

IDITAROD TRAIL COMMITTEE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 25, 2003
Millennium Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska

ROLL CALL

Members present: Richard Burmeister, Rick Koch, Lee Larsen, Sam Maxwell, Mike Owens, Dan Seavey, Rick Swenson and Dick Westlund.

Members absent: John Handeland and Joe Redington, Sr. The president announced that Redington is excused and on the trail.

Others present: Stan Hooley, Executive Director; Joanne Potts, Race Director/Recording Secretary; Stuart Nelson Jr., DVM, Chief Veterinarian; Mark Nordman, Race Marshal; Jack Niggemyer, Race Manager; Don Patterson, Finance Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Koch at 9:05 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests for public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The President noted that a time certain of 10:00 a.m. had been set for a teleconference with Gwen Holdman and possibly Jerry Scdoris. He suggested that item #10 on the agenda be moved up to the Report of the President for discussion before the 10:00 a.m. phone call.

There being no objection, the agenda was approved with the above noted change.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2003

Burmeister/Owens moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2003, board meeting. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Koch noted that he had been contacted by Jerry Scdoris informing him of Rachel Scdoris' intent to compete in the 2004 Iditarod. They had spoken to accommodation for her as a second sled and the driver would be acting as Rachel's eyes.

Koch said he had encouraged the Scdoris' to travel to Alaska during the race and offered to get them out on the trail so they could see what it was actually like. He expressed concern that they didn't really understand the differences between our trail and trails they were used to in the lower 48. But Scdoris said they couldn't afford it at the time.

Koch noted that he had brought up to the IOFC Scdoris' interest in running the Iditarod. He said the response was mixed but it was heavy in favor of allowing her to compete. He said the concerns that had been expressed were about her safety and the safety of her dogs. He mentioned that Aliy Zirkle had mentioned a time when she came to an open lead and she said a person on a sled behind her wouldn't not have been able to have seen the open lead before the lead dogs had gotten into it.

Koch noted that the rules committee didn't want to address any rule changes specific to one musher.

Koch said that he had put together some verbiage for a proposed rule #63, Accommodations for Disabled Individuals:

Rule 63: Accommodations for Disabled Individuals: The ITC will consider requests for accommodation from disabled individuals who seek to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. The Board of Directors will consider and may permit accommodations for handicapped individuals on a case-by-case basis. Any decision to accommodate a disabled individual who seeks to compete in the race shall be gauged by considerations for the safety of the disabled individual, safety and well-being of the dog team, and whether the requested accommodations(s) fundamentally alter the nature of the competition. Further the Board will consider if the accommodation will, in addition to providing access to the competition, result in providing the disabled individual an advantage over other competitors.

If the Board of Directors determines that accommodations can be allowed meeting the criteria in this rule, a supplemental agreement between the ITC and the disabled individual shall be created clearly describing the accommodations(s) that will be allowed.

The President of the Board of Directors may appoint a committee to consider requests for accommodations from disabled individuals, and to make recommendations to the Board for its consideration.

He noted that if accommodations are to be allowed, they will be specific to the particular handicap.

He explained that in the Supreme Court Decision regarding the PGA, there were two questions: 1) Would the accommodation give the disabled individual an advantage over the other competitors? And 2) Would the accommodation fundamentally alter the nature of the event?

He said Iditarod would stand along the PGA in some ways but we don't maintain a facility for the event. He said that could be the legal argument of the Iditarod Trail vs. the PGA golf course.

Swenson questioned how we got to this point. He asked if Koch had talked to any of the people who have raced around her.

Seavey directed the board to the letter Jim Gallea had sent which was included in the board packet. He urged the Board to strongly consider the risks they are willing to let Rachel Scdoris take as well as the risk of liability the Iditarod is willing to take to let her compete.

Seavey commented that if he wanted to be a basketball player he couldn't expect the hoops to be lowered so he could get the ball in because he isn't so tall. He suggested that Iditarod will be condemned if we let her run and we'll be condemned if we don't let her run. He also raised the question of what would happen if she has to be withdrawn?

Owens commented that Seavey had seen two sleds running together in the first race and Seavey noted that they didn't go down the Gorge that year and they never did it again after the first race.

Seavey suggested that sighted mushers sometimes nearly kill themselves going down the steps. He said if she gets hurt or runs over her team, in the end Iditarod will take the heat.

Koch noted that her level of sight allows her to see her wheel dogs.

Nelson asked if legal action had been threatened and Koch said there has been no direct threat of legal action. He said Scdoris has mentioned that Rachel has always had to deal with prejudice because of her blindness.

Burmeister said he's worked with lots of kids with special needs and has seen parents who want their kids to realize their dreams wherever possible.

Burmeister noted that there are very difficult areas on the Iditarod Trail and if we make accommodations for her, we might want to say what races she has to compete in prior to the Iditarod so she can see how she handles her dogs. He also noted that a person on the second sled would probably end up helping her at times.

Koch noted that Scdoris had said Rachel will go to the Seeney 300 in Michigan, then do the Atta Boy and then come to Alaska and do two 200 mile races to complete her qualifiers. She still has to run two qualifiers. He said if the board chooses to make accommodations for her, we'd have to do the same with qualifier. He suggested that her qualifiers would have to be done in the same manner as she would do the Iditarod and with the same person on her second sled.

Nordman commented that Lloyd Gilbertson of the Seeney 300 had already called him about this and he said he would talk to him after this board meeting.

Burmeister suggested that she be required to do her qualifiers in Alaska. Nordman said we couldn't do that. If she is going to do anything in the lower 48, the Seeneey 300 would be a good one to do.

Seavey asked what this would do to qualifiers. If they start accommodating one person, then they will end up accommodating all the time. He said most mushers feel the qualifiers should be tougher.

Nordman noted that we'd would have to allow the qualifiers to allow her to have help if we made the accommodations for her in the Iditarod.

Greg Bill noted that Gallea's letter was pretty poignant. He said there is a big difference between the PGA and our course. The safety factor for the musher and the dogs is significant. He said we'd get crucified if dogs were injured because someone was running the race who should be running. He asked about allowing accommodations conflicting with the "no outside help" rule. He suggested that if we accommodations for certain people rather than requiring mushers to run under the rules as they stand, we could be opening a huge can of worms.

Hooley noted that we had dealt with this in 2001. He said this is a different situation in terms of public accommodation. He said our attorney had felt it would not be the same as the PGA. He suggested it is more of a question of whether we want to find a way for her to participate.

Koch noted that Hooley is correct as it applies to Title #2, a place of public accommodation, But in the case of Title #3, he said he doesn't believe that the ITC is distinguishable in that regard.

Swenson noted that Myron Angstman had offered to defend the Iditarod free of charge in this case if it were to come to that.

Nordman pointed out again that Rachel Scdoris is not asking for a "trip to Nome." She wants to be a legitimate competitor in the Iditarod.

Owens suggested that we have to have two definitions: 1) What is the race definition of "disabled?" and 2) What is a reasonable accommodation? He said until there is clarity on those two issues, we'll have a difficult time discussing this.

Koch noted that the law has already defined "disability."

Swenson commented that he understands what Owens is talking about. He said William Kleedhan has only one leg but he takes care of his own dogs on the trail. He said it isn't whether she will have an advantage or not. It is a dog care and safety issue. He said people can verify that she is unable to take care of her dogs without assistance, whether it's foot ointment, booties, dogs getting across their lines, tangles, etc. He said the Iditarod has to stand up for what we believe is right on this issue.

Nelson commented that it would be a positive thing to stress the dog care issue.

Burmeister commented that he believes in helping the handicapped but if one can't see beyond the wheel dogs, too many things could happen that take split second decisions to prevent damage. He said our trail is fantastic but it is still an extremely dangerous trail.

Burmeister said if we start making special rules we'll begin to find ourselves in trouble. He said he wouldn't want to make rule changes to accommodate Rachel Scdoris.

Nordman said a number of people who have raced with her have talked to him. There is a lot of concern by people who have run with her, good people who aren't against Rachel.

Maxwell noted that it would be a huge public relations advantage to have her in the race. But he said it's the same issue as with cars and planes. People who can't see, can't drive or fly. He said the person on the second sled would have no way of seeing anything up front.

Seavey noted that it may sound cruel, but it's real life.

Maxwell noted that in 1995 a blind person had summated McKinley. Her safety isn't an issue in the Iditarod. It's a 100% the safety of the dogs. He said he felt that Gwen could get her out of anything but probably not her dogs.

Seavey said that if we change the rules and allow a second sled, the qualifying races would feel compelled to follow suite.

Niggemyer noted that he had taken blind people up Kilimanjaro but those expeditions were set up particularly to accommodate the blind climbers.

Swenson said that if she wants to get to Nome, we should encourage her to go on the serum run. It is set up for people to be successful.

Nordman noted that he is very concerned about her and her dogs. He said he would rather have the courts send her out into harms way than to have the Iditarod agree to let her go. He said he had also tried to get them to come up here and see what she would encounter but he hasn't been able to get them to come. He said from what he's seen, he doesn't think they know what they are getting in to.

Koch noted that the proposed rule #63 provides a process.

Gwen Holdman and Jerry Scdoris joined the meeting via teleconference.

Scdoris thanked the Board for addressing Rachel's participation in her goal. He said she's been a musher since she was a little girl. He said she is an extremely competent athlete and sled dog driver. She has been in a lot of events but nothing like the Iditarod. He

said he has talked to Gwen Holdman, Libby Riddles, Dan MacEachan, and John Patten about how she can do this safely.

Gwen Holdman noted that her role would be to make sure with the Board of Directors that we come up with a framework to do this within the rules. She said her goal would be not to assist her with her sight impairment.

Swenson asked how she would handle the second sled from Rainy Pass to Nikolai.

Holdman noted that about 90% of the trail Rachel would be able to handle on her own with just some voice communication. She said she has never heard any negative feedback about that. But she said there are more dangerous sections on the trail and she said she has serious concerns about riding a tandem sled through the gorge, the Happy River, etc. She suggested sitting down and brainstorming some alternate ways of doing this.

Koch noted that this is the time for them (Scdoris and Holdman) to tell the board what can be done to insure safety of the team and the musher.

Holdman noted when you need quick reaction time, a snow machine in radio contact between Gwen and Rachel might be best. She said she would have to make a decision as to what she felt best to do to get her through it. She said if she thought the dogs could become injured, she would suggest hooking the snowmobile up as a second sled. She said this would give her the opportunity to give Rachel immediate feedback.

Koch asked if she was in front of the team and some distance away, what insures the safety of the dogs in front of the dogs in front of a dog that goes down.

Holdman commented that she would stay far enough ahead of the team so as not to interfere with the team. She said Rachel is not completely blind. A lot of the time she can feel there is a problem. She is good at that, Holdman said. If she thinks there is something wrong, she can tell Holdman and she can check it out.

Scdoris noted that while Rachel can make out detail, she can tell if something is wrong. He said when she ran with Dan Seavey, he sometimes didn't see her for several miles.

Holdman said it is fair to make a comparison between Wyoming and Iditarod. She said a lot of Iditarod is much easier. She said if she can go ahead on a snow machine, she can advise Rachel.

Swenson asked about a contingency plan in case the snow machine becomes disabled.

Holdman commented that she would use a new machine. She said she didn't feel she would be under the same restrictions as an Iditarod musher with regard to outside help and would be able to get whatever help she needed and could get.

Scdoris said he has proposals to send to all snow machine manufacturers to sponsor a machine and a mechanic.

Seavey asked about the attitude if she had to be withdrawn.

Scdoris said he believes in the integrity of the Iditarod. He said he would see it as Rachel's decision as to withdraw or not and he said he would hope that with input from people she respects she would make the right decision. He said he doesn't think she will be the slowest musher on the trail.

Holdman and Scdoris both said that it is their understanding that Rachel would follow all other Iditarod rules and that is Rachel's understanding too.

Koch noted that this accommodation they are talking about is different than what he had discussed with the Board prior to the phone call.

Scdoris said that MacEachen had some serious concerns about a second sled making it down the steps.

Holdman said a second sled is harder to drive than the first one. She said she had concerns about the switchbacks on a second sled.

Swenson commented that most people who take snow machines to Nome have a lot of competency and aren't burdened with having to communicate with a dog team.

Koch said the Board would like to see a pretty specific proposal from Holdman and Rachel.

Swenson noted that in Nome when this was discussed there was not talk about using a snow machine.

Holdman said it would be reasonable to present the mushers with the plan as well as the board and if there is objection, it could be voiced before the race began.

Burmeister commented that the biggest concern is the safety of the dogs. He said there are too many places where it takes a split second decision to avoid something. He said he doesn't think a snow machine out in front can protect the dogs in cases like that.

Holdman said she would be able to assist in areas where there are concerns. In other than that kind of area, Rachel is capable of handling things with her team. If a dog goes down on Rachel, she should be able to handle that just as any other musher would handle it. She's capable of setting a snow hook and dealing with emergencies.

Maxwell cited an experience he had when he ran the Iditarod when he had a dog across the top of a hill get a line around its neck before he got to the top of the hill to see it. When he got to the top of the hill the dog was down. He said it was a split second decision on a regular piece of trail to give the dog CPR that kept him from going into Nikolai with a dead dog.

Holdman and Scdoris said that was a valid concern.

Nordman asked about their running at night.

Scdoris said actually Rachel's vision is better at night and in the twilight.

Koch asked if they think that in the same situation that Maxwell described, would Rachel's dogs be at an increased level of risk.

Holdman said she didn't necessarily think so. She said she guesses that there are not many mushers who can give CPR to their dogs. She said dogs in any number of teams probably wouldn't have made it in the situation Maxwell described. She said Rachel has a lot of experience and that is worth something as well.

Nordman asked Holdman if she could compete in the qualifiers with Rachel.

Holdman explained that she had her racing schedule set up for the winter and really hadn't discussed that.

Koch noted that the board had talked about the importance of the same person being with Rachel in the qualifiers as in the Iditarod.

Scdoris explained that one of the reasons they had asked Holdman was because of her experience on the Iditarod. She said all these people do is warn her of obstacles. He said when they approached Holdman they never expected her to give up her racing schedule for the winter to do qualifiers with Rachel.

Holdman noted that she and Rachel would have a system down. She said having someone who has experience with Rachel and the Iditarod is probably a pretty good choice, but she said she does have a life outside the Iditarod.

Scdoris noted that Wendy Davis is a very competent woman. He said they had taken Koch's advise when he recommended someone already qualified to run the Iditarod and Rachel made the decision to ask Holdman.

Scdoris also noted that Rachel is a very very good musher, a very competent camper and probably a lot more skilled in a lot more areas than 50% of the Iditarod rookies. He said he knows this is a tough thing for the Board to be looking at.

Holdman said she is cautiously optimistic about this project. She said it could bring positive publicity, but it needs to be looked at closely. She said she would suggested that someone form the Board be appointed to work with her on this.

Swenson asked if there was any possibility of doing this later than 2004 to give them an opportunity to come look at the trail. He explained that they are asking us to make a decision within the next six to eight weeks and said that neither of them knows what they are asking the Board's permission to do.

Scdoris said that from his perspective that is reasonable. He said Rachel had decided to put off college for a year to do this and she would be the one who would have to make that decision.

Scdoris explained that Rachel was in finals at this time and couldn't be on this teleconference.

Koch stated that given the conversation this morning between the Board and Scdoris and Holdman, it doesn't seem that this issue is right for a decision at this time. He said we need to have the details in front of us before we make a decision.

Holdman said she was hoping to work out the details with members of the Board and the Rules Committee.

Koch said they know better than the Board precisely how the accommodations would work. He said until they solidify the "figure it out" part, the board doesn't have what it needs.

Scdoris noted that Rachel had sent a letter to Rick Koch stating three possibilities: 1) a second sled; 2) a snow machine and 3) a combination of both. He said they have been working on this for several years. He said Rachel has never been injured or injured a dog. The only thing she has brought to a race giving organization is praise. He said he doesn't think we can come up with a perfect solution. She is asking to do it one of the three ways.

Holdman noted that she doesn't know Jerry and Rachel that well. She said this isn't something they just started thinking about. This has been Rachel's dream for her whole life. She said they have a pretty high stake in making this work. She said she wouldn't want to be part of something that she didn't expect to be a success.

Holdman and Scdoris left the teleconference.

Burmeister commented that using a snow machine throws this into a whole different ball game.

Koch noted that it is still rather fluid and said he would have been much happier to see how they would deal with different situations. He said it doesn't seem like there is enough of a solid request to vote it up or down right now.

Burmeister said Swenson had a good point about waiting until another year.

Westlund said he doesn't know what they are asking for.

Maxwell pointed out that every rookie musher does learn CPR at the rookie meeting.

Nelson noted that Gallea had made a point of being able to observe very early critical signs in dogs. He asked how to do that if you can't see the dog.

Seavey/ moved to send a letter to the Scdoris' saying we would not accept her entry.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Koch said to deny this at this time would be a significant error in his opinion. He said we need to ask for a specific proposal.

Seavey/Maxwell moved to receive a checkpoint by checkpoint proposal with specifics as to how they expect the accommodations to work.

Nordman noted that we need to know the plans for qualifiers also.

Swenson suggested that Holdman and Scdoris are expecting someone else to sit down with them to figure out what to do. They are asking way too much from us.

Koch noted that it is their responsibility to fully flesh this out.

Larsen commented that he had been pretty favorably predisposed to accommodate her but now he said he thinks we should be very clear in outlining everything they need to consider.

Burmeister commented again that he thinks she needs to do her qualifiers in Alaska. Nordman said we can't do that.

Nelson commented that if we give any indication that we want to work on a feasible plan, we're opening doors we don't want to open.

Koch noted that if mushers request accommodation in qualifying races, it must be the same as adopted by the Iditarod.

Westlund asked about amending the motion to include plans for specific qualifiers.

Koch suggested that they get the plan back to us in two weeks.

Seavey/Maxwell motion passed.

Nordman said he was told that she didn't complete this year's race was because of a multitude of tangles in her team. He said they were Dan MacEachen's dogs that she used in the Wyoming race. He said that some of the equipment she uses wouldn't be allowed on the Iditarod. He said she completed the Wyoming race with a lot of help.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Koch noted that when the Board met to change the re-start location, he had brought up the subject of conflict of interest with regards to Rick Swenson's voting. He said at that point there were other issues. He said he had been contacted about the conflict of interest issue. Rather than allowing the creation of an incident, he said he brought it up

that there would be a conflict of interest if Swenson voted on the re-start location. He said he didn't want to add fuel to the fire that had been created over a rules change at a previous meeting.

Koch noted that Roberts Rule of Order says there is a conflict of interest if there is a "direct personal or pecuniary interest." He said he would see it applying to a vote on the purse,

Larsen noted that if you think about the remote possibility of winning a small part of the total purse, he said he really didn't see a conflict.

Westlund noted that he didn't think voting on the overall purse would be a conflict of interest.

Seavey commented that he had asked for this to be on the agenda to clarify it. He said there is an active musher on the board as the mushers' rep and that person should take an active part in the decision making.

Maxwell noted that the Irondog does not allow any competitor to vote on the purse or any other money decisions of the organization. Active mushers are allowed to participate in discussions.

Nordman asked about voting on trail matters.

Westlund noted that when these decisions are made no mushers are signed up yet for the next race, so there really isn't a conflict.

Koch noted that every organization has the ability to interpret. He said in the absence of direction from the Board, the chair makes the decision. If the Board feels competitive mushers don't have a conflict in voting on rules and purse, the Board should note that. He said if the board does not recognize conflict in allowing mushers to vote on budget and rules matters, it's a policy adopted by the Board and not the interpretation of the Chair.

Seavey said if he can't vote on the purse, then the finishers are neutered.

Maxwell noted that the mushers' representative is not on the board solely for purse issue votes.

Burmeister noted that Swenson's advice to the Board is important.

Seavey commented that his whole object is to get more money for the mushers.

Larsen/Burmeister moved that competitive mushers and family members are generally lacking obvious personal benefit on rules, budget and purse.

Niggemyer noted that this is really a small community and everyone involved has some connection with someone. He said the Quest as a rule that if a musher runs the race, he can't be on the Board or on the Rules Committee.

Swenson commented that this is all about the rule change made last year and said he had nothing to gain from that rule change.

Maxwell noted that this came up long before that. He said he had spoken to Rick Koch about possible conflicts of interest two years ago. He said if there isn't a motion passed regarding this, the Board is in violation of Roberts Rules of Order.

Larsen/Burmeister motion passed.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Koch suggested that the long range planning meeting should take place with the new board members. He proposed that a long range planning meeting be held in June or July.

Burmeister commented that the old board members have a lot of knowledge and suggested that perhaps it should be done with them.

Swenson said he thought it is asking too much to cram a long range planning meeting in to the schedule between now and July.

Koch said he would like all the board members to make a list of the top 10 issues they want to discuss at the long range planning meeting and get them to him.

Hooley said he has identified the person whom he thinks would be most helpful and would like to move forward in arranging with Mr. Skinner as soon as possible.

The president instructed Hooley to proceed with plans.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hooley noted that the operating plan for FY03 calls for gross cash revenues of \$2,546,218 over cash expenses of \$2,509,034 for the year end. He explained that we are now 10 months into FY03 and are now projecting net revenues Of \$36K, representing an improvement of some \$60K over our late February forecast when we were projecting a deficit of \$24K.

He explained that there were a few outstanding bills for the race which are not yet resolved but it appears that the expenses have been kept under budget by some \$8K. He noted that that had been a big question mark at the time we were making significant changes in this year's race, in particular, moving the re-start to Fairbanks.

Westlund asked about the resolution of the airplane incident. Hooley explained that the budget included \$5,000 to pay out. The cost estimate is \$6,500 which will no doubt influence a cost increase in our insurance in the coming year.

Westlund asking about our paying that \$6,500 and not involving the insurance company. Koch explained that the incident had been reported to the insurance company and once that is done, they may as well pay because they know about it and you wouldn't save anything by paying it ourselves.

Hooley noted that sales were strong at race time, on-line and in Fairbanks. He said the commemorative Fairbanks re-start items were particularly well received. But as predicted, he explained that other outlets were down somewhat. In spite of that, he said we are not projecting a net profit from sales of \$266K, which is up \$22K from the February forecast. He said right now we are busy preparing for what hopefully will be a productive summer visitor season.

Koch asked about the e-store. Hooley said we are over budget by \$275,000, up to \$317,000. He said we had less people visit the site. WE sent an HTML newsletter on a regular basis and people can enter the store from the website or from the newsletter. He explained that in place of cash from the Outdoor Channel, we ran merchandise ads and encourage visiting the website. Alaska SuperStation did the same thing.

Hooley explained that the most significant reason for the improved forecast is due to the fact that we were able to sell 3,852 of the 4,000 winter raffle tickets, representing an improvement in net revenues of \$35K from the February forecast, which had been based on the belief that we would likely sell only 3,500 of the 4,000 tickets. He said in spite of that improvement, the net from the winter raffle will fall short of the budget by some \$24K.

Koch noted that we had spent \$10,000 more in trying to market the raffle and asked if there is something we will do differently now.

Hooley said we had spent \$15,000 more in marketing the winter and summer raffles. He said some had suggested limiting the tickets in the winter raffle to 3,000 but he said that would just be throwing away the possibility of another \$100,000. He said that other than more direct mail to customers and the free advertising we get, he doesn't see anything else we can do.

He noted that the presence of the truck where tickets are sold makes all the difference in the world.

Koch asked if there would be any opportunity to do something at the airport with a truck there. Hooley said he could explore that possibility.

Hooley explained that we can have trucks everywhere but we have talked about the possibility of having foam core models of the truck made to put in ticket locations where possible.

Hooley explained that the special events include the Idea-Rider Musher Auction, the Anchorage and Nome banquets, the Millennium's "FunRaiser," and our Teacher workshops. He said that in February we had projected \$144K in net revenues and now can report an increase in net revenues of \$22K or \$166K for the year largely due to the fact that the Millennium event was more successful than ever before. He said that additionally the teacher workshops are expected to net some \$8K more than budgeted. And the Idita-Rider auction exceeded budget by \$2K.

Larsen asked about the Outback fundraiser. Greg Bill reported that that had raised about \$4,000.

Seavey asked how the Teacher Workshops generated funds. Hooley explained that there were registration fees associated with these workshops and that this year will be the first for a summer workshop as well as one during race time.

Hooley noted that on the general and administrative side, he is projecting a negative variance to the budget of approximately \$4K, which is a \$14K swing from the February report. This will be primarily due to 1) increased repairs and maintenance costs; 2) scheduled improvements to the sled dog ride kennel area here at HQ; and 3) increased costs for office supplies; and 4) increased travel and entertainment expenses.

Seavey asked if we had ever paid Wes Perkins in Nome. Hooley said he had been paid in February.

Westlund asked about the budgeted amount for the Jr. Iditarod. Potts said the \$15000 from TR Price had been paid before the Jr. Iditarod and the money that is in the budget was put in there before TR Price came on as a sponsor.

Swenson asked about the sled dog rides at headquarters in the summer and how that process worked.

Hooley explained that we had put out an RFP some years ago and Lynda Plettner was the only respondent. The next time, a couple of years later, we put out an RFP, Raymie Redington responded. He said we negotiate a contract with him on an annual basis. We get a percentage of the money taken in on sled rides. He said we'll asked to change that percentage a little to cover cost of upgrading the area around the cabin where he keeps the dogs.

Larsen asked if we had any control over the pricing. Hooley explained that we do. Larsen said he thought we were way under priced.

Seavey commented that for what goes on with the rides there he thinks the pricing is reasonable.

Swenson asked about increasing the parking lot size, the septic, restrooms etc that was discussed previously at a board meeting.

Hooley explained that we haven't undertaken those projects because all reports say that tourism will be down this summer.

Hooley reported that it is his intent to have a proposed operating budget for FY04 prepared and distributed to each of you by the close of business on Friday, May 23. He said we would then meet on Thursday, May 29, at ITC HQ at 4:00 p.m. to review the proposed plan. Those who cannot participate in person for that meeting could participate telephonically. He said if additional meetings are needed, there will be ample time before the June 6 board meeting to finish the budget work.

Seavey noted that the board had unanimously voted on a \$700,000 purse for 2004 and said he assumed that would be part of the budget prepared by staff and presented to the board.

Hooley noted that he will not offer up inflated figure to make numbers work in the budget.

Koch noted that the board had approved a goal of \$700,000. He said it isn't always financially prudent to make a commitment that far in the future. He said no one needs to call into question the honesty of the board members. He said he has always had a problem with that note in the rules saying the board will make an "honest effort" to meet the proposed purse.

Seavey noted that since the \$700,000 was voted it should be in the budget. Hooley noted that the board could adjust the budget any way the wanted to when it comes before them.

Hooley noted that there are four seats up for election this year. Seat A, a Nome seat currently held by John Handeland, Seat B, a Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley seat, currently held by Dick Westlund, Seat C, an at large seat, currently held by Rick Swenson, and Seat V, a IOFC seat, currently held by Dan Seavey. He noted that the IOFC is responsible for designating two candidates for Seat V. To date, no report has been received from them.

Westlund said he is preparing to retire and does not plan to run again for his seat. Swenson said he will run again. It isn't in his best interest professionally but he says this has always been a part of his life.

Koch commented that all board members and staff should be commended because they pulled off a race in spite of the conditions. He said we showed Alaskans what Iditarod is made of.

Larsen noted that working on the board is a sacrifice on the part of mushers for the betterment of the sport.

Seavey commented that there were only two people at the Nome banquet who said thank you to the mushers, Leo Rasmussen and Howard Farley. He appealed again for the \$700,000 purse.

Hooley noted that he had talked to Jon Little about the need to get a second name for the ballot from the IOFC. Swenson asked if the bylaws could be changed so the IOFC can offer just one name.

Hooley said that if there is anyone to suggest for running for the board, they need to let the nominating committee know as soon as possible.

He explained that the schedule for election tasks is:
Appointment of Nominating Committee, April 30;
Mail List of Nominees to Membership, May 14;
Membership Records Close, May 24;
Member submission of Additional Nominees, May 30;
Ballots Mailed to Membership, June 8;
Last Day for Ballot Postmark or Hand carried ballots, June 21;
Last Day for Mailed Ballots, June 27; and
Annual Meeting, June 28.

Hooley also reported the dates of expiration for the other seats:
Seat H, Sam Maxwell, Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley, 2004;
Seat I, Rick Koch, At Large, 2004;
Seat J, Leland Larsen, Other than Anchorage/Mat Su Valley/Nome, 2004;
Seat O, Mike Owens, Nome, 2005; and
Seat P, Richard Burmeister, At Large, 2005

Hooley explained that at the end of his report he had put a report on the Internet traffic for this year. He explained that we had 109 million hits this year as opposed to 120 million last year.

He noted that the sponsor appreciation luncheon will be on May 21 here at the Millennium.

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Greg Bill reported that he was working on solidifying existing sponsors and targeting new prospects to add to the sponsorship list. He said one of his goals this year is to acquire a dog food sponsor. He said the minimum he is pursuing is a 50K sponsorship.

He said he is also going to work on a workable sponsorship with Providence or look to Alaska Regional to take over that role. He said Alaska Regional had expressed interest several years ago but because of the agreement we had with Providence we weren't in a position to talk to them.

He reported that special fund raising activities had done better than projected. He said a good example was that at both banquets he auctioned off two items and the net result was \$4,000. He explained again that we had set a new record at the Millennium's "FunRaising" dinner and auction. That netted \$24,000.

Bill reported that all the winter raffle prizes have been delivered except one. He said this is the first time in 9 years that we didn't sell all of the tickets by the night of the drawing. He said we have been discussing the trend of slower ticket sales over the last couple of years and said he is sure the economy has something to do with it. He also said other raffles are copying us and that has an effect on what we sell. He said we have to monitor the effect that a state run lottery will have on our ticket sales if the legislature approves such a measure. He said the only positive to that would be that it may remove some of the restrictions we've had to operate under in the past. The summer raffle is ready to launch May 1 with a total of \$101,000 in prizes. He asked for everyone's help in selling them so we don't end up having to sell 1,000 tickets in 10 days at the fair.

Rick Koch asked the record to note that he left at 1:00 pm.

Burmeister asked Greg Bill if he had talked to Alaska Airlines about mushers earning air miles as they go up the trail. Bill said he hadn't done that yet but he would.

Swenson asked if we have sales outlets for the raffle on the Kenai. Bill said we just have outlets at GCI. Swenson suggested that we sell them at Wells Fargo and Pikes in Fairbanks.

Seavey asked about people from out of state winning trucks and Bill explained that they could pick them up at the nearest dodge dealer, but he said the gentleman from Wyoming who won this year wanted to come get his truck and drive it home. It's something we have to always tell people when we're selling tickets because if they are from out of state they assume they can't win the truck.

Swenson asked if it would diminish our ability to sell tickets if we offered a gas engine instead of a diesel engine. Bill explained that when we've done that we've met with criticism for cutting back on what we are giving for the same price of ticket purchase. Potts said we've set the standard for a diesel and we can't go backward from that.

Larsen asked if volunteers can buy tickets. Bill commented that they can but we can't mail to them outside of Alaska. We can't promote the raffle across the state line.

Bill noted that right now the state of Alaska has hamstrung us beyond what the federal regulations are and perhaps if they bring in a state lottery, some of these regulations may be lifted.

Hooley noted that state regulations view a sled dog race as a game of skill and chance. So the purse adds into the giveaway. With a \$700,000 purse and a total of \$300,000 giveaway in prizes on the two raffles, we will max out what we can give away on our permit.

Swenson asked where we are on looking for an assistant for Greg Bill. Hooley noted that he had identified a person to work with but by the time that didn't come to fruition last fall, he said he felt we were too far into the year for it to make a noticeable difference on the revenue side to make it profitable.

Swenson explained that he thought the plan was to take in someone to service the smaller accounts to relieve Bill on small accounts and let him look for new accounts. The new person probably wouldn't be a real contributor for a year.

Hooley explained that we'd budgeted \$50,000 in revenue and \$50,000 in expense for this. He said we need to find someone to represent us outside the State and find someone to fill this spot inside the state. He said he perceives that there is a lot more chance to find a person for working out of the state on a commission basis. Hooley noted that the trick is to increase the quality of the sponsors.

Swenson said the numbers had been put into the budget and the board expected that we'd find someone for \$50,000 to fill that position. He said if we want to look for someone to get outside sponsors, we need to revisit that in doing this budget.

Hooley said he hoped to accomplish both with the same person.

Maxwell noted that he doesn't think there is more sponsor opportunity in Alaska. He said we have never been position to take advantage of outside revenue. Bill gets bogged down and wanted to free up his time and let him go further. He said outside the state is another discussion.

RACE MANAGER'S REPORT

Niggemyer said that in looking back over this year's race when there were so many changes, we didn't always make the optimum choices but they were acceptable. He said we didn't really want to do the Yukon River twice but it worked. He said he wants to take time this summer to look at options in case we have to do something like this again. He commended all the people we worked with who proved to be so adaptable.

He explained that everything started out normally when we started to haul supplies and then the weather went weird. He said originally he had thought the flying time would be reduced because of not having to fly south of the Alaska Range but because so much stuff had been taken to McGrath and then had to be moved that didn't happen. He said there was a crew of as many as 10 planes in McGrath that spent all or parts of 17 days that they were unable to fly.

He said the large number of scratched teams this year caused a problem for the Air Force. He said along with the fact that we don't have planes capable of hauling sleds, it put a serious crimp in our plan for any given day impacting our ability to get dropped dogs out in a timely manner. He suggested that the policy on scratched mushers be looked at.

Swenson asked where we take the scratched mushers. Niggemyer explained that it works better to bring them back to Anchorage.

Niggemyer said we ended up using a lot more lath this year but it worked out. He said there were some communications issues but most worked fine. He said it was hard to

keep food drops frozen when it was 50 degrees and raining, but all in all everything went well. He thanked all the places we didn't go for their understanding.

Greg Bill said we should thank the people from the Yukon Quest and Howard Theiss. He said the fencing of the Quests' that we used was fabulous. He said the Fairbanks people enjoyed watching us put on our show there and that the large re-start crowd on Monday showed how much respect we have there in Fairbanks.

Burmeister commented that the estimate crowd was 20,000 at the re-start and another 10,000 down river.

Maxwell commented that in some years when he's gone up the trail most of the lath is laying down but he said this year 95% of the lath was standing when the teams went through. He said it was the best job the trail breakers had ever done.

Seavey commended the City of Anchorage for the great job on the trail out of Anchorage.

He explained that there was a serious accident with one pilot and 2 passengers aboard. The plane lost power on take off at Galena. He was forced to set down on the runway but hit too hard, collapsing the gear leg, which caused it to ground loop, digging up some asphalt with the prop and one wing in the process. No one was seriously hurt.

CHIEF VETERINARIAN'S REPORT

Nelson noted that there were 2 program management veterinarians, 1 trail veterinarian hospital provider, 2 dropped dog veterinarians in Anchorage, 1 pathologist, 24 veteran trail veterinarians and 6 rookie trail veterinarians. He said that he lost 7 of the veterinarians that had been originally chosen so with that and the day delay in the re-start, he was spread pretty thin at the end of the race.

He explained that this was the final year for the ECG study being funded by the ASTF. He said he is pretty confident we'll get the remaining \$7,300 from this for this year. He said he feels that we need to continue this work. We could get a research grant or a non research grant or sponsorship or make it a line item in the budget. He asked the board to continue the program.

He said the eighth Sled Dog Veterinarian Training Seminar was attended by 14 veterinarians. He said he believes this program is extremely valuable in bringing the new veterinarians up to speed in their preparation for the race.

He said he was putting together the dropped dog statistics but he doesn't have them for Nenana. He said about 380 dogs were dropped and gave reasons as follows:

Shoulder injury, 118

Carpal Injury, 71

Tired, 68

Diarrhea, 21

Foot Injury, 21.

He explained that foot injuries had returned to its more traditional status in the top five reasons for dropping dogs. Last year, Anorexia (not eating) surpassed foot injuries, which he said was atypical. He said there 20 scratched teams and if there had been fewer scratched teams, there would have been more dropped dogs.

He explained that the Fairbanks re-start complicated the dropped dog situation. More dropped dogs returned to Fairbanks from Manley and Tanana than had been expected. He said the greatest challenge here was getting these dogs back to Anchorage.

He said we continue to have concerns about local contact persons for mushers. He said it is imperative that people chosen for this responsibility be readily accessible and sufficiently knowledgeable. He said he will make a concerted effort to emphasize this to mushers preparing for the race.

He explained that examination protocols for dropped dogs remained the same as last year. Veterinarians were dedicated to caring for dropped dogs at the hub locations and Drs. Kobi Johnson and Jim Brick were in Anchorage to evaluate all dropped dogs that came in there. Upon final evaluation, dogs were either discharged to mushers' local contact persons, the correctional center or the appropriate veterinary facility. He explained that once again Bering Sea VCA Animal Hospital allowed after hours access for our Anchorage dropped dog vets on an as needed basis and this system functioned well.

Nelson said there is still concern in regard to local contact persons. He said this area has improved but more needs to be done. He explained that the local contact persons selected need to be easily accessed, readily available and sufficiently knowledgeable about basic dog care. He said he will continue to emphasize this to mushers preparing for the race.

He said he would be highly beneficial to have our own facilities for treating dropped dogs, performing research studies, storing equipment and supplies etc in McGrath, Unalakleet and Nome. He suggested a modified cargo container, 10' x 40' in each of these locations would adequately serve the purpose. He said there is also a need to purchase more Dodge Lodges. He said every time the ones we have are taken down parts get lost and the structures become prematurely depreciated.

Nelson explained that with the support from the remaining ASTF grant funds, pre-race ECG recordings were analyzed as part of our study to establish the risk factor of VPDs (ventricular pre-mature depolarizations, a relatively common type of heart arrhythmia) in racing dogs. Ken Hinchcliff continued to provide technical expertise.

He explained that the death of Gallea's dog occurred while enroute from White Mountain to Safety. He said the remains were transported to Kathy Burek for necropsy procedure. The cause of death was attributed to a probably arrhythmia event within the right side of the heart, resulting in cardiac failure. He said Joker had "gone down" while traveling along that stretch of trail. Jim appropriately stopped the team and performed an examination. At that time, the dog appeared normal to him and Joker continued on with the team. Approximately a hundred yards farther down the trail. Joker died in harness.

Nelson said he has continually made a strong effort to emphasize to the mushers and trail veterinarians critical information regarding dog care. He said his recommendations are based on cumulative knowledge gained through research and race experience. One of the key points he has said repeatedly, refers to the importance of carrying any dog that collapses in harness to the next checkpoint and dropping it no matter how normal it seems. He said at this year's driver meeting he had specifically stated that there are a number of medical conditions which could cause a dog to drop including heart arrhythmias. He said Joker's death is one searing example of the importance of adhering to the advised protocol. He said he hopes this episode will serve as an important reminder for mushers and trail veterinarians.

Swenson asked about the requirement for using drontal prior to the race. He asked if it was necessary and if there was some other way to accomplish the same thing. He asked if it could be done farther out. He said Roy Catalano of Bayer said the drug kills everything inside the dog except the dog. He also said there should be a warning on the medication not to exercise the dog 48 hours after giving the medication.

Nelson said no warning comes on the medication. He explained that this is a public health concern. At one time, there were two villages that wouldn't let us bring the dogs in with out having giving that medication. He said this is the only medication that is approved for Echinococcus. He did think we could perhaps give it a little earlier. He agreed to check on that. He said if it is given a month earlier, the hook worms could reinfest.

Swenson commented that every year diarrhea is a problem and wondered if giving this wormer 10 days before the race doesn't give the dog time to get back his strength.

Nelson said he hasn't received feed back from mushers on that in prior years. He said that diarrhea has always been a #1 medical condition even before we were giving the drontal.

Swenson suggested that if we have any left over pills, we might use them in December and research this.

Nelson suggested next year dropping back to 14 days and putting a warning on the packages.

RACE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Nordman reported that because of the extreme stress this year even before the event, much time was spent by all in pre-race planning. He stressed that not just ITC staff, but dog drivers, volunteers and even sponsors had to make difficult decisions during the weeks prior to the race. He commented that the way people worked together shows the importance of this event to everyone.

He said if it hadn't been for the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage and their lead groomer operator, Ben Powell, we wouldn't have gotten past Mulcahy. He said the city

of Anchorage and the Public Works crews themselves also played a major part providing a route through downtown. He said it wasn't perfect but it was doable and at no time did anyone—including people from Eagle Rive VFW Post 9785 and the BLM employees give anything less than 100% to make the start successful. And he said our reception in Fairbanks, Nenana, Manley and Tanana were more than we could have asked for.

He said that we can probably use the Nordic Ski Association again even on a good snow year.

He noted that he had a good group of race officials and has asked each of them to put together a statement on what they feel we can do to improve the race. He said he wants to work on broadening the pool of judges and noted that he appreciated the IOFC's recognition of these officials at the Nome banquet.

He thanked Jan Bullock and her staff for the work they did on the EKG program. He said she did a great job and there were no complaints from mushers as scheduling conflicts were kept at a minimum.

He said the Air Force had been a pleasure to deal with. Their pre-race scouting was a major reason we were able to have options on where to move the trail this year. He said because of their flexibility, he personally was able to spend time at most checkpoints and to revisit checkpoints as needed.

Nordman said the trail breakers did a great job and commented on their decision to eliminate the trail from Shageluk because of safety concerns. He said that call was made without hesitation.

He said the vets were once again professional and open to working with the judging staff. He said he thinks the cooperation between these two groups has been beneficial to the continuing development of an overall positive relationship between mushers and the vet staff.

He mentioned that after talking to the judges this year, concern was that too much time had been spent on being more of a checkpoint coordinator than a true race judge. Some was due to the trail change this year but the judges felt this has been a developing trend over the last few races. He said he and Niggemyer have discussed this and have come up with ideas to improve the situation.

He commented that we had made great improvements in Kaltag this year. He said the Millennium's First Team off the Yukon Award was probably the highlight of his race this year. The Millennium cooked not only for Sørli and his guest but for three of our long time checkers. He said the hall was full of people and more than one had said this was the best thing that happened in Kaltag for a long time. He said we still need to improve on food storage there and a better sleeping area for drivers. We were there for 11 days and he said he believes the effort we went to to improve the checkpoint was worth it and said he looks forward to further improvements in future years.

He said he and Dr. Nelson had taken a post race snow machine trip from Nome to Unalakleet and visited each village along the way. They received many positive comments and he said this is a perfect time for such a trip because the race is fresh in everyone's minds.

He said Shageluk was very disappointed but very understanding. He said that during the race, he had Don Lyrek and local help in Grayling put together a full planeload of dry dog food to fly back to Shageluk. This food was distributed to three dog teams there, which was a big hit for them when we had to pull the food and most of the supplies out of the checkpoint at the last minute due to the trail change.

He said volunteers in Shaktoolik were more receptive and hospitable than before. He said the local checkers were hard worked and looking forward to having us back next year. He said they planned their own post race meeting to discuss the checkpoint and how it will be done in the future.

He commented that partly due to the Village Relations program, we have been hearing back from interested volunteers during the off season. He said the program has been very successful but much more can be done and he said he looks forward to the challenge.

RULES COMMITTEE

Nordman reported that the rules committee had been asked by the President to have a draft of the 2004 rules ready for this meeting. He noted that the board packet contains the minutes of the April 16 rules committee.

He commented that the rules committee had been asked to discuss the issue of Rachel Scdoris' running the Iditarod and that the rules committee felt that that should be a board issue rather than a rules committee issue.

Nordman said the major issues the rules committee dealt with were Rule #19 and signing out plus a discussion regarding Rachel Scdoris.

He said that after discussion the rules committee had voted to remove the signing out requirement from the rules.

He explained that there were complaints about mushers not being able to find checkers when they were ready to sign out.

Nordman noted that the rules voted to change the last sentence of rule #19 to read "Equipment and team configurations deemed unsafe by race officials are prohibited."

Swenson asked where that leaves us with regard to no necklines or running three abreast.

Nordman explained that we have the non interference rule.

Seavey stated that Jeff King has a legitimate agreement about "micromanagement." He said there have been significant changes over the years because of innovative things mushers have done.

Swenson asked about the mandatory gear rule and suggested that it just be thrown out. He said people are cheating on what they are carrying. He said maybe it should just be for mail, booties and adequate food and put some teeth back into it.

Nordman noted that the rules committee had discussed checking gear on Saturday morning at the start.

Seavey stated that he thinks mushers have enough to think about on Saturday without adding a gear check.

Nordman noted that if a musher has a question about his gear on Saturday, he should get it checked. He noted that a musher will not leave on Sunday unless their gear is right.

He said if we have to we can go back to a certain number of pounds of food per dog at all times.

Maxwell/Burmeister moved to accept the proposed changes to the rules regarding signing out and equipment.

Larsen commented that maybe it isn't wise to change the sign out rule after just trying it one year.

Hooley commented that we didn't accomplish what we thought we could do because of the one hour delay. He said we need to place the responsibility back on the volunteers to get the out times.

Burmeister noted that sometimes they forgot to call in the out times.

Swenson commented that what the mushers complained about was that you had to sign out on the correct sheet.

Seavey noted that when you're on the trail a quarter mile is a long way, so the burden of signing out is on the mushers.

Hooley noted that he didn't think the musher needs to sign out but it will take additional manpower in the checkpoints to get the out times.

Larsen noted that we have to have accurate information for the public.

Hooley also noted that the information on the Internet has to be as accurate as possible.

Potts said that she had asked Colleen Easley, who handles the computer room, about the benefits this year and she said Colleen Easley said they had more accurate out times this year than ever before and that the dog counts were way better.

Nelson stated that dog counts are very important.

Koch suggested leaving the sign out requirement in the rules but not making people turn around and get back if for some reason they didn't sign out when they left. He said we need to make it easier. It's in there for safety and for accurate information. He said we should include the positives and eliminate the negatives.

Maxwell/Burmeister motion passed. One opposed and four in favor.

Nordman said he asked Dan Seavey to bring to the board the possibility of putting together a separate committee to discuss the overall subject of qualifying for the Iditarod. He explained that this issue has grown to a level of complexity that may well benefit from input from the Board itself. He noted that the rules committee is happy to be involved but thinks this warrants a cooperative effort.

Seavey said he wants the board to appoint a committee to deal with qualifying races. He said Will Peterson wants to be involved and he said he would work with that committee also. He said the issue had come up in Nome. A few of the mushers felt that the qualifiers are too easy. He also said there are those who think the Jr. Iditarod should be worth a qualifier.

Nordman said we need at least to start dialog on this issue.

Seavey suggested that Will Peterson be the chair of this committee.

Swenson said he thinks we need more board members present to take any action on the qualifying issue. He said it is the whole qualifying process that needs examination.

It was agreed to table the qualifier issue until the next meeting.

LEONHARD SEPPALA AWARD

Nelson said there have been questions about the selection process for the Humanitarian Award. He explained that the purpose of the award is to recognize the musher who has taken the best care of his/her dogs during the race. He explained that the current protocol for selecting that musher combines voting by race judges and veterinarians and scoring teams after they cross the finish line. A team must finish in the top twenty to be eligible.

He explained that judges and veterinarians are asked to submit a ballot with their first, second and third choices based on their assessment of mushers at the checkpoints. A first place vote is worth seven points, second worth five and third worth three.

He further explained that a panel of three veterinarians scores the teams after their arrival in Nome. Every effort is made to perform the evaluations soon after the dogs arrive in the dog lot. Dogs are scored based on their hydration, body weight, general attitude and gait. The first three categories are given points on a ten, seven, five or zero scale. A ten is considered to be ideal, and a zero in any category eliminates the animal from the scoring process. Gait scoring is defined, progressing in the order of five, two and zero, with five being ideal. Once again a zero eliminates the dog. An average value for the three veterinary evaluations is used to each team being scored. These numbers are then added to the balloting results to determine the winner. If all thirty-five (approximately) trail veterinarians and six (approximately) race judges gave their first place vote to the same musher, the value of that vote would equal 287 points. If a team finished with all sixteen starting dogs in excellent condition, the maximum score would be 680 or 35 points per dog. He said the award is weighted towards the scoring of teams in Nome. He said he believes that this is appropriate since the end product, i.e., condition of the dogs at the finish line, is the strongest statement on dog care.

He said that criticism of the protocol is based on the fact that a musher finishing with a greater number of dogs has a greater chance of winning. And he said that is true assuming all other factors are equal. But he said it is also a fact that it takes more effort to bring a larger team to the finish line. The pros and cons can be debated indefinitely, to which he said he is open. He said if a consensus can be established that will further improve the system, then changes are appropriate.

Swenson commented that it would help the mushers understand how they were evaluated if each musher could be given back his own score after it is done.

Burmeister noted that this information would benefit the musher for the next year.

Swenson said Nelson had done a good job explaining the process and every musher should know that process. And that a breakdown sheet of the scoring should be in the envelopes in Nome.

Nelson noted that there is a big time factor in this. He said his only role is in doing the numbers. He said he will put a written description of this process in a letter to the mushers. As far as providing each musher with his score it's just a matter of crunching the numbers.

ADJOURNMENT

Burmeister/Seavey moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.