

ETRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, 7/28/21
Pegasus Technologies Building, Lenoir City, TN

Present from the Board: Alan Bruhin, J. Michael Evans, Karen Edwards, Luke McCoy, Jim Pearce, Cory Smith, Peter Torok (phone), Mike Smith

Absent, excused: Michele Fletcher, Jeff McNutt, Denise Chambers

Others Members Present: Lois Luthenauer, Chief Marshal

A quorum is 50% of the Board. Therefore, a quorum of the Board was present. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Officer's and AKC Delegate's Reports

President's Report: None.

Secretary's Report. Karen Edwards.

- **Minutes:** Last meeting was 6/23/21; minutes approved by a majority of Board members and sent to the club website shortly after the meeting. Luke moved that we dispense with reading the minutes out loud, and vote formal approval. Mike Smith seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Correspondence:** None to report
- **Membership:** Current 2021 membership is 56, including 1 waiting first reading later today. 12 haven't renewed so far this year.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance is \$33,759.24. Owe Mike Smith ~\$1,000 for the blinds. See treasurer's report, copies handed out this evening.

Old Business

1. **July Master-Only Hunt Test:** Final bills still coming in, still a money-maker. We were unbelievably lucky with the weather! And, we have done a very good job of getting these small tests up and running smoothly.
2. **September Picnic / Business Meeting / Seminar?** Sunday, September 12. Last time we had decided on the date, but still needed to consider the location and the time, and confirm that we still want to combine this with a club trial. We have 2 possibilities, Lois's Retriever Retreat, and Cory's farm. They both have decent land, mediocre water, and nice shady places to sit and eat. Cory's is more centrally located, and after some discussion Mike Smith moved that we have it at Cory's, Luke seconded it, and the vote passed. This will be a Bring Your Own Lunch event. The Club Trial will start at 9 a.m., and the business meeting will start at 1:00 p.m.

3. **Fall Test:** Oct 23-24, Lucky 7. Alan thanked Lois for helping him find the rest of the judges we need for this test. He will send the board an email with their names so that J. Michael can enter the judges into AKC for approval, Michele can enter them into EE, and Karen can write them letters confirming arrangements. We went through the assignment sheet and made sure we knew where we stood on everything and who is responsible for what. J. Michael will talk with Ken C. about financial arrangements and about whether he is OK with us using live ammunition or not, which will impact on whether we need to request no live flyers from AKC. Karen needs to request insurance certs for this site. Mike Smith will contact the Sweetwater motel for judges, the one we have used in the past. We decided to not have a judges dinner, considering that Covid is making a reappearance and we don't know what it will be like in October. Alan will contact the Cleveland Community College wildlife professor to see about getting bird techs from them again. J. Michael will order porta potties and a dumpster. He will bring his ATV and so will Mike Smith and Michele Fletcher.
4. **Master Only November 2-3 Test: Brian Caldwell's.** Up on EE and AKC sites. Still looking for one judge. Brian Caldwell will provide bird techs, hopefully at least 3.
5. **Equipment:** Cory Smith, Mike Smith, Michele Fletcher, Lois Luthenauer and Karen Edwards met at Cory's July 23, 2021 for an inventory of all our equipment. We went through the list and decided what to keep and what to sell, and asking prices. Karen will put up the list of 'for sale' items in the August and September newsletter, and we will be having a 'sale day' at Cory's farm on September 12 where people can come, browse, and walk away with the equipment. We decided to destroy and dump all unsold shotguns after this event, and to list the remaining items not sold on Facebook Marketplace or Craig's list or similar. J. Michael and Luke will contact the club they work with down south of us to see if they are interested in any of the items, and Lois will ask Middle Tennessee if they want any of the stuff.
6. **Judges Seminar, possible January / February:** We decided to keep this item on the table for now and consider again after the fall tests are over.
7. **Ribbons:** Karen ordered new duckbands (500) and 100 JH ribbons, 100 Title ribbons. Duckbands already received; ribbons due in mid-September.

New Business:

1. **New Member:** One for first reading:
 - Brandon & Jessica Parton, 223 Anchor Court, Dandridge, TN 37725, 865-210-0797, brandonparton571@gmail.com. He's in Operations Management. Has a 10 mo. Old black lab, interested in AKC hunt tests, is a DU member. Volunteers for whatever is needed, "I'm new to hunt tests/field trials, so I'm limited right now. However, I am willing to learn."

Peter Torok volunteered to be one of his sponsors, since he is closer to Dandridge than many of us. We volunteered Alan Bruhin to be the other sponsor, since he had to leave the meeting early to participate in a Master National judges conference call and J. Michael as VP had just taken over presiding in the middle of the equipment discussion. Luke moved we accept these

people as provisional members. J. Michael Evans seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Karen will tell them names and contact info of their sponsors; sponsors will have access to the new members' contact info through these minutes when completed.

2. ***MNRC Proposed Bylaws Change:*** Proposal to change the method for selecting judges for the Master National (MN). Currently, judges are selected from each individual region, and recommended to the Board by the four regional directors and the First VP. Proposed change would have the selection be made by the Board of Directors (BOD), with advice from the Judges Selection Committee (the same group of people). Reason for making the change is that the regions are different in size, have vastly different number of clubs and eligible judges, and it's been hard to get judges from the smaller regions.

We discussed the issues surrounding this request. Obviously one solution is to re-draw the regions so they are more equal in size. Apparently the MN BOD has discussed this and didn't get favorable response from the clubs in the different regions. Another possible solution is to actually pay the judges for their time – this is a two week commitment and very hard work. The entry fees for this event bring in more than \$285k, and workers (bird boys, guunners, concessions workers, etc.) are not paid help -- all entrants are required to work a job assigned to them by the event planners. Obviously there are big costs, but it seems like there should be money to pay for judges. Alan Bruhin, before he left, had stated his opposition to this bylaws change, believing that it gives too much power to the BOD in selecting judges, and J. Michael Evans who is one of the others with past MN experience, agreed. Luke moved that we vote against this proposal, Cory seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. J. Michael signed the ballot, and Karen will be responsible for filling out the rest of the form, scanning it, and returning it via email to the MNRC board secretary with our vote against.

3. ***Any other new business?*** None.

Adjourn: There being no other new business, Cory moved that we adjourn. Jim seconded the motion which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Edwards

Karen Edwards, Secretary

Changes:

1. 7/29/21: Jim Pearce: mention that the motion to vote NO on the MNRC bylaws change proposal passed.
2. 7/29/21: J. Michael Evans: He seconded the new member acceptance motion.

Approvals:

1. 7/29/21: Jim Pearce, with recommended change.
2. 7/29/21: Cory Smith
3. 7/29/21: J. Michael Evans, with recommended change

4. 7/29/21: Mike Smith
5. 7/29/21: Luke McCoy
6. 7/30/21: Karen Edwards
7. 7/31/21: Peter Torok