

**National Reining Horse Association
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK
January 27 - 28, 2009**

Approved as amended February 20, 2009

Present: President Rick Weaver; Vice President Allen Mitchels; Elected Board Members, Greg Hill, Dale Lopp; Mark Schols, Beth Himes. Mike Hancock joined the meeting at 5:09.

Not Present: Kit Cospers.

Staff: Executive Director, Dan Wall; Chief Financial and Operations Officer, John Foy; Sr. Chief Operations Officer Dennis York; Sr. Director of Publications, Carol Trimmer.

CALL TO ORDER

President Weaver called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll was called and a quorum was announced. President Weaver requested that agenda items and other business not be revisited once a decision was made because an Executive Committee member misses a meeting and reminded the EC that meeting materials are sent out ahead of time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 7-8, 2008 Meeting: Dale Lopp moved to approve minutes as revised. Seconded by Greg Hill. Motion passed.

September 8, 2008 Conference Call: Insert “after further discussion” Greg amended his motion. Greg Hill moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Dale Lopp. Motion passed.

September 30, 2008 Conference Call: Change title of first item under Business to South Central U.S. Regional Director Elections. Delete first paragraph and replace with Discussion was held regarding the South Central U.S. Regional Director elections. Next paragraph first line should read “Colleen McQuay moved to revisit the previous decision of the Executive Board to disqualify the ...”. Dale Lopp moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Allen Mitchels. Motion passed.

October 13, 2008 E-vote: Allen Mitchels moved to approve the E-vote. Seconded by Greg Hill. Motion passed.

October 28, 2008 Conference Call: Insert “Convention” between NRHA and period in first sentence. Dale Lopp moved to approve the Conference Call minutes as amended. Seconded by Greg Hill. Motion passed.

November 21, 2008 E-vote: Greg Hill moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Dale Lopp. Motion passed.

January 8, 2009 Meeting: Mark Schols moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Beth Himes. Motion passed.

January 14, 2009 Conference Call: Tabled until Allen provides language for NAA section on second page. Change RHSF Conference Call title to RHSF Annual Board Meeting. President Weaver directed Allen Mitchels to draft a resolution to close the NAA gap. The Executive Committee agreed to that approach.

Dan Wall asked the Executive Committee to discuss the approval process and timeline of meeting minutes. Wall also asked the EC to discuss when minutes should be made public. The following timeline was established for Executive Committee Meeting minutes only:

1. Submit draft of minutes within a week of the EC meeting. E-mail minutes to EC members on Friday following meeting.
2. Allow 14 days for Executive Committee to review, revise and approve the minutes via monthly conference call.
3. Minutes then go to the Board of Directors.
4. Release to public – post on website, run in *Reiner*.

Regarding meeting webcast capabilities and improvement – Dennis York responded that the IT department is working with new technology, which will be tested in meetings at the Convention. A monthly Executive Committee Conference Call will be scheduled to speed up the flow of business.

FINANCIAL STATUS REVIEW

John Foy presented and explained the July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 Financial Statements, Profit & Loss, 2009 Recession Alerts, and Auditors' Report as prepared by Van Wieren & Jones, Inc. 2009 Recession Alerts included the Sire & Dam Program - Allen Mitchels expressed concern about the Sire & Dam Program and suggested that the committee look at ways of increasing participation and numbers while taking advantage of the auction and getting the grass-roots back. Staff was directed to provide the EC copies of the Sire & Dam conditions and contracts. Mark Schols, the EC liaison to the committee, will call and advise Vaughn Zimmerman, Sire & Dam committee chair, of the concerns so the Sire & Dam committee can address them and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. It was suggested Mark Schols, Carol Trimmer and Dandy Oltermann be involved with the committee.

Break 3:55 p.m.

Reconvene 4:11 p.m.

Continuing his Finance Report, John Foy referenced other Recession Alerts including NRHA sales income. It was noted that the Derby Sale has been cancelled. The Sale Committee was directed to evaluate the Futurity sales – specifically consider swapping the Marketplace and Breeders Showcase sales so the premier/juried sale is scheduled on Friday. Foy touched on Marketing, *Reiner*, and Inside Reining as profit centers that we will be paying close attention to

in the future. Executive Director Wall pointed out that prior to unrealized investment losses, the performance to budget was actually positive to the budget by almost \$200,000.

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Hancock joined the meeting – 5:09 p.m.

LOGO USE TASK FORCE (CARRY OVER FROM 2008) Logo usage on apparel was discussed. Greg Hill moved to follow FEI rules in NRHA aged event conditions and to submit a rule change for 2010. Due to lack of second, motion failed.

Break 5:42 p.m.

Reconvene 6:00 p.m.

After further discussion and review of AQHA rules, Greg Hill moved to limit the number and size of logos on attire and equipment in accordance with AQHA rules in the NRHA Futurity and Derby Category 2 events for 2009. Mark Schols seconded. Motion passed.

Mike Hancock moved to submit a rule change to incorporate AQHA's logo usage policy into the *Handbook* for all NRHA events. Dale Lopp seconded. Motion passed. The Executive Director is to draft a rule change and submit it during the Convention on behalf of the Executive Committee.

NRHA FUTURITY/DERBY NOMINATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Kit Cospers' revised Futurity/Derby Nomination Program plan was presented by Executive Director Wall. A task force was formed consisting of Mark Schols, Steve Simon, Duane Hicks, and Tim McQuay to review conditions, how to generate more entries, and look at the big picture. The task force is charged with reviewing the program conditions and division allocations and submitting to the Board of Directors at the next meeting for approval.

Closed Session 7:17 p.m.

Adjourned for the Day 7:35 p.m.

Reconvene January 28, 2009: 7:52 a.m.

Present: President Rick Weaver; Vice President Allen Mitchels; Elected Board Members, Mike Hancock, Greg Hill, Dale Lopp; Mark Schols, Beth Himes.

Not Present: Kit Cospers.

Staff: Executive Director, Dan Wall; Chief Financial and Operations Officer, John Foy; Sr. Chief Operations Officer Dennis York; Sr. Director of Publications, Carol Trimmer.

CALL TO ORDER

President Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:52 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum was announced.

Closed Session 7:53 a.m.

Open Session 8:25 a.m.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Executive Director Wall advised that according to last years task force there currently is no policy or operations manual in place. Wall is to structure a policy manual as he sees fit following the criteria below.

1. Repopulate policy manual going forward as issues arise.
2. Items that impact the membership should be made available to the membership via the Policy and Procedures Manual.
3. Items that should be rules and ultimately placed in the Handbook should be approved as Board resolutions.
4. Carry forward any policies left from 2008.
5. Allow Executive Director to maintain staff operating guidelines.
6. Policy manual needs to be approved by board.

Break 8:45 a.m.

Reconvene 9:07 a.m.

IT PROJECT UPDATE

Chief Operations Officer Dennis York gave a report on the status of the IT Upgrade Project. York is overseeing project at this point. Aztec Corporation is overseeing the Great Plains integration. Departments will begin testing the modules that Biz Data has ready the beginning of next week. The goal is to have everything completed by October 21, 2009. The *Electronic Reiner* is in the process of being switched to a new provider, email problems are being addressed, and the web cast of the sale was a huge success. York left the meeting for a previously scheduled appointment.

Closed Session 9:45 a.m.

Open 10:15 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

SHOW STEWARDS PROGRAM

Executive Director Wall presented the Show Steward Program as developed by the staff. Allen Mitchels complimented the staff on a great job of preparing the program outline. President Weaver stated that this position is needed for animal welfare concerns. Allen Mitchels moved to submit the document as a rule change on behalf of the EC. Beth Himes seconded and the motion passed. The Executive Committee discussed creating a licensed officials department to include judges and stewards.

Break 10:35 a.m.
Reconvene 10:46 a.m.

ELIGIBILITY TASK FORCE

After discussion, a task force was created to look at current Category 2 eligibility concerns as well as any proposed rule changes for 2010. The task force consisted of Mike Hancock, Kit Cosper, Beth Himes, Brad Ettleman and Melanie Rinehart.

PURSE CALCULATION CLARIFICATION

Executive Director Wall reported that a rule change clarification was needed for 2009 regarding a question in the payout formula. After discussion, the EC agreed to clarify the formula by adding the following statement: "Added money is the guaranteed minimum purse and must be paid out." Greg Hill moved to approve the clarification as stated by Wall. Mike Hancock seconded. Motion passed.

Beth Himes moved to submit the clarification as a proposed rule change for 2010. Dale Lopp seconded and the motion passed.

REINING AUSTRALIA AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

NRHA Board of Directors member Susan Camfferman and staff members Melanie Rinehart and Ashley Weyland joined the group. Discussion centered around current conditions existing in Australia. The country just got over an EIA outbreak which impacted Australian shows. Wall asked for a summary of NRHA development in Australia. To date, there have been 501 horses licensed, 301 members, 24 shows and 7 regional affiliate organizations. Susan noted the Continental Championships have been a big success especially the youth team tournament. Susan also stated that some form of a youth exchange program was needed for development of new members. In addition, Susan noted that it was hard to run many NRHA approved shows due to the added money requirement and the expense of bringing in judges.

Lunch 12:25 p.m. The Executive Committee continued to work through lunch. Wall was directed to negotiate a new agreement that is consistent with support provided to other NRHA programs. John Foy is to generate financials to help evaluate their situation.

BREED ALLIANCE UPDATE

Executive Director Wall advised that the AQHA alliance expired in December and that negotiations are progressing well. APHA and AHA expire in 2009.

ANCR REQUEST FOR SHOW CONDITION WAIVER

Executive Director Wall presented a letter from the Brazilian Reining Association, ANCR, requesting a waiver to allow five horses per rider due to the low number of horses/trainers/owners in the country. Mike Hancock moved to approve their request provided it is revisited and approved annually. Greg Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

APPROVE TEACHING PANEL

The 2009 NRHA Teaching Panel was presented for approval (Attachment A). Dale Lopp moved to approve the teaching panel as presented. Mike Hancock seconded. Motion passed

SHOW APPROVALS

BAVARIAN SUMMER SHOW

Tabled Renate Gruber request for International Committee input. EC will address again on Saturday when EC reconvenes.

OREGON REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Greg Hill moved to grant the requested exception to hold an approved show over the same dates as the NRHA Derby. Beth Himes seconded. Motion passed.

REINING ALBERTA

Beth Himes moved to not approve Reining Alberta's request for a waiver to the judges rule for their Sire Incentive classes. Himes noted that these classes could easily be approved as Category 6 events. Mike Hancock seconded. Motion passed with 5 for and 1 against.

ENTRY LEVEL SHOW FORMAT

Executive Director Dan Wall expressed the need for a new entry-level class structure and show format to support affiliate development. Wall noted the need to bridge the gap between open shows, 4-H, interscholastic, intercollegiate/NCAA and green as grass classes. The format should be fun, less expensive, be family oriented and have relaxed rules. Wall asked the committee to assign a task force to create the program and submit the proposal for a rule change for 2011. Wall noted he would like to have test events in 2010. After discussion, the Executive committee agreed the idea was too critical to wait for 2011. They agreed to charge the task force to submit the necessary rule changes by this year's deadline. Beth Himes was appointed the chair.

Break 1:46 p.m.

Reconvene 2:02

Discussion on creating an Amateur division ensued.

Chief Operations Officer Dennis York rejoined meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION APPOINTING ADDITIONAL COMMITTEES

Executive Director Wall expressed his concern in regards to how committee chairs are being instructed to work with the staff liaisons. With the emphasis on the organization being more staff driven, Wall wanted to make sure the committee chairs established the appropriate working relationship with their liaison from the beginning. Wall specifically noted he did not want a repeat of the past where committee chairs would give directives to the staff independent of the COO or ED. The Executive Committee agreed to modify the committee charter.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Executive Committee discussed the policy submissions from Judy Caton. Wall asked the Executive Committee to review the timeline for development of agenda materials established by previous officers. After discussion, Greg Hill moved to table this matter until the March Board of Directors meeting. Mike Hancock seconded. Motion passed.

FEI/WEG DISCUSSION

Executive Director Wall presented a summary of FEI Reining development dating back to 1984. In addition, Wall also reported on significant promotional opportunities that are derivatives of our FEI relationship that we can take advantage of to promote Reining both on a national and international stage. Wall noted that Reining was going to be on center stage at the WEG in Lexington Kentucky and that we are progressing nicely in our relationship with the Organizing Committee. However, Wall noted that we need to make a conscious decision if we are going to continue to support FEI development after the 2010 games. If so, we need to start now to maximize our opportunities.

After discussion, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed that we need to continue to develop our FEI relationship and programs in conjunction with AQHA. Allen Mitchels expressed the need for NRHA to continue toward compliance with FEI regulations. Mike Hancock moved that Executive Director Dan Wall, President Weaver and Vice President Mitchels meet with AQHA to explore all possibilities and establish a plan for FEI development. Mark Schols seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Director Wall also presented a summary of TV and promotional opportunities for NRHA in conjunction with the 2010 WEG. Wall noted that the WEG Organizing Committee had approached NRHA and AQHA in regards to an hour long special on Reining on NBC that would have world wide distribution. Wall stated that AQHA had agreed to partner with NRHA to support the project. Wall asked the Executive Committee for the support of NRHA and RHSF. Allen Mitchels moved to request RHSF to support the effort with \$150,000 to support the TV project. Mike Hancock seconded. Motion passed.

MILLION DOLLAR RIDER AWARDS

Executive Director Wall requested a task force be formed to study awards for the Million Dollar Riders and Sires. What type of recognition is right for two-, three-, and multiple million dollar earners. The awards should be special, appropriate, and sustainable. Beth Himes moved that a task force be formed. Mike Hancock seconded and the motion passed. Beth Himes and Jennifer Hoyt were appointed. The task force shall present their recommendation by the June meeting. Wall reminded the Committee that staff liaisons need to be assigned for all task forces.

REINER – SHOW APPROVALS

Staff member Carol Trimmer requested that the Executive Committee consider cessation of Show Approvals in the *Reiner* in an effort to provide more editorial coverage in the magazine and provide more accurate and timely information to the membership. Beth Himes moved that a

list of show approvals, similar to what's on the website, run for six months and then move all approvals to the website and stop publishing them in the *Reiner*. Greg Hill seconded. Motion passed.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Executive Director Wall discussed the need to develop an international youth exchange program to support the business plan. Wall requested the Executive Committee to charge the Youth and International Committees to develop the program and submit their recommendations to the Board for approval. The goals of the program are to develop more youth leadership programs as well as international marketing and sponsorship opportunities. Allen Mitchels moved to approve the charter for the program. Dale Lopp seconded. Motion passed.

AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL – ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES

Wall presented a request from the American Horse Council to document and collect the various welfare and safety rules, requirements and initiatives of its member organizations. The AHC requested any rules, regulations, studies, policies, initiatives, etc that ensure the welfare, safety and stewardship of our horses and activities. Mike Hancock moved to charge the Animal Welfare Committee to address this and produce a recommendation by the March meeting. Seconded by Beth Himes. Motion passed. Per Executive Director Wall Brad Etleman, Director of Events should be involved with this as well.

COMMITTEES

Andre De Bellefeuille is unable to serve as the chair of the Bylaw Committee. Judy Caton was recommended to replace Andre. Katarina Dorminy was chosen to replace Judy on the Finance Committee. Dale Lopp, Mike Flarida and Mark Schols were added to the Professionals Committee. Mark Schols was added to the Marketing Committee.

BUSINESS PLAN

The Executive Committee and Executive Director reviewed each initiative from the business plan and assigned the appropriate committees to address each issue.

Dan reminded the EC that first thing tomorrow a.m. (1-29-08) all International Board members will need to be seated.

Adjourn 5:00 p.m.

Reconvene January 31, 2009: 7:30 a.m.

Present: President Rick Weaver; Vice President Allen Mitchels; Elected Board Members, Mike Hancock, Greg Hill, Dale Lopp; Mark Schols, Beth Himes and Kit Cosper.

Staff: Executive Director, Dan Wall

CALL TO ORDER

OLD BUSINESS

Allen Mitchels submitted a proposed rule change on behalf of the Executive Committee as follows: D. Disciplinary Procedures, E. Section 19, page 40 of 2009 Handbook. “The NRHA has the right to publish the names of any member, current or not, or non-member in the appropriate suspension or probation list”. Seconded by Beth Himes. Motion passed.

Executive Director Wall discussed the backlash of sentiment against the proposed logo usage policy and rule change. Wall noted that it was creating a conflict with several sponsors and recommended withdrawing the proposed change to the 2009 Derby and Futurity conditions as well as the proposed rule change. Wall stated that the proposal needed to be submitted to the appropriate committees and to the Board to review before going forward. Mike Hancock moved to rescind both of the proposed changes to the Derby and Futurity conditions and the proposed rule change. Allen Mitchels seconded. Motion passed.

The Executive Committee discussed the current rule change timeline. Mike Hancock made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors to extend the deadline until February 15th or 2 weeks after the completion of the convention. Kit Cosper seconded. Motion passed.

A proposed rule change was discussed to clarify the current rider substitution rule in the Handbook. Allen Mitchels moved to submit a proposed rule change to add onto page 63 #8 “or other extenuating circumstances”. Beth Himes seconded. Motion passed.

Kit Cosper reminded the EC of the need for a clarification to be issued concerning the Category 2 eligibility for 2009 and a rule change to address the issue in the future. Language to be circulated for approval.

Adjourned 7:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Trimmer, Sr. Director of Publications

Attachment A

2009 NRHA Teaching Panel

Brian Dygert - Head of Teaching Panel
Ollie Griffith
Allen Mitchels
Dori Schwartzenberger
Terry Thompson
Mario Boisjoli
Joe Hayes
Mark Turner