Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners (OAEP)
Executive Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016

Members in Attendance

- Stan Henderson, Pat Meyers, Julie Ballinger, Memo Arroyo, Elizabeth Shiland, Christina Wattson (Phase 2 OVC Student and OVC Equine Club Member);
- On conference call for meeting: Alison Moore and James Crawford
- On conference call for part of the meeting: Melissa McKee and Ruth Barbour

Animal Welfare Committee Update

- How can the OAEP help with the document "Ontario Care Guidelines for Equine Rescue, Retirement, and Adoption Facilities?
- The leg-work has been done as far as creating the document, now the challenge is to keep the industry engaged, publish it, and implement it. Using the OAEP Welfare Committee members for this step will be important.
- Potential for reaching out to OAEP members for finalizing approval/inspection of rescue/retirement/adoption facilities
- Memo Arroyo suggested having a panel when approving facilities
- Alison Moore commented on engaging veterinarians more, keeping OAEP an active member as part of The Welfare Advisory Council will be important.

Continuing Education (CE) Update

- The annual goal has been to run three webinars, one face-to-face panel, the AGM (historically a CE event)
- The webinars in 2014/15 went well, with 25-40 people attending
- The numbers for the respiratory panel were decreased relative to the foot panel held last year
- The upcoming AGM sponsor is Idexx; it was discussed the speaking opportunity for the sponsor will be 10-15 minutes maximum
- Considerations were discussed regarding how future executive committee's can generate successful CE:
    - Have CE topics decided at the beginning of the year
    - Continue to choose 3 webinars, and one table topic
    - We have a significant amount of additional equine CE that is frequently attended including that hosted by the AAEP, OVMA, and additional CE events.
    - The idea was proposed of trying to survey the members when signing up again for OAEP membership, but we want to be sure this is not cumbersome
    - Create an easy "cycle" so each year, the topics can simply fill in the blanks for each year.
    - Another format: have a full day of CE/AGM/lab component, similar to the bovine practitioners association
    - Consider involving feed companies/nutritional CE
    - Consider surveying members about whether they attend the OVMA Conference, and if no, why not.

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

- Stan suggested having a guest speaker such as the new dean of OVC, Dr. Jeff Wichtel, who could introduce himself and speak for approximately 10 minutes
- Discussed having a separate meeting with the College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) registrar; this will be suggested to the new Executive Committee for the future
- Pat Meyers has booked and secured the room for the upcoming AGM on Feb 28th

Racing Committee Update

- On conference call was Ruth Barber and Melissa Mckee who called in at 8pm; Alison Moore and James Crawford continued to stay on the line
- Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) annual meeting will be held on Feb 10th
- The Racing Committee has been waiting for ORC restructuring before we are to get feedback from the ORC (as per the ORC)
    - Non-regulatory issues that were brought forth included illness and race days, respiratory dx, horses flipping in gate, frequency of racing, lameness issues, track surfaces and how these should be addressed; it was emphasized that veterinarians were best equipped to provide input on these issues and involve trainers through education.
    - Julie will be speaking with the ORC regarding the "5 day no racing rule", and the "7 days sick rule" which were both submitted in writing to Brent Stone (representative of the ORC) by the Racing Committee. We have received no written response back to our requests from 18 months ago.
    - Ruth Barbour recommended re-sending the requests again with one month notice, afterwhich it can then be addressed at ORC meeting in february. Julie wants to send the requests to Jean Major and Elmer Buchanan.
- The Racing committee has put forth a proposal to establish a Veterinary Panel within the ORC/Ontario Racing
    - Ontario Racing will be the non-regulatory body, and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCo) will be the regulatory body.
    - OMAFRA developing a racehorse health and welfare program to hand over to Ontario Racing
    - OHRIA will be Ontario Racing
    - OAEP will likely be on the board when there is some structure established in the spring, we have been in contact with Sue Leslie
    - Lack of standards at racetracks regarding standard operating procedures (SOP's) for potentially life threatening conditions to race a horse regarding surface, temperature, etc., is in the hands of the horsemen/horsewomen to decide. Currently there is no involvement of veterinarians with these issues.
    - The Racing Committee plans to continue pushing through with same issues in the 2016 agenda
    - The OAEP presence is very important with the changing of ORC structure

Treasury Update

- As of January 8, 2016 the OAEP account balance was $28,037.35.
- The AGM event has not been accounted for yet
- It was agreed that a $500 donation be made to the fund established by Dr. Liz Shiland to support the Classy Lane fire tragedy.
- A motion was made by Pat Meyers in support of donation the Classy Lane Fund. Motion was seconded by Stan Henderson. Motion passed. Note that Liz Shiland abstained from voting as she set up one of the funds.

Honorary Life Members/Awards for the AGM

- Current nominations for the Honorary Lifetime Member (HLM) Award: Dr. Peter Physick-sheard and Dr. Laurent Viel
- Current nominations for Distinguished Lifetime Member (DLM) Award: Dr. Mary Bell, Dr. Ken Armstrong, Dr. Jim Henderson, Dr. Dan McMaster
- The question was raised whether to nominate more than one person per category this year
- A motion is made by Memo Arroyo to have two nominees for HLM and four nominees for DLM. Motion seconded by Julie Ballinger; the nominees mentioned above were voted in unanimously; all six will receive plaques; Julie will look into glass engraving.

Other Business

- Memo Arroyo is the liason/link between OVC and OAEP and introduced Christina Wattson
- Christina (student equine representative) said that several members have signed up for the AGM/Sue Dyson talk
- Approximately 130 students are in the OVC Equine Club
- Christina will be sure to let the students know that there is a discount for student membership and that students are welcome to attend the upcoming Sue Dyson Conference/AGM in February.
- The OVC Equine Club would like to help students to network with local veterinarians
- The club organizes wet labs, lectures, most recently nutrition, have had a variety of speakers, but are always interested in hands-on experience
- Other items discussed included getting webinars available on the website, authorization to edit website for now and in the future, and a membership list for website
- Memo going to contact Hans, Dr. Janelle Webb's husband

Motion to adjourn meeting was put forth by Pat Meyers. Motion was seconded by Stan Henderson. Motion adjourned.

Approved by email on Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 12 noon.