

Iditarod Trail Committee
Board of Directors Meeting – **Summary**
Millennium Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
April 24, 2009

A quorum of the Board of Directors was present for the meeting, which began at 9AM. President Larson stated that Joe Redington Sr. absence was excused, as he was on the trail. In addition to several staff members being present, Eric Rogers and Aliy Zirkle were also present.

The minutes of the February 16, 2009 Board meeting were approved as corrected.

President Larsen reported that the 2009 Iditarod was an incredible experience for him, having been to McGrath, Takotna, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, White Mountain, Skwentna and Elim. He noted that the Iditarod Air Force does a terrific job for the race. He was very impressed with all the volunteers that make the Iditarod a success.

He noted that not only is the national economy in dire straights now, but the size of the race field has a tremendous impact as it ripples through every part of the Iditarod budget.

Hooley reported the debts with Wells Fargo and the Iditarod Trail Race Foundation have been restructured. He reported the most significant budget event was the loss of the \$300K when the Discovery Channel opted no to renew its contract with the ITC. He also pointed out that Cabela's sponsorship was reduced by \$185K.

Larsen reminded the Board of the wonderful sponsorship provided by ExxonMobil.

Patterson reported there were approximately 1,800 GPS Tracking only subscriptions and about 3,000 Insider subscriptions.

Bill noted that ExxonMobil may be dedicating a person to work with Diane Johnson to help develop a bigger and better school program.

Nelson explained the biggest focus was on the six dog deaths. He reviewed some history about dog deaths and explained the highest percentage of dog deaths is from Koyuk to Nome, the area he termed as the Red Zone. He noted the rules committee had passed his recommendation of a report card from all races on how they rate the mushers along with an assessment of the race itself.

The Board approved the Assessment Forms provided by Nelson and the Rules Committee.

Aliy Zirkle presented a report on the IOFC meeting following the Race in Nome. She felt the collective feeling from the meeting was everyone's concern about money, the increase in the entry fee and the decrease in the purse. She pointed out that there are

three kinds of mushers: 1) the musher who depends completely on the purse; 2) the musher who has a money pool already established; and 3) the musher who has extra money to spend. All parties should work together as we need mushers to run the race and we need people to organize the race for the mushers to run.

She commented that the IFOC wanted to thank the trail breakers for a good job.

The IOFC asked that if there is a protocol for musher drug testing for the 2010 race that a summary of its terms be provided prior to January 1, 2010.

Lastly, she noted that the IOFC wanted to publicly thank Bruce Moroney for his selfless act to save a 2009 Iditarod racer on the Yukon River.

Via telephone, Karen Ramstead gave a report on Mush with PRIDE. She indicated there are 142 members, plus 79 Iditarod mushers, from Alaska, the Lower 48, Norway, Sweden and South Africa.

Nordman noted that they will have a detailed trail report at the next meeting. He said the FAA personnel were pleased with the professionalism of the Iditarod Air Force (IAF).

Greg Miller reported via telephone that he had sent in the request for the exemption associated with the IAF to FAA.

Peterson briefed the Board on the various issues the Rules Committee is considering. The Board will consider the Rules Committee recommendations at its May meeting. President Larsen appointed a committee of Hooley, Moderow, Burmeister and Larsen to work on a musher drug testing rule and bring it back to the Board. Peterson noted that he believes the veterinarians and judges need more authority to withdraw teams and pull dogs.

Moderow suggested the Policy Preamble needs to be reviewed. Larsen appointed Moderow, Maxwell, Peterson and Owens to make recommendations to the Executive Committee to then go to the Rules Committee.

President Larsen reported on his Commemorative Wine Project success during the 2009 race. He has been in contact with a winery that is interested in a license for Iditarod Wine with no financial exposure to ITC. ITC would receive a portion of the sales proceeds. The Board approved such a licensing agreement. The earnings from the 2009 sales will be allocated the designated mushers as proposed by Larsen.

Being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:01PM

James F. Palin
Secretary – Board of Directors

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