partnering breed organizations about year-end awards and did not hear back from many. Remind members to be members of their respective breed associations so they can qualify for year-end breed awards. They must be members of both NATRC and the breed association.

A.H.A. Insko. No report. Needs to get a list of programs available for NATRC members plus an article.

HONORARY & APPRECIATION. Mesimer. Report filed. Issues with deadlines in 2021 for submissions. The 2022 Honorary and Appreciation write-ups (in Word) due to Ruth Mesimer at RuthM9496@gmail.com by 10pm CST, Sunday, November 20, 2022.

TECHNOLOGY/WEBSITE. Smith. Primarily updating and refreshing the website. There are still issues with uploading ride results.

WEBINARS. Wingle. Needs help getting people together to do presentations.

CONVENTION & NATIONAL AWARDS. Zelif. It is so nice to be together! R6 has worked their tails off and gone above and beyond to make this happen. Numbers are down, which hurts the bottom line. Thank you to Region 4 as a Diamond sponsor and our board members who sponsored.

REGIONAL REPORTS. R1. Meroshnekoff 4 rides, 1 clinic. R2. Insko. Hoping for 5 rides this year. 4 A/B and 1 LeD. R3 – Wingle. 8 rides and 1 clinic; may get one more. There are some members at the Rocky Mountain Expo this weekend with an NATRC booth. R4. Muench. Goal is 9 rides but 7 are confirmed. Regional awards are March 5. R5. Diaguila 11 A/B rides. 5 stand-alone LeD. R6. Convention. 7 A/B rides and 4 LeD. Several new ride managers this year.

SHARED BOARD – \$394.54

OLD BUSINESS.

1. Dangerous Horse Policy – getting close but there are still a few questions. One of the primary questions is obtaining a rider's signature acknowledging the report before leaving camp.
2. NATRC Store – recommended offering a monthly item for sale rather than multiple items to see if that does better. Post a menu that shows what is offered each month. Zelif shared an option called Printful, which offers an on-demand store option. It may be a smaller profit margin but it would offer ready options with no inventory and no volunteer output.
3. Judging Consistency Task Force – Membership Information Webinar – waiting on this until likely fall.
4. Develop a Video for Judges – a videographer has been found. The video will be in progress.
5. 2022 Virtual Obstacle Challenge – discussed previously.

NEW BUSINESS.

1. Schedule of Future National Conventions – posted in Dropbox.
 - a. 2023 - Region 1
 - b. 2024 - Region 5
 - c. 2025 - Region 3
 - d. 2026 - Region 2
 - e. 2027 - Region 4
 - f. 2028 - Region 6
2. Increase pool of Judges – discussion of judge recruitment and of the allowance of vet techs.
3. Clean-up of Policy and Procedures (revoking sanctions). Wingle reviewed suggested policy changes.
4. Encourage two plus clinics per region in 2022
5. Focus on increasing number of riders and rides

Next monthly meeting will be April 5, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Walls to adjourn, second by Diaguila. Approved. Meeting adjourned.