

Wisconsin River Chapter – NAVHDA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chapter President, Brian White.

Members present: Brian White, Donna Cochenet, Laurie Vierthaler, Corey Lawson, Paul Grover, Karla Nephew, Joe Stewart, Chuck Vierthaler, Connie Roewer

Members Absent: Paul Juckem

Old Business

Donna reported that the entry fees for the 2010 tests were inaccurate in the minutes from the January 13, 2010 EC Meeting. The correct fee structure is: NA = \$100 and UPT/UT = \$140.

Trailer Inventory

Corey provided a detailed inventory list and pictures of the equipment and supplies currently in the trailer. Discussions focused on the "Needs" list. Decisions were made to purchase the following items: 2-3 bird crates, variety of training bumpers, case of poppers, 2 small Dogtra bird launchers. Paul Grover will purchase these items before the first March training date. Paul Grover will investigate getting the WRC shotguns refinished. Laurie and Connie will assemble a first aid kit to be kept in the trailer.

The trailer has a "v" shaped crack in the upper front and needs repair. Connie will get estimates from someone she knows who specializes in sheet metal. If the sheet metal estimates do not pan out, Paul Grover will bring the trailer in for repair estimates.

Name tags were suggested for a better way of everyone getting to know each other. WRC members may purchase the name tags for \$10. An announcement and order form will be posted on the website and through the Yahoo group. Corey will place an order for the name tags in time for the first batch to arrive for the March 27th training day.

A motion was made to purchase the supplies, obtain estimates to repair the trailer and advertise & order name tags. Motion was made by Brian White, seconded by Corey Lawson; motion passed.

Testing

Karla announced that she has secured judging teams for both the May and June test dates. Currently, only 2 NA dogs have been entered in the May tests. Several handlers have inquired about the test site and expressed their reluctance to sign-up if the tests will be held at Mazo.

Test Site Search

Chuck and Joe have had preliminary contacts with Rush Creek. They plan to discuss details soon with the intent to hold the May tests at Rush Creek. It was proposed to approach Tangelwood hunt club for the June date since the test is NA puppies only and duck search water is not an issue. Brian volunteered to follow up with Tangelwood. The goal is to get both of these sites confirmed soon so that we can begin advertising the test venues and attracting applicants.

Raffle Report

The raffle license has been renewed and examples of raffle tickets designed by Paul Juckem were shared. The goal is to print the tickets ourselves to save costs. Corey explained the plans to have one major raffle with monetary prizes and periodic 50/50 raffles on training days.

A motion was made by Laurie to accept the plans for a raffle and 50/50 drawings, seconded by Donna; motion passed.

Mazo Grounds Update

A draft of the DNR's management plan for Mazomanie as a class 1 field trial grounds was reviewed. The different entities that manage or regulate the grounds, such as DNR, Mazo Grounds Assoc (MGA), Lower WI State Riverway and Pittman-Robertson fund were discussed. Projects that would benefit WRC were discussed. Some of these projects included: field burns & mowing, creation of a wetlands with swimming depth ponds within the class 1 grounds and moving the gate at Hwy 78 pond for ease of unloading boats & equipment. Paul G will approach MGA and the DNR to express WRC's desires to have the main field mowed by late July or early August, to move the Hwy 78 gate for easier access to the water and to support a plan to create wetland ponds.

Training Day Mechanics

Paul Grover expressed his plans for conducting training days. Paul Juckem has volunteered to greet newcomers and show them around. He will put together a welcome packet. The training groups would be a mix of dogs with a variety of experiences. Veteran handlers would be able to help novice handlers. At the same time, beginning handlers would be able to watch an advanced dog and see what can be accomplished. The day would start with bird sales and a sign in sheet. The sign in sheet will help members feel connected and may be used as a means to recruit volunteers to work at the tests. At noon everyone will return to the shelter for pot luck lunch and a lunch time activity or topic. Additional lunchtime topics were suggested: breeding programs, animal behaviorist, grouse habitat, trapping. Paul G will follow up on some of these suggestions. Karla will talk to her veterinarian contacts about someone to speak on animal behavior.

Joe suggested that job descriptions be developed for the different volunteer roles needed at a test, such as field marshal, bird planter, UT gunner etc... Chuck will resurrect the old descriptions and work with Joe to update them.

Membership

Laurie has developed a membership letter to be used for recruitment. She provided 2 different drafts for review. It was decided to use draft #2. The letter will be sent to all past members via US mail for a more personal touch.

A mentor program was discussed. The idea would be to introduce beginners to an experienced member who can help them get started in WRC with bird purchases, training permits, NAVHDA tests (if interested) and learning to train their hunting dog.

Miscellaneous

Brian has not heard back from Morrie Link about a shooting clinic at Waunakee Gun Club. He will follow up. Arrangements for a Handlers Clinic were discussed. It was felt that we need to determine if the other chapters in the state would have members interested in attending. We do not want to schedule a clinic and risk having to cancel if there is no interest. Brian will contact the presidents of North Central and Kettle Moraine.

In response to a member's suggestion, the committee decided to give a small memento to Jr members as an incentive to become dog handlers. Laurie will check with the Promotions Director at the NAVHDA office for ideas.

A big thank you goes to Corey for providing a monthly treasurer's report to the EC. It has been very informative.

A motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Vierthaler, seconded by Paul Grover; motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20PM

Minutes submitted by Donna Cochenet