

**Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
March 14, 2023
Final Minutes**

Present: Terri Hough Gilmour, Justin Ridgewell, Nikki Maclellan, Cheryl Denault, Veronica Low, Linda Plank, Bernadette Johnston, Tori Pengelly, Charlotte Hodgson, Doug Topalovic, Ann Neal

Regrets: Jamie Kellock, Kendal Lehari and Sarah Richardson.

Call to Order: 7:09 p.m.

- **1. Meeting Opening**

Veronica made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2022 board meeting. Cheryl seconded. Minutes approved.

The minutes from the January & February 2023 board meetings were deemed to not have enough context to truly understand some of the issues discussed. The minutes will be edited, and Ann proposed we send via email for approval. Cheryl asked they be sent out sooner.

- **2. Matters for Discussion**

- a) Committee Assignments: Veronica confirmed she sent out the committee assignments for all committees. This is template that we can use for budgeting, ideas for the season, and benchmarks we want to achieve within the committees. She would like these completed in the next few weeks. These are for the committee chairs to review within their committees. It was suggested this be sent to all members of the board and not just committee chairs. Veronica will advise board members who is on what committee, so we are all aware who is working on what going forward.

- b) It was determined that some board members are having issues accessing our OneDrive where the documents are stored for access and editing. Charlotte will make a cheat sheet for this going forward to ensure all members are comfortable with the drive.
- c) i) Ann spoke regarding the PHTA roundtable updates. In their meeting it was discussed with other PHTA board members their thoughts on the registration letter required by Equestrian Canada. It was noted that HTNB and BCEA are completely against it. Sarah and Ann will work on developing the agreement with Equestrian Canada and share it with the other PHTAs once it is ready.
 - ii) Ann will discuss with organizers about how to move forward with the coaching requirements from Equestrian Canada.

- **4. Presidents Report**

- a) OEA has been approached by a sponsor who wants to sponsor our pinnies for the season. This would be difficult given that many organizers want to use their own sponsors for pinnies and that most riders now already have pinnies. A suggestion was made to approach this potential sponsor and see if they would be interested in sponsoring something else for the OEA instead. Some suggested options were a program of some type (U25?), a competitor's party at an event, etc. Veronica will send an email to the potential sponsor and share their contact info with Nikki to follow-up.
- b) Veronica advised there is an opportunity for us to bring in a guest professional eventer (who may attend the indoor eventing at the RAWF), who could offer us something alongside their time at the RAWF. The RAWF wanted to know if we were interested in helping sponsor their indoor eventing. We could potentially then get a clinic, or a course walk type of experience in exchange. It was discussed and agreed that the OEA does not want indoor eventing to be the face of our sport and that we wouldn't sponsor the event because of this. The idea of using this potential professional event rider for an OEA clinic separately, was welcomed. Veronica will investigate this further.

- **5. Treasurers Report**

- a) Cheryl advised we need to approve our budget for the year. The budget was sent out prior to the meeting for review.

- b) Cheryl confirmed the frangible pins have been located and delivered to the appropriate organizers. There are only 2 organizers who still need them, and they will be delivered to them soon.
- c) It was discussed that we should amend the budget to include a competitor's party at the OEA Provincial championships. Wesley Clover will supply us a location and the OEA would only be responsible for the cost of catering. Cheryl suggested we figure out the amount needed for the budget, approve the budget currently and then make a motion at the next meeting to approve the extra budget expense.

Cheryl made a motion to approve the 2023 OEA operating budget with one change to the U25 budget per Nikki's report. Bernadette seconded.

Cheryl made a second motion; to close the extra bank account that was used for the competition improvement fund. Veronica seconded.

- **6. Committee Reports**

Communications

- a) Charlotte – Busy prepping for the upcoming season e-mail blasts for entries, start times, etc.
- b) A coaching page is being added to the OEA website to provide information and education on the requirements from Equestrian Canada going forward.
- c) Doug advised he is cleaning up the website as we have a backlog of old data on our system.
- d) An awareness campaign is in the works to let everyone know what we do as the OEA.
- e) A member's survey was suggested, a timeline on when to send that out is to be determined.

U25 Committee

- a) Nikki reported that Kendal and Jamie have been talking to some professional event riders to possibly offer a clinic for the U25. It was suggested that we approach organizers to see if anyone would be interested in hosting this clinic. The potential date for this clinic is August 12th, 2023.
- b) Our U25 form needs to be updated for 2023 accordingly and uploaded to the website and sent out in the next email blast.

Adult Rider Committee

- a) Some ideas were suggested for what we can offer adult riders. Suggestions included clinics with professional eventers, where riding or auditing is an option. Free auditing could be offered with volunteering.

Competitions Committee

Organizers Subcommittee:

- b) Nikki advised she has created a document to send to organizers which outlines how the coach status will be managed this year. We would like to get this information out to coaches ASAP. We also need it posted on the OEA website for easy reference.
- c) We are trying to address this at a PHTA level also. The position of the PHTA representatives seems to be that this will threaten sanctioned competition.

Officials/Safety/Rules:

No updates further than PHTA updates per above.

Sport Development

Nothing to report.

Coaching

No other updates further than previously discussed above.

Schooling Days

No updates.

- **7. Other Matters**

Nothing to report.

- **8. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be April 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. by Veronica. Justin 2nd to close the meeting.

Tori