

MINUTES – BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING – SATURDAY, SEPT. 7, 2013 – ESTES PARK, COLORADO

Deb Norman, Vice President of the ACPS, called the meeting of the American Connemara Board of Governors to session in the absence of Kathy Lucas, President. Kathy Lucas could not attend the meeting as a result of health issues. The following answered the roll call –Charlene O’Neal, Joan Webster, Sally Oxnard, Janice Meyer, Pat Reichle, Amy Plavin, Joan Ervin, Sue Laidlaw, Juie Keahey, Annie Balotti-Paleen, Melanie Trimper, Megan Harris, Gloria LaCroix, Bonni Kelley, Kate Denton, Pat Ashworth, Deb Clinch, Marilyn Cheek. Additional members in attendance were Maureen Loughman-Abel, Les Cheek, Linda Trimper, Alyce Wich, Donna Duckworth, Anne Moe, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey, and Karen Laden.

Minutes of the Jan. 19, 2013 BOG meeting in Louisville, KY, were approved.

Cathy Blackmon gave the Treasurer’s report which was approved.

Debbie Busta, Membership Chair, sent her report. As of Sept. 1, 2013, the Society had 605 members and the breakdown was 597 US members; 7 Canadian members, and 1 foreign member.

There were 9 US subscribers for the magazine We gained a total of 126 new members for 2013, but lost 175 members since 2012. For on-line memberships, 274 members of 45.8% of the members have used the program to join or renew. To date, we have paid the USEF a total of \$685 for administrative fees. A competitive price was obtained for printing the 2013 Directory, and that was done, saving \$500 over the previous year. Concern for the digital directory, and an on-line directory was discussed, and will be investigated for the next year. It was decided that the ACPS web site did not have the necessary software to complete a password protected directory.

Deb Norman gave the President’s report – giving an update on Kathy Lucas and her health issues, and others who were in hospital or needed good thoughts. Thanks to Julie Keahey for the friendly meeting, and it meshes with the goal to get people involved and on committees. It’s Deb Norman’s hope that committee chairs and members use the conference call system to work throughout the year. She would like to revamp, and revitalize the workings of the committees, with the hope that the energy will carry projects through.

Registrar’s Report – Marynell Eyles gave her report, comparing the numbers of foals from 2013 (42) with those reported the last time the meeting was held at Estes Park (2005) when the foal numbers were at 85. That was the first year for the ACPS to require DNA samples for all foals. In 2013, one stallion has been registered; in 2005 – there were 10. That was also the year when the “new” database program was started, written, and installed.

Committee Reports

Arbitration – Fonda Eigel - No pending problems

Awards – Marilyn Cheek – said that getting candidates for the Hall of Fame awards is difficult because a lot of people are not good at promoting their own. Many just don’t think of nominating their ponies. She issued a plea for names to be considered, to encourage those deserving Connemaras to be recognized. The question of whether the minimum age for a pony to be nominated was cutting down on nominees, but no conclusion was reached. It was voiced that people do have ideas about which ponies are worthy and communication is the key. There are always some problems, like names used, or registration issues, that can be solved through the year if people communicate.

By-Laws – Scott McGuffin and Pam Liddell – Sally Oxnard reported that the new bylaws are “up and running”, and that Scott McGuffin has been working on a policy for a proxy vote for regions whose Reg. Governor cannot attend the meetings. He will have a report for the Jan. 2014 meeting.

Document Controller – Margaret Sanford – Sally Oxnard reported that the proper and approved policies and procedures of each committee are posted on the web site, and that once a year, Margaret Sanford sends to each committee chair, the P&P to be reviewed and any necessary changes made. Then, those are re-posted to the web site.

Payments in 2013:

1/24/13 UC Davis (Dr. Alain Theon) Melanoma	-\$2,000.00	
8/23/13 Sandy McShea (Dressage Pony)	-200.00	
		-\$ 2,200.00

Deposits in 2013:

2/15/13 Donation – ACPS Region 10	+208.22	
2/25/13 Donation – Scott McGuffin	+100.00	
		+\$ 308.22

Account Balance as of September 1, 2013: \$37,474.79

Anticipated Future Expenses in 2013:

Awards for Junior Riders – Linda Haines, Chair

Scholarship Winner	\$200	
Runner Up	100	
Honorable Mention	25	
Honorable Mention	<u>25</u>	Subtotal = \$350

Awards for Senior Riders – Marilyn Cheek, Chair

Scholarship Winner	\$200	
Runner Up	<u>100</u>	Subtotal = \$300

Total Awards: -\$650.00

During the year, please remember to email me to shop for:

ACPS Scarves (\$75.00) and

ACPS Ties (\$40.00) (2 shades of blue, yellow, green, pink and orange)

Free gift wrap (birthday or Holiday)!! Free shipping and handling, too!!

Your purchases will support the ACPS Foundation.

All the money goes directly into the ACPS Foundation account.

Finance – Cathy Blackmon – A profit and loss balance sheet was provided, and discussion on how to generate more revenue, and cut costs as much as possible, resulted in approval of the work of the Finance Committee.

ICCPs – Scott McGuffin acted as ACPS representative at the ICCPS meeting in August, in Clifden, IRE. He sent his letter of remembrance of that trip, including the report of the ICCPS meeting, and it was read to the Board. Highlights from Susan McConnell's report - ICCPS Annual Report – Classification System (Susan McConnell) (See spreadsheet)

For the record, the US is not Parentage testing. All ponies are DNA recorded before registration. The ACPS has not asked its members to pay this extra expense.

Brigid Verry said the NZ ponies are blood typed, not DNA recorded.

In 2 years, it is hoped that everyone will have Parentage Testing.

Dermot said that the CPBS has Parentage Tested since 1990.

Madeleine said it was a double cost. Currently, Inspections are run by the Swedish HB. They enter the pony into the HB and, then, send the information to the CPS, but the CPS has the judges/inspection.

Ingrid said: As custodians of the breed, it is good to see what is happening – globally. This report shows that there are over 4,000 foals born, last year.

Anne Storme (BE) said that Belgium is a small country between France and Holland. There are ponies coming to BE for Inspection. Dermot said that the pony should go into the Stud Book of the country where it is inspected. Technically, the pony should be in the Stud Book of the country before it is inspected. It should be transferred into the Stud Book, first, then, inspected. If a pony is inspected in the 1st half of the year and is not Class 1, it must wait until the 2nd half of the year to be re-inspected.

Madeleine thought it was an interesting question about the “transfer” into the Stud Book before Inspection.

Andy said that it did not matter whether the pony came out in the Spring or Autumn but the paperwork must be done prior to the Inspection. In IE, there is a closing date 1-2 months before the Inspection date.

The rules need to be reviewed and re-circulated.

1. Declaration of Elections for Office Bearers

2013-2014 ICCPS Officers:

Chair: Dermot Power, Ireland (2014)

Vice Chair: Madeleine Beckman, Sweden (2015)

Honorary Treasurer: Vermund Lyngstad, Norway (2015)

Treasurer: Padraic Heanue, Ireland

Honorary Secretary: Sarah Hodgkins, British CPS (2015)

Secretariat: Susan McConnell, USA

At Large: Pierce O’Malley, Ireland (2014)

Karen Holloway, Australia (2015)

TECHNICAL MEETING

1. Pedigree Database – Sean Mulkerrin (Dash.Dot Development), the newly hired technical man from the CPBS was introduced. He spoke about his work refreshing the CPBS website and beginning the CPBS Pedigree Database. The CPBS anticipates being able to update, daily, from the CPBS office. It is anticipated that anyone will be able to look up pony statistics and track a pony’s history. Niamh Philbin said the Department of Agriculture requires moving all ponies from the “old number” system to the new UELN (unique lifetime number) system. Karen Holloway said Australia does not have UELN numbers. Manfred Maier wondered when was the anticipated end of the project and the aim. Sean feels that it will take 3-5 months to build the CPBS version, then, it can be expanded to include the ICCPS information. Dermot assured the meeting that there would be a template. The CPBS information needs to be completed before the ICCPS can add or build its database. In the end, it is hoped that every pony will have complete pedigree information – seamlessly!
2. Website – Susan McConnell has refreshed the ICCPS website at no cost to the ICCPS. She wants to remove the old site. The new ICCPS website will be able to handle the Pedigree Database, if necessary.
Motion to remove the old site and establish the new one: Proposed by Scott McGuffin and seconded by Lene Nielsen
3. Promotion of the Connemara Pony – worldwide:
Prof. Patrick Wall said he hoped to have a Connemara display in France at WEG similar to what was done in 2010 at WEG in Kentucky, US. He plans to intervene on behalf of the Connemara Pony by contacting Dr. Pierce Lyons, Alltech owner and fellow Irishman. He feels WEG is a fantastic showcase. Many top riders learned to compete on Connemara Ponies.

Dermot said Olympia was an “eye opener” for tourism. He thanked Sarah Hodgkins for lending her stallion and mare to re-create Michael O’Malley’s journey to Olympia 100 years ago from the West of Ireland to promote the Connemara Pony. Dermot feels the Internet is the “way to go”. Junior members are the future to the breed.

Dorothy Anne Eustace (UK) said the BCPS leaned at Olympia that there are so many partbred Connemaras owners that did not know a partbred registry existed. For the BCPS, Facebook has been a good way to communicate with members and interested people.

It was suggested that the ICCPS should develop a Facebook page.

4. Current version ICCPS Rules Dermot asked for a vote to accept the ICCPS Rules as written and circulated. Motion was proposed by Lene Nielsen and seconded by Madeleine Beckman to accept the Rules as written and circulated.
5. O’Malley Award: Susan McConnell informed the group that the Celtic Shop (Clifden) had supplied and Padraic Heanue, ICCPS Treasurer, had paid 164 Euros for 1.) Permanent plaque with shields for the year, name and country of the recipient 2.) Engraved glass ‘keeper’ trophy and 3.) Framed Resolution from the ICCPS Exec Board. This year, Pat Lyne (UK) will be the recipient of the 2nd Michael J. O’Malley Award. Dermot requested that each Society think of suggestions of people who are worthy recipient of this Lifetime Achievement Award for the promotion of the Connemara Pony. These suggestions should be received in time for selection at the March 2014 Meeting. The recipient will be notified in March so they can make travel plans to be in Clifden, Co. Galway in August. The presentation is on Tuesday evening during the International Gathering. This year, Tom MacLochlainn will make the introduction for Pat Lyne (UK).

6. New Business
HWSS – Madeleine Beckman said that at the Swedish AGM in 2012, information was presented and facts were known at the time about HWSS. The situation is being followed by the National Horse Board (Sophie Mico, HB Genetic Group). They are aware that the syndrome has been diagnosed (July 2013) as a recessive autosomal mutation – not difficult. A patent has not been filed for a test, but soon there will be a test for ponies. Whatever we think about this issue, we need to plan and face that there will be, most likely, a commercial test in 2014 which will give results. The CPBS has the key to this question. Madeleine is asking for guidance from the CPBS. She proposes that the CPBS will take these questions and advise what we should do next. Vets have very little knowledge of this; therefore, we need to have discussions here and talk about it.

Andy O’D said that if the HWSS does exist, that there is not need to cull the breeding stock. He said that we should check the herd for markers. In 15 years he says the problem should be smaller and smaller. This problem has been labelled: CONNEMARA HWSS. In the last 2 years, Andy has asked the vet to examine the hooves. So far, he has seen nothing. He has not seen a problem with the hooves. The CPBS is not burying its head in the sand. It will face the problem.

Dermot said they will keep monitoring it.

Manfred said that from a scientific view, he is not certain. There needs to be a peer review. Usually, there is more than one gene involved plus environmental conditions.

Madeleine wants it brought to the table because she is seeking genetic advice.

SOUTH AFRICA: There was a thorough and thoughtfully written report submitted from South Africa about the tiny size of their Society, difficulties of long distances, as well as African Horse Sickness restricting pony sales. It was decided that annual fees for membership to the ICCPS would be waived for South Africa, at this time. There should be some coordination with the CPBS and British Connemara Pony Society (BCPS) about a person from the UK who could judge the Welsh show in South Africa, as well as evaluate Connemara Ponies.

Inspections – Megan Harris, Gloria LaCroix, Kathy Sparks - Megan Harris spoke for the committee, reporting that there had been two inspection sites in 2013, with other sites lacking enough ponies. The committee is planning to redesign the report forms, to provide education for the inspectors, and to investigate changing to a numerical scoring system. Megan noted changes to procedures with the ICCPS/CPBS requiring an Irish Inspector at every “daughter” inspection site. Gloria LaCroix noted that regional chairs should call breeders to find more nominees. The fees for inspection were discussed, and it was thought that it might be time to raise the fees to cover the expenses.

Internet – Kathy Sparks – was not able to attend the meeting, but sent her report that listed the committee members as Janice Meyer, Pat Ashworth, Donna Duckworth, and Kathy Sparks. Webmaster, Tim Porter, worked very hard to build a new website with no down time for the old version. Much discussion was voiced, with thanks given to Kathy Sparks for all her hard work, and ideas for how to improve the site. Deb Norman reported she had talked with BrightHorse Communication (Josh Walker), for a redesign of the ACPS site, and Janice Meyer has offered to be the portal. It was noted that the site needs links to other sales and promotion sites, and information to help match up breeder/seller/pony. Melanie Trimper was added to the Internet Committee, as she is familiar with the marketing side of the process. She will donate her time.

Magazine – Marynell Eyles – Another year of good reporting from ACPS members in the field, and at the shows, and lots of good general articles provided by ACPS members and friends. While the ads are still not generating enough revenue to add the two issues that have become “digital”, members were encouraged to use the pages to support the Society as the magazine is an especially easy to use promotion tool.

Nominating – Lee Webster Ramensky, Anne Moe, Stephanie Fenton-Hickey –Anne Moe reported that in 2013, only as many candidates were listed on the ballots as there were vacancies on the Board. The new Policy Statement, which the Board approved, said: **“The Nominating Committee will nominate only as many candidates as there are open positions on the Board of Governors, with the provision for a write-in.** That is the practice of most corporations and large nonprofits. Our reasoning is that after we have worked so hard to find qualified and willing candidates, the people who are not selected are reluctant to ever run again, and therefore every year we are throwing away people who we selected particularly because we think they would be good board members. That is counterproductive, especially with our dwindling membership. “

Another proposal was the choice of either a written or an e-ballot. The By-laws do not preclude that procedure. No decision was reached, but it was noted that the e-ballot would save much money in printing and postage.

Promotions – Sandy McShea – sent her report of the monies spent for promotions in 2013, totaling \$990.92. A Connemara award will be presented at the National Dressage Pony Cup, and mentions of Connemaras were printed in the *Equiery*. Sandy would like to see more funds readily available for nationwide advertising in eventing and driving media, and would like to see expo type funds spent in new jurisdictions in the west and Midwest. Sandy McShea submitted her resignation, and Melanie Trimper was asked to be part of the committee. Annie Balotti-Paleen was also appointed.

Region Chair Liaison – Joan Ervin/Sue Laidlaw –Both noted the regions were functioning well. There were a good representation from the regions, (7 Governors and 6 Chairs) but the voting problem for regions whose governor was not present was still considered unfair. Kate Denton and Amy Plavin were selected to be representatives on the By-Laws Committee.

Youth Program – Jill McNicol – No report but the committee is aimed at young members, for a network to communicate with others. Jill McNicol is managing a Facebook page that has gained followers of all ages. Megan Harris felt the emphasis should be on younger (not children) members, not the old-timers. She suggested names – herself, Melanie Trimper, Alexandra Duckworth, Emily Daily, Elliott Blackmon, but no motion was made to create the program or goals for it.

USEF Connemara Committee – Susan McConnell - The ACPS Members who serve on the USEF Connemara Committee are: Susan McConnell, Chairperson, Marynell Eyles, Megan Harris, Chris Knox, Carol Kozlowski, Sally Oxnard, Wayne Quarles, Emily Beshear, Cathy Blackmon, Fonda Eigel, Lendon Gray, Pam Liddell, Kathy Lucas, Jill McNicol, Sally Steinmetz, Lisa Stroud and Lee Webster Ramensky.

Lauren Fahey, Director of hunter Affiliates, has served as our coordinator with USEF. Currently, Lauren is on Maternity Leave and Kelsey Shanly, National Affiliates intern, is helping our Committee.

By teleconference the Committee met on June 12, 2013 to discuss

- Potential award categories for purebred and halfbred Connemaras ridden in Dressage by Junior Riders, Show Jumping and Combined Driving. A discussion took place with general agreement that the numbers were too low to warrant additional awards in Dressage or Driving. The 76 pony jumper names were to be verified by Marynell for further discussion
- Memo from USEF President, Christine Tauber
- Extraordinary Rule Change (General Rule) – approved

By teleconference the Committee met on July 23, 2013 to discuss - 2014 Connemara Judges Exam - Chris Knox and Marynell Eyles will supply information to USEF, similar to what has been done in the past

- Submitted to the USEF Board: New Connemara Show Jumping Award – one for purebred and one for halfbred Connemara – effective date 4/1/2014 – for all levels of open jumpers.
- In final discussion: New “Seldom Seen” Trophy (in honor of the halfbred Connemara, Seldom Seen) – effective date 4/1/2014 - to be awarded to the highest placing purebred or halfbred Connemara ridden by a Junior at USEF Dressage competitions.

Ad Hoc Committees and other issues – Jill McNicol

Old Business

History Committee, Book Project – DJ Moore sent a report of the past workings of the committee, and it indicated that some progress had been made, that the project was again moving forward.

Annual Meeting Committee – The representatives from Region III invited the group to take part in the meeting, somewhere in the region. It was thought that a person was needed to communicate with the organizer in the area. Melanie and Linda Trimper volunteered to be the organization liaisons for annual meetings.

Strategic Planning Committee – Liz Platais, Scott McGuffin – the goal is to outline where the Society is headed, set long term goals, In a review of the previous list of goals, it was a nice surprise to find most all of those goals had been met.

Melanoma Research – Maureen Loughman-Abel – reported that she was making slow and careful progress. Her concern was that people would think the Connemara was a “Melanoma breed”, and it would hurt the overall sales and use of the ponies. It was discussed that in the long run, the positive outcome will override this serious concern. The magazine will do articles, emphasizing the problem is one of grey ponies, not breeds.

New Business –

Partbred Registry – Megan Harris explained her ideas for a partbred registry, noting that many other breed societies like the Welsh and Irish Draughts, recognized those animals with less than half their pedigree of a certain breed. The Board agreed the promotion from recognizing the accomplishments of equines with less than half Connemara parentage was a good thing, but that the program should probably stand apart from a breed society’s stud book. Megan will present her ideas at the Jan. 2014 meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY – ESTES PARK, COLORADO

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm, at Estes Park Lodge. The minutes from the October 2012 Annual Meeting were approved.

Motions from the BOG meeting - **The Nominating Committee will nominate only as many candidates as there are open positions on the Board of Governors, with the provision for a write-in.**

Region Reports were given – and will be printed in the American Connemara magazine.

Anne Moe reported on the results of the election for the Board of Governors – all were elected as proposed. They are: Cathy Blackmon, Megan Harris, Nancy Kilcrease, Gloria LaCroix, Sarah McRae, and Sally Oxnard. All will serve a three-year term on the Board of Governors.

Joanie Webster gave a short talk on the problems with the Melanoma study – and the difficulty of communicating with Dr. Theon at Cal Davis. It is thought that with Maureen Loughman-Abel's assistance, and work on behalf of the study, that things would progress. Joanie noted that only 18 samples had been done (those belonging to Maureen and several others), and that 160 were needed. Maureen added that she had already increased that number, and more people were stepping up. The big problem is the expense since the pony owner has to pay the services of the vet. It was hoped that some larger collection "station" could be set up, but that had not happened thus far.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 2014 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The slate of officers for 2013/14 was presented by Anne Moe, Nominating Committee. The slate in its entirety was elected. The officers are – Deb Norman, President: Amy Plavin, Vice- President, Jill McNicol, Vice-President, Cathy Blackmon, Treasurer. Marynell Eyles will serve as Secretary, but is not a member of the Board.

Respetfully submitted

Marynell Eyles, Secretary ACPS