

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

July 9, 2026

Present: Sarah Richardson, Bernadette Johnston, Ann Neal, Tori Pengelly, Sue Laverty, Donna Van Beek, Jacquie Kelton, Stephanie Shatilla, Nikki Maclellan, Doug Topalovic, Xavier Traisnel, Winnie Chiu, Gabrielle Turcotte, Kendal Lehari, Charlotte Hodgson.

Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- *Sarah moved, Bernadette seconded, and it was carried, to approve, with corrections, the Minutes of the OEA's Board of Directors on June 9, 2026.*
- *Sarah moved, Sue seconded, and it was carried, to approve the Agenda for the meeting of the OEA Board of Directors on July 9, 2026.*

2. President's Report

Sarah advised that Grandview has decided to add the EV115 division back to its Summer Horse Trials at the end of July. The calendar, thus, includes two Horse Trials with the EV115 division running back-to-back, a week apart. This is contrary to the OEA's scheduling policy for the calendar which seeks to separate EV115 runs by at least 2 weeks and runs the risk of splitting the entries between the two Organizers rather than maximizing participation for both Organizers. The development of the 2027 calendar should spread out the higher-level divisions and might include participation from HP riders to help create an optimal schedule that works for the higher levels.

It was suggested that the OEA might consider re-introducing an "Event Evaluation" form that could be completed and submitted fully on-line, be submitted anonymously (if preferred) following the Horse Trials and that the OEA could share with the Organizers implicated on a confidential basis, if necessary. Details could be developed over the off season, and this could be introduced for the 2027 season.

Sarah advised Glen Oro is struggling to find FEI officials for their FEI Event in September. They have approached the OEA and asked if there might be financial assistance available to fund travel for stewards for the FEI event. There is precedent for supporting FEI events, such as Will O' Wind. The Board considered reallocating the \$2,200 of Member Appreciation funds that have been used in previous years to fund a BBQ at the Eastern Canadian Championships and dividing the funds between the two venues running FEI Events in 2026 to help with unexpected, reimbursable, expenses.

- *Sarah put forward a motion, Bernadette seconded, and it was carried to use the*

Member Appreciation funds set aside for the 2026 season of up to \$2,200 to support the FEI competitions in Ontario, equally. Each venue could apply for up to \$1,100 in funding to cover unexpected expenses. Applications, which must include receipts, may be made to the OEA Treasurer following the competition.

Sarah reviewed the *OEA Code of Conduct for Participation in the OEA's Programs and Activities*, which covers behaviour expected by members participating in OEA programs and activities. This policy will be housed on the OEA website and registration forms for all OEA activities should, going forward, include the following statement above the signature space: "By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to abide by the OEA Code of Conduct for Participation in the OEA's Programs and Activities".

- *Sarah tabled a motion, Doug seconded, and it was carried, to approve the OEA Code of Conduct for Participation in the OEA's Programs and Activities, as written.*

Sarah introduced the *OEA Director Nomination and Selection Policy*. It is based on the practice that was put in place in 2026, which opened up the nomination process and designated the full Executive Committee as the Nomination Committee for the purposes of assessing the personnel needs of the OEA Board and forwarding a slate of potential new Directors to members for their approval at the Annual Meeting of Members.

- *Following a brief discussion, Sarah tabled a motion, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, to approve the OEA Director Nomination and Selection Policy, as written.*

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reviewed the June Financial Report. She noted that, in the future, the Board might consider adding a category of FEI expenses, which Organizers running FEIs could apply for, to the OEA's Competition Improvement Program.

The U25 Program has a cash balance of \$5,500. The \$500 allocated for golf carts at the North American Championships was not used and has been transferred into the U25 account.

4. Communications. Nothing to report.

5. Committee Reports

- **Adult Riders** Tori confirmed that the Adult Rider Program invites all members over 18 to join a team to participate in the 2026 Team Challenge.
- **U25.** Kendal reported on the NAYC in Maryland noting that it was a positive experience for the riders.

- **Clinics/Education.** Nothing to report.
- **Organizers.** Sarah raised the need to raise the need to spread out the higher levels and the FEIs on the calendar with the Organizers and consider inviting selected HP riders to help with dates and planning for the upper-level divisions to ensure that the calendar works for Organizers and riders, alike.
- **Officials.** Sue advised there has been an issue this season where the EV110 Test 1 dressage test on EC's website and the test that the judges receive to use in the competitions are slightly different. She is working with EC to resolve that issue.
- **EC Rules and Local Divisions.** Nothing to report.
- **Rider Development Days.** Winnie reported that the Caledon Rider Development Day, with clinician Jessica Ruppel was a success and the OEA received positive feedback from participants. The Development Day attracted 14 riders of which eight (8) were returning to Eventing with new horses and three (3) were new to Eventing.
- **AMM & Awards.** Sarah advised she given that this her last year as President, and there has been no President's Award since she took the position three years ago, she will present an Award in 2026. The Board agreed unanimously with her choice of two individuals. Details will remain private until the Award is presented.

➤ *Sarah tabled a motion, seconded by Sue, and it was carried, to set aside up to \$500 to cover the cost of a 2026 President's Award.*

- **Coaching.** Nothing to report.
- **Leaderboard.** Jacquie updated the Board on the status of the Leaderboard, which is up and running for 2026.
- **Volunteers.** Winnie noted that she has distributed all the Yeti mugs for the volunteer raffles held at each Horse Trial and, when necessary, she has been working with Organizers to help recruit volunteers.

6. Other matters. Xavier proposed that the OEA submit a **rule change** to Equestrian Canada to require Organizers to provide at least one portable cross-country jump, (such as a log, roll-top, or cabin, for example) in the XC warm-up area. This can be prepared in the off-season and presented to EC for the 2027 cycle of rule changes.

The Board agreed to skip the August BOD meeting and the next meeting of the BOD was scheduled for: Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Sarah tabled a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.