



United States Mondioring Association Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes March 3, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Donald Lee at 1332 (or 1:32 P.M. CST). A quorum was present.

Members Present:

President	Donald Lee	Director	Karen Shivers
Vice President	Paul Anthony	Director	François Massart
Secretary	Angie Leonberger	Director	Heather Ratynski
Treasurer	Jake Scott		

Call for Special Meeting

As discussed on the FB page; we called a special meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 1:30 PM CST by conference call. The notice was sent via email to every BOD member. Included in the email was a response that was sent to the NARA BOD from Maggie Klein and a letter sent by President Donald Lee to the NARA BOD regarding an unauthorized investigation by a BOD member.

The meeting was called to discuss and vote on our previous actions removing of Maggie Klein from the FMBB team and to consider fair and consistent opportunity for each of the FMBB Team members that AWMA has chosen to be able to compete at the FMBB.

Background for the Special Meeting

The following was submitted by Don Lee:

Maybe I wasn't clear in the first meeting when I, as USMRA President, discussed my expectations for the Board Members of our organization. Above all, I expect each of you to conduct business in a professional manner, without bias, and for the betterment of this organization. I expect you to know your job and to be responsible for your duties and actions.

This Board will function as a team. I do not expect everyone to always agree. Proper and polite disagreement builds character and creates innovative performance. We do not and will not go out on our own accord as an official representative of USMRA. With that said; when we are at a sanctioned event, members will look up to us as a BOD member and we must conduct ourselves professionally.

We will not conduct independent investigations on our own, without effective authorization from within the BOD. We have a process outlined in our by-laws, and we will follow it. Due process is a legal requirement that is passed down as a protective measure through government and through the courts. It is described in our by-laws and in Sturgis because in the case of a lawsuit, this will be taken into consideration.

We (me included) made several mistakes in our vote to remove Maggie as an FMBB competitor. I allowed Dave Kroyer to verify paperwork. Dave is chair of the FCI Committee, which was created to make sure USMRA is compliant with our FCI variance, and to develop a strategy to allow non-FCI registered dogs to compete at future Mondioring events.

We have precedence set for the International Committee to be responsible for verifying International competitors. The International Committee has been tasked with recommending qualified team members to the BOD for approval. In the case of FMBB, AWMA has chosen the team, and made their recommendation to us. This was based on USMRA members who have applied through AWMA; AWMA then consults with USMRA (normally the International Committee Chair, or the President) to confirm that the members are in good standing and that they meet our criteria for International competition. This year the FMBB Team was announced at the January BOD meeting.

Dave stepped outside his scope of duties as FCI Committee Chair. If Dave were to take on the responsibility of another committee, we should have communicated with the other committee. Dave also should have included the entire FCI committee, rather than making a decision on his own.

Prior to our last Special Meeting, on February 11, 2019, Francois called me to discuss an accusation made by Maggie against him. Our Special Meeting was on the same day about 30 minutes after the phone call. I failed to request Francois to recuse himself from voting eligibility due to his conflict of personal interest with Maggie, and since he is part of the FMBB team with a similar criteria issue.

As members of the BOD we should be committed to fairness to all members, and always act impartial and in good faith. All of the information that was presented at the Special BOD Meeting (02/11/19), was presented against Maggie – this is inculpatory evidence, meaning evidence which only tends to present guilt. I questioned the one sided evidence and asked if anyone had spoken with Maggie. The response was “No.” I advised that I had requested Maggie’s scorebook and requested to hold the vote until we looked at the actual NARA scorebook. The response was “what are we going to see in the scorebook that we can’t see in the photos?” (of the scorebook) My response was “I don’t know, but we are required to investigate all sources of evidence, and use due diligence.”

As a Board, we failed to use due diligence in the investigation. Only inculpatory evidence was presented by Dave Kroyer and by Jake Scott. Both persons have personal issues with Maggie. A motion was made and seconded. I suggested that we should have all information presented, and in front of us, prior to voting. I also brought up that we cannot sanction consequences without a hearing. It was brought up that we are not punishing a member, instead we are deciding on whether the member, Maggie, meets requirements for International competition.

At that time, we had two FMBB participants that did not meet criteria for International competition. However, the BOD decided to help one of them gain compliance with his paperwork; and motioned to remove the other person from the FMBB team. This decision was based on possible results that might occur from another organization. (Her changing information in her NARA scorebook to correct information) USMRA has no policy for the potential violation within the other organization. Again, I requested that we wait until the other organization makes a decision before we vote. The BOD decided to vote. The vote was unanimous to remove Maggie from the FMBB team. No action was taken against the other member who did not meet international competition requirements.

Business

Don temporarily turned over the position of presiding officer to Vice President Paul Anthony. Paul accepted. Don discussed various reasons that Board Members might recuse themselves from voting.

Motion to Rescind

Don motioned, Angie second, to rescind the motion passed at the last Special Meeting on February 11, 2019 regarding Maggie Klein's application to represent USMRA at the FMBB Mondioring World Championships. The motion carried with 1 vote abstained.

Request for recusal on the vote

Don requested that Francois and Jake each recuse themselves from this vote to avoid the potential of any appearance of bias or conflict of interest. (A) Francois is a member of the BOD who also had eligibility issues to the FMBB, and there are personal issues between Maggie and François; and (B) Jake, as a member of West Penn Mondioring Club, which had filed a complaint against Maggie previously, and Maggie having filed a prior complaint against Jake personally which the Board of Inquiry determined to be not relevant. Francois agreed. Jake stated he could be non-biased.

Support for the motion

Don summarized that Maggie Klein is a member in good standing with USMRA; and there are no allegations that any other organization, including AKC and NARA, has sustained Maggie for any rule violation(s) whatsoever. Maggie Klein currently meets all FMBB requirements and there is currently no known reason for future disciplinary action.

I'm not sure this was proper, but I asked Paul if he wanted to vote and if so, I would take over the position of presiding officer, which I did.

Roll call vote

Paul – yes
Jake – yes
Angie – yes

Motion Carried

Karen – yes
Francois – abstain
Heather – yes

Announcements

Next Regular BOD Meeting – March 18, 2019 at 8:00 PM Central Time

Adjournment

No further business to be discussed, general consent assumed. Don closed the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1456 hours (2:56 P.M. CST)

Angie Leonberger,
USMRA Secretary

**Approved (Approved as Corrected)
BOD Electronic approval**

Angie Leonberger
USMRA Secretary
March 2, 2019