



**FMC Meeting
May 12, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

In Attendance:

Sharon Bechler- Central California Friesian Horse Club
Carrie Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association
Will Bron – Northwest Friesian Horse Club
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association
Janice DeBoer Vermerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Association
Tiffany van der Kooi – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association
Lisa Baker - FHANA Education Committee, FHAME Representative
Nina Miller – West Coast Friesian Horse Club
Leslie Losey -
Ruth Page – Sierra Nevada Friesian Horse Club
Danielle Piascik– Northeast Friesian Horse Club

Erin Miley – FHANA Board
Jo Ann Clough– Administrator
Kelly Twambly – Administrator
Roseanne Palermo, President - Guest

Members Not Present:

Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club
Klazien Sietsma - Alberta Friesian Horse Association
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California
Allison Sable – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter
Mark McGowan - Lone Star Friesian Horse Club
Danielle Barrasso - Friesian Horse Association of New England

1. **Call to Order-** The May 12, 2021, meeting was called to order by Ms. Bechler at 8:04 EDT.
2. **Approval of the April Minutes.** Ms. Bechler asked if there were any changes to the March minutes. Mr. Bron offered a correction to the minutes: *He indicated that the president of FHANA, Rosanne Palermo, has stated before in the Friesian Magazine that all committees are now running more smoothly with a FHANA member as chairperson for the assigned committee. Previously a member of the FHANA BOD was the assigned chairperson of the particular committees, now each committee has a board liaison*



assigned to them. Why has the president from FHANA now replaced the current FHANA members on the KFPS membership council with three members of the board including herself? Mr. Jack Vanderkooy advised a spelling correction e.g., Mr. Ted Vanderkooy to van der Kooi. Ms. Piascik motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Vanderkooy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **New Business: Dr. Palermo question and answer session.** The below questions were read by Ms. Bechler and following each question are Ms. Palermo's response.

Who initiated replacing all three of the KFPS Member Council Members and why weren't they involved and notified of the change before it happened?

"This is more of a question of why this happened. This action was taken because they were appointed, they were not elected." Ms. Palermo wanted to get this change started after the FHANA elections. She indicated that she thought she had time to contact them and what occurred was an oversight. What happened was not her intention she thought she had time to contact them. She apologized to the three of them.

Did the KFPS advise FHANA that they were not in compliance with the current rules and regulations?

The KFPS advised.

Did FHANA members bring this issue to the FHANA board?

No

Is FHANA following the KFPS guidelines with these assignments, what are the guidelines?

Dr. Palermo indicated that this is spelled out in her response letter that was sent to the FMC, basically they have to be elected. She stated that the only ones elected are the Board members. She indicated that FHANA is supposed to have an annual meeting with the KFPS, and two meetings are recommended. She stated that the Board of Directors for the KFPS attend and our FHANA members would be welcomed as well.

What does the FHANA constitution state about the KFPS assignments?

The KFPS governs the assignments.



Why are the new representatives FHANA Board members?

She stated that this question had been answered before.

How are committee assignments made e.g., are they assigned by the BOD or the President?

She indicated that they are elected individuals. Eventually they will be voted in by the FHANA members.

Are the KFPS Member Council assignments made like other committees?

The KFPS MC representatives will need to be elected.

Why doesn't FHANA ask the FMC to nominate and elect a rep, or hold an election to allow the entire FHANA membership to nominate and vote on representatives?

In the future this will happen.

Why not designate one of the three representatives to be appointed by or from the FHANA Board of Directors?

All three are elected Board members, there are no others elected. She is working with the KFPS to set this up.

Was there thought given to replacing all three members thus removing the historical memory of the representatives?

The thought was being to be in compliance with the KFPS.

Why wasn't there a Canadian representative in the three selected?

We do not look at them as being Canadian, we see them as Board members.

Why wasn't there a Dutch speaking representative selected?

She stated that this is not necessary.

Is much of the KFPS Member Council Meeting conducted in Dutch?

It has been translated for years.

In closing this part of the pre-planned questions, Dr. Palermo indicated that they, FHANA, are working on being compliant with the KFPS, and with this FHANA members will enjoy more input into the KFPS. This will provide an opportunity to increase communication, to have more of a voice. We will have better communication between the two countries. She extended her apologies; she did not anticipate someone else telling them that they would be off the KFPS MC. Following the series of pre-planned questions, members were asked if they had further questions.

Mr. Vanderkooy stated that he understands in the future it will be better when we are able to work with the KFPS Board in a manner similar with the regions in the NL. He indicated that the KFPS works with regions; however, they have not worked with us to do something similar. He indicated he was aware the BOD was discussing a change in membership and asked Dr. Palermo what the hurry was to remove the three KFPS Member Council representatives. Mr. Vanderkooy stated that these three work hard, they take their role seriously. He indicated that the amount of their influence is minor but nevertheless, they were dumped. He asked why they did not make this a process over a 12-month period of time. Dr. Palermo replied they did not dump them; they took a year to work this out and did it after the elections to be in compliance with the KFPS.

Ms. Page asked if all FHANA members could listen in to the planned KFPS MC and FHANA combined meeting. Ms. Palermo indicated yes that all members will be welcomed to the to the meeting, have input, voice concerns they might have, and open the lines of communication.

Ms. Jeffcoat asked how long we have had three KFPS MC representatives and is there a chance of getting more than three? Dr. Palermo indicated she asked the KFPS, they said no; however, it might be considered in the future. FHANA has the most members of any other outside country. Most countries have their Board as representatives because they understand their whole organization.

Dr. Palermo thanked all for their hard work and then left the meeting.

Ms. Bechler indicated that we are now open for discussion and motions. She asked if members have recommendations as to how members are selected.

Mr. Bron offered that FHANA have one Board member and two general members. He also stated that he would like to see the FMC involved with this selectin process. A concern he expressed is that the length of terms need to correspond e.g., the



FHANA BOD term is three years and the KFPS MC is four years. These two term limits do not correspond. He indicated that what Ms. Palermo discussed for the FHANA and KFPS that this is not a meeting with Ledenraad. Mr. Bron asked if he should step out of the discussion and Ms. Bechler indicated no; that he had a right to voice his opinion for the three KFPS MC members. Mr. Bron indicated that a Board member serving on the KFPS MC could have a term expire before their KFPS member council appointment expired. He stated that the KFPS MC will not agree to changes in representation every year. He stated that Ledenraad expects losses of representatives due to illness or death but not because of expiring FHANA Board terms.

Mr. Vanderkooy indicated that after thinking about this issue often the positions within the FHANA Board changes from year to year. The FHANA President may want someone else to serve. He indicated that Mr. Laude, BOD, had met with the three KFPS MC representatives before they had their meetings, Mr. Laude was their go between, Mr. Laude served as a Board liaison. The communication issues can be resolved, e.g., having a Board member participate as a liaison who is familiar with FHANA operations. He is leaning to three KFPS MC members with 4-year terms. Every year an election for the KFPS member council could occur along with Board members. Mr. Vanderkooy believes the FHANA Member Council could have a strong influence on whose name is put forward for the KFPS MC role. He indicated that the FMC could endorse a particular name and put weight behind it.

Mr. Bron stated that we need to understand that the KFPS MC is different than the FHANA FMC. The KFPS MC has more power than the KFPS Board. Our FMC is only advisory. He further stated that the KFPS MC is on the top, then you have the KFPS Board, and then you have KFPS management. The KFPS MC can remove Board members and the FMC cannot.

Ms. Bechler asked if there is a motion. Mr. Bron reminded all that Mr. Steenbeck is off the KFPS MC this year and needs to be replaced. Mr. Bron's term is up next year and Mr. van der Kooi's the following year.

Mr. Vanderkooy stated that he thought we do not need to make a motion at this time. He is not certain what timeline Dr. Palermo is using and that they are in no hurry to make changes. He advised we form a subcommittee to talk to the three current members and come back with a proposal. He advised that we go slow. He indicated that Mr. Bron should be part of this subcommittee. Mr. Vanderkooy stated that it would be good to get input from other members. We need to discuss this further and set some guidelines and again stated, a subcommittee is a great idea.

Mr. Bron replied that there is no big hurry, we need to do it the right way. Mr. Steenbeck will be replaced the end of May. Mr. Bron stated that Mr. Vanderkooy is right, we need to do this correctly. A proposal needs to make sense. He stated that the FHANA rules and regulations need to be revised and another concern is that every time a new President makes their own changes.

Mr. Bron reported that in April the three representatives were taken off the KFPS email list but have recently been receiving correspondence from them. He stated that their three BOD replacements were taken off the email distribution list and that they again are receiving correspondence for several meeting since then.

Ms. Page concurred with the subcommittee working on this issue.

Mr. Vanderkooy stated a motion that the FHANA Member Council should promote an election of future KFPS MC members to represent FHANA. We, FMC, would be advising the Board. FMC members were reminded that the BOD takes the FMC seriously. We may not have any authority, but they do take us seriously. Ms. Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Vanderkooy, Mr. Bron, and Ms. van der Kooi will work on the subcommittee. Ms. Bechler will organize the first meeting and then the subcommittee will continue to work solo.

Ms. Clough raised the concern previously expressed about FHANA compliance to existing rules and regulations, that confusion has occurred about how decisions have been made and/or process steps taken. For example, actions taken for selecting committee chairs. The rules state the Board does this function, but the actual practice is to for the President to select these individuals. Mr. Vanderkooy stated that his quick response is that the FHANA Bylaw Committee would be the group to address these concerns. This issue should be addressed by the BOD and its committee, we, the FMC, can say it is out of sync. He further stated let us not take the responsibility away. Ms. Miley stated that they are currently looking at rules and regulations, are they being adhered to what is documented. She clarified that they are looking at compliance for both the KFPS and FHANA rules and regulations.

Ms. Bechler asked if there was anyone willing to host the AGM. Mr. Vanderkooy replied that it is not prudent to have one in Canada in February or March. He indicated that they have the manpower to pull this event off. He stated he was not sure where the Board stands on this question. He stated that he is curious if the FHANA BOD has talked about the 40th Anniversary? He indicated that he was Chair of 35th and promoted that every five years members get together and have a party. He indicated that for the anniversary in 2024 you need to talk about it now. There is a Board meeting next week and Ms. Miley will inquire about the 40th Anniversary.

Ms. Miley indicating that they are revising the Chapter of the Year (COTY) Award in the Sports Committee. She stated that Alberta does a fantastic job, that they have won for many years. They will be expanding the award to include regional high point chapters and a high point over-all for COTY. She stated that the Board will be addressing motions from the Inspection Committee relating to re-keurings. Ms. Miley indicated that the Sports Committee will be offering in-hand awards. Ms. Muilwijk indicated that they will be doing a webinar on how to capture information for the COTY award submissions.

Ms. Clough reminded all that there is a FHANA Inspection Site Host meeting next Monday. Topics will include Covid, the revised Coggins requirement for foals, how to address unverified horses, and educational offerings. Ms. Jeffcoat expressed concern that the Covid document was too strict. Ms. Clough indicated that the document does not require sites to follow each logistical step but rather, pick actions that are in-line with their local health regulations. The issue is that there are diverse approaches, one document will not fit all.

4. Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Page asked if there was going to be Keurings this year. She has heard from individuals that there will not be inspections, she would rather know now rather than later. She indicated that keuring prep can be very expensive and therefore, she would rather know that now. Rather than hold on to her horses, she would sell them if the Keurings do not happen. Ms. Miley indicated that the board is moving forward with Inspections, that it is important we have a Keuring this year. She will fall on sword to make this happen. Ms. Jeffcoat stated she is getting the same questions too. IBOP training is expensive, so folks are hesitant to train for this event if the Keurings are at risk of not happening.

Ms. Page stated that some of the runners do more harm than provide a benefit. She stated that we should get feedback on their performance right the event realizing that this could be sensitive. Some runners that do not perform well should not be invited back. It was noted that the KFPS does not assign runners, whoever wants to come can come. A big concern is that the KFPS can say we will have Inspections in North America, but will the Judges and runners actually come?

Ms. Twambly stated that by end of July we will have 85% vaccinated in the U.S and that they will be vaccinating down to the 12-year-olds. Sites just opened up for vaccinations for adolescents, soon we will be at a point that we will have enough vaccinated for herd immunity. Things are looking good for the US. The NL is strengthening their strategies. It was pointed out that the issue for the Judges is

getting back into their country following an Inspection and that many are older. It was asked if there was a date to decide whether to have a Keuring in NA or not. Ms. Clough stated she believed the decision date was August 1. Ms. Miley will discuss this with the Board.

Mr. Vanderkooy stated we need to be clear to not give the Board the impression that a hard date is needed. He understands, it is difficult to know if it is a go or not. He would not favor a decision 90 days before the Inspections are to occur. Ms. Page stated that this could be a lost opportunity to sell horses now. Ms. Muilwijk agrees with Mr. Vanderkooy. Ms. Jeffcoat said time is passing quickly, we are four and half months out from the Keuring. We are running out of time quickly. It was noted that we cannot predict what the governments might do. Ultimately, this is not just down to FHANA, three governments involved. Mr. Vanderkooy stated that he does not want to put the Board on the spot, members could be disappointed, not a way to build an organization. Ms. Clough indicated that the Inspection Committee is working on the logistics to make this happen, she is optimistic this will occur.

Ms. Bechler remarked this is the same discussion they had with stallion testing. It is difficult but it is positive that the trajectory looks good at this point in time relative to how we are doing with vaccinations and declining cases. Ms. Page asked about having American judges again. Ms. Miley indicated that they did not see a sufficient number of horses and FHANA members preferred Judges from the Netherlands because they are more experienced. Ms. Miller stated we need to have the Judges speak Dutch and there were other logistical challenges.

5. **Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, June 23, 2021
6. **Motion to Adjourn** – Ms. Miller motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Page seconded the motion.

Recorder – Jo Clough