

USBCHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES

March 2, 2022

Call to Order: 6 PM CST

Attendees:

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Bob Allen, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Frank Smith, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Russell McCord, Scott Glen, Stephanie Goracke, Steve Rhidenour, Sue Schoen, Terri Pelkey, Wyatt Fleming

Officers: Russell McCord, Pearse Ward, Linda DeJong

Guests: Lyle East

Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2021:

Moved to accept: Steve Rhidenour

Seconded: Jan Stebbins

Passed unanimously

Information: minutes will be posted on the website prior to BOD approval of the minutes to allow timely posting of information for the membership.

Reports:

Finance Report

In absence of Marianna 2021 Year End Report was sent to BOD.

To date there have been no COVID related entry fee refund requests since last report. 1099's have been issued to all recipients. Tax documents will be sent to the accountant in the next couple of weeks.

Questions or comments may be directed to Marianna.

Moved to accept report: Cy Peterson

Seconded: Stephanie Goracke

Passed unanimously

Other

Officers Elections: Russell will be ending his term of president as of December as previously announced.

Old Business:

2022 USBCHA Sheepdog National Finals Update

Mary Minor was unable to attend this meeting, but Russell communicated with her earlier. Plans are proceeding well. They have reserved Merino long yearling ewes for the competition and will likely have enough for fresh sheep for the first round and semi-final round. The finals will be held on Bentley Ranch which has 50,000 acres resulting in a wide variety of options where to hold the Finals and is located relatively close to a town. Beginning to work on sponsorships.

Russell recommended improvements that can be made in the finals:

More recognition of ABCA contributions to finals

Split up days for USBCHA and ABCA annual meetings so they don't fall on the same day at the Finals.

2022 USBCHA Cattledog National Finals Update

Wyatt Fleming is chairman and Lyle East will stand in for USBCHA president at the finals since Russell will be unable to attend.

Lyle joined meeting to discuss

Vivian Christenson will act as treasurer for the finals

Committee has so far had one meeting and planning more.

Still in process of meeting amount of the bid but very close.

Importance of the Cattledog Finals was emphasized need to continue growth and improvement. It is the only competition which has an outrun and lift and occurs outside an arena.

Need more Cattledog trials for qualifying scores.

2023 USBCHA National Finals

There has been a delay on Finals proposal for sheep. Currently Bridget Strang is the only pending proposal. Russell is continuing negotiations with Bridget and plans on finalizing to present to the BOD.

There will be likely several options for 2024 finals on the East Coast.

National Finals Waiting list Ad Hoc Committee: proposed new wording based on the system used in the past finals:

Handlers, wishing to remain on the waitlist at the finals, must sign in with the secretary no later than 5 PM on the day before Finals. Sign in may be done in person, by proxy or electronically. It is the handler's responsibility to ensure secretary receives notice prior to the deadline.

Scratches will be filled daily up to 30 minutes prior to the first open run of the day, in order of earned qualifying points and based on the wait list compiled as stated above. Good sportsmanship requires handlers to notify secretary of scratches in a timely manner to allow secretary to fill in scratched slots in the run order.

Moved to accept the recommendation: Cy Peterson

Seconded: Jan Stebbins

Passed unanimously

Judge Ad Hoc Committee proposal regarding disqualification at the National Finals

Consists of 2 parts

1. Proposal to add sentence that Trial Committee cannot overrule judge guidelines. They can only interpret the rules in the event of question.

Moved to accept proposal: Mike Neary

Seconded: Scott Glen

Passed unanimously

2. Proposed to leave DQ rule as it is currently: if a judge DQs a dog, that judge stops judging and run continues with other judge/s continuing to judge.

Discussion occurred about a range of issues: Importance of independent judging vs times when judges might need to confer to reach a decision about disqualifications and reruns. Also, how the rule is written vs how it has been handled in past at the Finals. An alternative recommendation had been submitted.

Moved to accept committee recommendation not to change wording: Jan Stebbins
Seconded: Mike Neary
Proposal rejected: Roll call vote: 7 yes, 10 no
Proposal is sent back to Lori Cunningham and Pearse Ward to work on an alternative proposal.

Susan Orr Silent Gather proposal update

Previous BOD decision to accept Finance committee recommendation to decline proposal was communicated to Susan Orr and received a positive response.

Other

Linda provided an update on the status of the nominations for 2022 National Finals judges.

New Business:

Proposed Rule Change - Part III. Sec B.2 - number of NA judges required for Sheepdog Finals

Proposed that number be changed back to 1 North American judge required instead of 2 currently required: Mike Neary moved to accept the recommendation.

Seconded Amanda Milliken

Passed unanimously

Awarding points in the event of an unbroken tie

Pros and cons of USBCHA awarding points to unbroken ties were discussed.

Moved: Trial host needs to break tie prior to sending results to USBCHA:

Bob Washer

Seconded: Jamie Spring

Passed unanimously

Associations ineligible to co-sanction USBCHA sanctioned events.

BOD felt list on website appeared complete and recommended secretary continue to research new associations to make sure they are in compliance with USBCHA requirements of not being a national organization and not supporting conformation competitions. No action needed.

Clarification of Trial Hosts giving priority to entries based on entry to all Classes offered.

Discussion followed and BOD agreed it was not an issue at this time. No action was taken.

Other Business:

2022 Finals Awards

Russell discussed selection of a new silver company for awards at Sheep and Cattle Finals and requested volunteers to assist with selecting-designing new buckles and other awards, as well as, tracking down rotating awards and setting up for awards ceremony at the 2022 Finals. Russell requested individuals interested in assisting to contact Linda or Russell via email or text.

Adjournment:

Moved: Steve Rhidenour

Seconded: Mich Ferraro

Passed unanimously.

Adjourned 7:30 PM CST

USBCHA Board of Directors' Meeting
June 14, 2022
7 p.m. CST
Minutes

I. Call to Order

- a. **7:00 PM CST**

II. Roll Call:

- a. Directors: Amanda Milliken, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Frank Smith, Jamie Spring, Jan Stebbins, Jennifer Boznos, Lori Cunningham, Louanne Twa, Marianna Schreeder, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Russell McCord, Scott Glen, Stephanie Goracke, Steve Rhidenour, Sue Schoen, Terri Pelkey, Tracy Hinton, Wyatt Fleming
- b. Officers: Russell McCord, Lori Cunningham, Marianna Schreeder, Linda DeJong, Pearse Ward

III. Approval of Minutes –March 2, 2022

- a. Motion to approve: Stephanie Goracke
- b. Second: Jan Stebbins
- c. Approved by voice vote

IV. Old Business

- a. 2022 USBCHA Cattledog National Finals Update- Wyatt Fleming speaking
1. Lyle and Linda are working on entry forms. (Add: Entry forms are scheduled to go out July 1).
 2. Wyatt wants to encourage having live web streaming. Pointed out that most other organizations already do live streaming. He feels this would benefit the program and highlight how different the USBCHA Cattledog Finals is.
 3. General organization is complete under leadership of Lyle East.
 4. Marianna will be in contact with Milton for arranging his transport as judge.
 5. Vivian Christensen is keeping book for Cattledog Finals.
- b. 2022 USBCHA Cattledog National Finals Webcast
1. First time livestreaming for cattle. Bid for all 4 days is \$3550. Pearse has been working on soliciting bid and contract.
 2. Russell will contact ABCA to see if they would be willing to pay ½ of total for both sheep and cattle finals. Total for both trials is \$8200. Half would be less than ABCA contributed last year.
 3. Motion to approve bid and contract with 321 Action Video made by Steve Rhidenour
 4. Second: Jan Stebbins
 5. Passed by voice vote
- c. Letter from Pearse Ward Ad Hoc Committee/Judge Ad Hoc Committee Proposal Re: Disqualification – Attachment #2
1. Final rewrite from Pearse and Lori has been completed. ISDS has similar guidelines. Rewrite was in line with recommendations and discussion from previous meeting.
 2. Motion to accept disqualification guidelines: Scott Glen
 3. Second: Marianna Schreeder
 4. Passed via voice vote with one opposed.

- d. 2022 USBCHA Sheepdog National Finals Update
 1. Tuesday, 6/7/22. Workshop was held on scheduling and basic organization. Present:
 - Trial committees
 - USBCHA: Patrick, Sue, Bob
 - ABCA: Scott, Faansie, Thad
 - USBCHA officers: Russell, Lori, Linda, Pearse and Marianna
 - Mary Minor, Sandra Massie
 2. Annual Meeting scheduled at Finals: Friday evening - USBCHA, Thursday evening - ABCA.
 3. Photographers have been arranged; program started, schedule roughed in.
 4. Patrick and Mary will be looking at fields available- Several are available. Once decision is made, details will be supplied.
 5. When schedule is complete it will be sent out to BOD.
- e. 2023 USBCHA Sheepdog Nationals Finals Update
 1. Marianna: Finance Committee reviewed budget and contract.
 2. Date of final: 2nd week of Sept is difficult- 4th week of September meet the needs for World Trial, USBCHA and Strang Ranch.
 3. Profit sharing: Proposal included not doing profit sharing. Committee will continue to discuss with Bridget about the pros and cons of profit sharing.
 4. Finance Committee has asked for reply from Bridget by July 1.
 5. Russell emphasized the need to get the proposal resolved by July 1 to be able to initiate a backup plan if differences cannot be resolved with Strang Ranch. He also encouraged planning out of finals 2-3 years in advance.
 6. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the BOD to approve or disapprove. Meeting will be called within 48 hours of recommendation being submitted

V. New Business

- a. Proposed Rule Revisions
 1. Humane Rule – Section F Of the Rules – Attachment #3
 - Proposed add made to add a requirement for care of livestock to guidelines. It was noted that at the 2021 Sheep Finals, a state inspector came by and examined all areas. Inspector could have shut down the entire trial if livestock is not sufficiently cared for.
 - It is proposed that there be a requirement that hay and water be available at all trials.
 - Discussion: concerns about adding requirements burdening hosts, that needs of livestock vary according to local conditions and local regulations. Concern also expressed about condition of livestock and number of times an animal is rerun.
 - It was proposed that the language be changed to more general guidance and eliminating specific number of hours.
 - Motion to table discussion. Lori and Mich will rewrite the proposal in line with the discussion and represent
 - Motion: Mich Ferraro
 - Second: Lori Cunningham
 - Passed by voice vote

- b. World Trial Update
 - a. Information about dates and location of World trial is posted under Upcoming Trials. A button has been set up for donations
 - Linda is the ISDS contact person
 - Maggie McClure has agreed to be the team contact person and field questions such as how to arrange transport and other team concerns. Will be going whether she makes the team or not.
 - Patricia Macrae, Mike Neary, Nancy Finley: Fundraising team
 - Silent auction and other fundraising events are being planned.
 - Purina has committed to supplying jackets for each team member.

VI. Other Business

1. Lori shared that she has gotten quite a number complaints from her area about hosts switching run orders to accommodate special requests. Some ended up leaving because so many were put in ahead of them. Noted there are some rules about manipulating run orders and when it is appropriate and when not. Plans on putting reminder on her district facebook.
2. Discussion ensued as to the best way to bring information to handlers and hosts in a way that would be helpful and informative with aim of giving newer handlers a better background about unwritten rules and customs. It was pointed out that there are resources for putting on a trial under Forms/Resources on the website but very few people will go looking for it.
3. Final resolution was to use the group email to periodically share information with the membership.
4. Committee formed: Tracy, Mich and Milton will put together the contents of an email and send it to Russell. He will vet it and send to Linda to mail out to membership.
5. Recommendation was made that search for candidates for officers, especially for president and vice president begin ASAP. (ADD. Nominations close Oct 5)

VII. Adjournment: 8:18 CST

- a. Motion: Jamie Spring
- b. Second: Jennifer Boznos

**USBCHA Annual Membership Meeting
Park Ranch, Minden NV
Friday, September 23, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

Agenda

Agenda Item I. Welcome and Call to Order

President Russell McCord called the Annual Membership Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. President McCord expressed his sincere appreciation on behalf of USBCHA to the Borda and Park families for their generosity towards the 2022 Sheepdog Finals. He also thanked the trial hosts and committee members for their service and commitment to the success of the Finals event.

Agenda Item II. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2022

President McCord presented the minutes from the June 14, 2022, Board of Directors' meeting and asked for a motion to approve. Steve Rhidenour made the motion and Marianna seconded the motion. Motion carried by acclamation.

Agenda Item III. President's Report

a. Introduction of Directors and Officers

President McCord indicated the nominations for USBCHA President, and Vice President were closed. Russell McCord reported the nomination received for President was Pearse Ward and two candidate nominations received for Vice President were Rebecca Gibson and Joe Haynes. Russell stated that the rules indicated elections were to be completed by November 5th and upon Russell's return to home he would contact the Board begin the election process. The goal would be to have the new officers notified by November 5th and the membership notified of the election results. The officer positions will be effective January 1, 2023. Russell expressed his appreciation to all the candidates and indicated their willingness to serve.

b. 2022 National Sheepdog Finals

1. Trial Committee

Russell expressed his appreciation to the Park family for their generosity of the facilities. Russell also extended his appreciation to the Borda family for the sheep. Russell also expressed sincere appreciation to Mary Minor and Sandra Massey for the hard work and dedication in hosting the Finals. Russell also expressed appreciation to Dave Imas for his efforts regarding the exhaust efforts on both the Open and Nursery fields. Also, Mike Meredith for his efforts as the Course Director on the Open field. Russell also expressed appreciation to John Palmer for his outstanding effort in setting out on the Open field. Russell also expressed appreciation to the Trial Committee for their cooperation and hard work in planning the Finals. The Trial Committee consisted of Chairman Patrick Shannahan, Sue Schoen and Bob Allen and from ABCA – Scott Glenn, Thad Fleming and Faansie Basson. Russell furthered thanked announcers – Ray Crabtree on the Open field and Sue MacDonald on the Nursery field; Nursery Course Director Gloria Atwater and Nursery set-out crew Connie Fontaine and Carol Leyh and all the many volunteers that have made the 2022 Finals a tremendous success.

2. Sponsors

Russell also thanked all the handler/dog sponsors and indicated the importance of their involvement and support of the Finals. Russell extended appreciation to Susan Orr for her continued organization of the silent auction benefitting USBCHA.

Russell continued to express appreciation to Purina, Farm Diggity, and the CBCA and its members. Russell concluded his appreciation by stating the importance of the support of ABCA and the vital partnership between USBCHA and ABCA. Russell personally expressed his appreciation to Eileen and Debbie for their friendship and support.

c. 2022 National Cattledog Finals

President McCord indicated the 2022 National Cattledog Finals are in Blakesburg, Iowa scheduled for October 13 -16, 2022 at the Sandeen Farm. Russell reported new to the Cattledog Finals this year were the introduction of Handler/Dog sponsors coordinated by Rachel Ritland and the live webcast.

1. Trial Committee

Russell indicated the Chairperson was Wyatt Fleming and trial committee members are Lyle East and Michael McNutt and from ABCA – Bob Allen - Chairperson, Bob Johnson, and Jeff Livingston. Russell indicated that Lyle East has been asked to take a leadership role in Russell's absence during the Cattledog Finals.

2. Sponsors

d. 2023 National Sheepdog Finals – Strang Ranch, Carbondale, CO

President McCord reported the 2023 National Sheepdog Finals will be hosted by the Strang Ranch in Carbondale, CO. Russell expressed his appreciation to Bridget Strang and Terry Murray for willingness to host the Finals again at the beautiful Strang Ranch in 2023. Russell also indicated appreciation to USBCHA's Finance Committee and its members for their efforts in the finalizing the bid process.

e. Other

Russell asked for any questions or comments regarding the President's report. There were none.

Agenda Item IV. Financial Report – Marianna Schreeder

Marianna Schreeder distributed the Financial Report to those in attendance. She indicated she would be happy to answer any questions regarding the information distributed. There were none.

Agenda Item V. New Business

a. Directors Election

President McCord reported the following outgoing USBCHA directors: Joe Haynes (District 1); Frank Smith (District 8) and LouAnn Twa (District 10). Russell welcomed the following individuals: Fred Templeton (District 1); Jamie Spring (District 2); Billy Bishop (District 8); Amanda Milliken (District 9); Cy Peterson (At Large) and no nomination and no votes were received for District 10.

b. 2023 World Trial

President McCord reported the 2023 World Trial is scheduled for September 14-17, 2023 at Gill Hall Estates in Ireland. Russell reported approximately \$10,000 had been raised and thanked Patricia Macrae, Mike Neary and Nancy Penley for their efforts in organizing the online auction. Russell indicated the 2020 World Trial fund balance was approximately \$14,000 and that the funds would be divided evenly between the qualified handlers to assist in offsetting travel expenses. Russell also indicated notification had been sent to the 2021 qualified handler/dog teams and that upon conclusion of the 2022 Finals notification

would be sent to the 2022 qualified handlers and an official announcement would be made to the membership.

Russell indicated the importance of sending a team to the 2023 World Trials to assist the Border Collie breed, future sales of dogs and the ABCA registry.

Russell introduced Barbara Ray, who had submitted a request to USBCHA for consideration of financial support of Team USA. Barbara spoke regarding the importance of the competition, her personal commitment to Team USA's success and the financial hardship to travel for many of the handlers and their dogs. Barbara concluded by asking the USBCHA to seriously consider financial support of Team USA.

Russell thanked Barbara for her comments and indicated the Board would take her request under consideration and that there also might be support available from Purina.

c. Ethel Conrad Award Presentation

President McCord introduced Tommy Wilson to provide a brief historical narrative regarding the Ethel Conrad Award. Tommy began by stating he knew Ethel Conrad very well and provided a history of her life and travels to Britain during the war. Tommy indicated that Ms. Conrad was a very forward-thinking individual and was considered a "pioneer of clinics". Tommy indicated Ethel's lifelong commitment to the Border Collie breed and stated that Ms. Conrad hosted the first Finals in Virginia and introduced the concept of Nursery Finals. Tommy indicated Ms. Conrad's continued devotion to the Border Collie and her appreciation of trial competition has made a lasting impact on the Border Collie competition in the United States.

Russell thanked Tommy for his comments and announced the 2022 Ethel Conrad Award recipient(s) are: Mary Minor and Sandra Massey.

Mary Minor provided brief remarks and stated her appreciation for the Award and considered it an honor to be named alongside Ethel Conrad as a pioneer.

d. Other

President McCord asked for other New Business from the floor. There was none. Russell stated following the conclusion of the meeting there will be a drawing for doorprizes from Chewy's and Gun Dog Supply.

Agenda Item VI. Old Business

a. *Ponderings from the Post* eNewsletter & Humane Rule – Section F of the Rules

President McCord reported a new social media effort to circulate USBCHA news and information to the membership– it is entitled ***Ponderings from the Post***. Russell expressed his appreciation to Tracy Hinton, Milt Scott and Mich Ferraro for their efforts in designing and developing the concept. Russell reported the first issue featured the topics of *Taking care of Livestock* and *Electronic Collars*.

b. Other

President McCord asked for any other Old Business. There was none presented.

Agenda Item VII. Member Open Session

President McCord asked for any questions and/or comments. There were none presented.

Agenda Item VIII. Adjournment

President McCord asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Bridget Strang and a second by Rebecca Gibson. Motion carried by acclamation. Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

*USBCHA Board of Directors' Meeting
November 16, 2022
7 p.m. CST*

I. Call to order & Welcome of New Directors

II. Present:

Directors: Amanda Milliken, Bob Washer, Cy Peterson, Fred Temple, Jan Stebbins, Lori Cunningham, Marianna Schreeder, Mich Ferraro, Mike Neary, Milton Scott, Russell McCord, Scott Glen, Stephanie Goracke, Steve Rhidenour, Sue Schoen, Tracy Hinton, Wyatt Fleming
Officers: Linda DeJong

III. Approval of Minutes Sept 23,2022

a. ANNUAL MEETING

- i. **MOTION: STEVE**
- ii. **TRACY**

1. PASSED

IV. 2023 WORLD TRIAL:

- a. 1 young handler nomination: being deferred to Pearse**

V. New Business

Hailey Fogt nominated for young handler- question do we accept her.

President supposed to approve but deferring to BOD

Have funds from previous years- \$25,182

Team members have until Aug 1 to submit airline reservation to get money

Discussed how to divide funds;

Motion: Divide funds between young handler and qualified teams-by number of dogs approved to go to finals with Hailey as young handler- Mich Ferraro

Second Cy Peterson

Passed unanimously

B. Grievance- Staley/Whitney Attachment 2

Committee consisted of :Lori,Sue, Steph, Bob, Russell

The committee had completed interviewing witnesses and facts surrounding the grievance and made their recommendation to the BOD.

BOD Discussion:

A question was raised , as to whether Whitney ever offered to reimburse Staley for injuries- Answer was that there had not been.

Also discussed was whether the proposed sanctions were equivalent to the severity of the incident and how to be clear exactly what were the facts justifying the consequence. The recommendation of sanctions for this incident was based on specific issues around how the incident was managed before and after the attack. HA not going to try to come up with specific rules around the management of guard dogs as there are too many variations in situations.

For this specific situation, what weighed most heavily was that there had been previous concerns with lack of care in managing guard dogs during trials, that the dogs had been released in an area handlers had to travel to get from camping to the trial field, handlers has specific directions to use that area and due care had not been taken to ensure the area was clear of handlers and dogs before the guard dogs were released.

It was acknowledged that guard dogs are necessary in flock management and incidents can occur when a trial is held on places having such dogs. It was repeated several times that the concern was not so much that the dogs did their job but the responsibility of the trial host to take proper measures to ensure the safety of handlers and all dogs. Further weight was given to the fact that there had been previous incidents and the host had not taken any steps to ensure guard dogs were properly secured for following trials.

Motion: Stephanie

That the USBCHA BOD sustain a grievance filed by Denise Staley against Leslie Whitney for her actions contributing to a serious dog attack incident which occurred at a USBCHA sanctioned trial at Kerales Farm in October 2022. Leslie Whitney membership to be suspended through December 31, 2023. Further, in the event USBCHA sanctioning is requested for future events at Kerales Farm, the HA will require an enhanced trial sanctioning application process for at least 2 events after the expiration of the suspension period.

Second: Marianna

Passed unanimously with Lori recused herself to avoid any appearance of bias.

C. Meeker raised a question how to deal with individual who did not sign a required liability waiver before or after competing. BOD determined that USBCHA would not weigh in unless a grievance was filed and it was up to the Meeker committee to determine how to deal with the situation

Motion to Adjourn: Bob

Second: Amanda

Meeting adjourned