

Registry Council Meeting - July 1, 2025

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Kristen called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. ET. Katriona called roll and noted that a quorum was present. Registry Council members present were: Kristen Bagdasarian, Julie Behrends-Jones, Sandy Currier, Larry Hartsock, Anna Marie Knipp, Clif Paulsen and John Scheidt. Others present were: Sara Mayer Executive Director and Katriona Adams Registrar.

2. Approve Minutes of May 1, 2025 Meeting

Clif made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2025 meeting, Julie seconded and the motion was passed.

3. Proposal Regarding DNA Fees

The council approved a \$10 increase in DNA testing fees across the board, effective immediately upon approval by the Board of Directors.

4. Equine Welfare Committee Proposal

The council approved a policy update for equine welfare fund assistance in both seizure and surrender situations, increasing the per-horse assistance amount to \$275. The council also discussed the implementation process for the fee changes, which will be communicated through press releases, social media, and updated forms.

5. Breeders Committee Proposal

The Breeders Committee is proposing creating a platform for breeding resources. It was noted that the committee can create content for now which can be used once the website is updated.

6. Discussion regarding Amnesty

The group discussed implementing an amnesty program for horse registrations, which would allow older horses to be possibly be registered for a reduced registration fee of \$100. Katriona explained that the registry staff is currently overwhelmed with regular registration applications, particularly for upcoming events in August. The group agreed to consider running the amnesty program in the spring, when staff workload is typically lower, and to potentially implement a "do not disturb" system to improve productivity. An Amnesty Program will be considered by the Council in November.

7. Discussion regarding registration process

The meeting focused on the current challenges with the horse registration process, where 97% of registrations still come in on paper despite strategic plans to move online. Sara explained that the registry team spends significant time handling paper applications and managing follow-ups, highlighting the inefficiencies in the current system. A new proposal was presented to develop a dedicated document portal that would improve document management, provide better visibility for users, and reduce manual data entry, with an estimated high-cost estimate provided by the tech team. The discussion also touched on past attempts at online registration solutions, including a jot form system that faced technical limitations and connectivity issues.

The Registry Council discussed a proposed new registration system, with Katriona expressing the need for more detailed information before endorsing it. The council agreed to table the decision for 30 days while Katriona gathers more information, and they decided to simultaneously launch a fundraising campaign for registry technology improvements. The council also agreed to add a donation option on registration forms to support these improvements, with Clif suggesting the addition of "efficiency" in the fundraising messaging to attract more donors.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. ET