Board Members Present: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Debbie Bass, Katie Benson, Tom Brennan, Shelley Campf, Diane Carney, Rick Cram, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Anne Kursinski, Larry Langer, Britt McCormick, Tobey McWilliams, Betty Oare, Cheryl Rubenstein, Jimmy Torano, Sissy Wickes.

Board Members Not Present: Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Staff Present: Kevin Price, Lisa Moss, Leslie Mangan, Marianne Kutner

I. Welcome
Mary Babick welcomed the Board and the meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. EDT.

II. Roll Call
Roll call was conducted and it was established that there was a quorum present.

III. Approval of Amended Agenda
Larry Langer made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. John Bahret seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
Dianne Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Board meeting, as presented. Mr. Bahret seconded, and the motion was approved by majority vote, with abstentions received from those members not present during that meeting.

Mr. Langer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Board meeting, as presented. Cheryl Rubenstein seconded, and the motion was approved by majority vote, with abstentions received from those members not present during that meeting.

V. President’s Report
Ms. Babick provided an update to the Board on a number of topics:

- Licensed Officials - USEF plans to transition the Licensed Officials’ credentialing requirements and process out of the Rule Book and into a newly created Licensed Officials Policy & Procedures document. Part of this new process will involve tasking each affiliate with determining the specific licensing criteria for each breed/discipline license. This process will be implemented in addition to the licensed official education and training component already being facilitated by the affiliates. She went on to report that the Federation’s long-term goal is to transition a good portion of licensed official oversight (eligibility, competency, etc.) to each affiliate, as well, although the Federation will
maintain the actual license issue process as well as continue to assume the related liability associated with that licensing process. She reported that she, Kevin Price, and the chairs of both the USHJA Officials and USHJA Officials Education Committee will participate on a call with USEF to have additional conversation regarding this new process.

- **USHJA National Championships** - the press releases announcing the launch of the USHJA National Championships were issued earlier in the day and were being received well.
- **WCHR Palm Beach Spectacular & Gala** - the entire event ran very successfully and the gala was well-attended. Initial reports indicate that the event raised approximately $50K for the WCHR program. Ms. Babick specifically thanked Debbie Bass, Sissy Wickes and Kate Cattani for all their hard work and efforts.
- **Rule Change Proposals** – several rule change proposals referred from USEF’s January Board meeting are still in play and are slated to be considered during the USEF Mid-Year Board meeting. These include:
  - Special Competition rule change proposals (#339-17 & #250-17), which were awaiting new drafts.
  - Professionals/participation requirements (#266-17) – Safe Sport and Concussion training. Ms. Babick is head of a USEF Ad Hoc group working to make this RCP applicable to all recognized breed and discipline professionals. This Ad Hoc is proposing an Extraordinary Rule Change (EO) to be considered at the Federation’s June meeting that would expand the Safe Sport training requirement to all those who sign an entry blank, not just professionals. Depending upon the outcome of the proposed EO, the existing RCP #266-17 will either go forward, as currently drafted, or will be amended to remove the Safe Sport component covered by the EO if it passes.
- **The USHJA Amateur Task Force** is pushing for USHJA to approve submission of an Extraordinary Rule Change requiring the presence of medical personnel (paramedic) at all competitions. Ms. Babick has volunteers researching the feasibility of this concept and to determine if such a rule change proposal would qualify as Extraordinary under the Federation’s rules.
- **Committee Retreats** – the Competition Standards Committee will be conducting a retreat in April followed by the Hunter Breeding Task Force retreat in May.
- **May In-Person Board Meeting** – materials are currently being compiled for the USHJA In-Person Board meeting being held May 7 & 8. Ms. Babick requested that Board members notify Kevin Price or Leslie Mangan if they have any topics or items that need to be added to the agenda.

### VI. Executive Director Report

Kevin Price supplemented the written report provided with the meeting materials by announcing that due to lack of financial support and the fact that the event has historically lost money, the fundraising gala component of the WCHR West Coast Spectacular will not be held in 2018. The competition host will make its VIP area available to WCHR spectators and participants during the West Coast Spectacular class, but there will be no formal hospitality event coordinated. Additionally, he reported that the Horsemanship Clinic Series that this Board approved in 2017 as a pilot program will be launched this year with two clinics being organized. The first will be held in Lexington, Kentucky in conjunction with Pony Finals, and the second will be held in Las Vegas during the USHJA National Championships. Potential subject matter to include emergency and general horse healthcare, equine nutrition/feeding, and sport psychology/rider fitness. Staff is also
investigating webinar platforms to add into the program structure at some point in the future.

VII.  Treasurer’s Report
Shelley Campf presented the Treasurer’s Report and commented that USHJA’s cash on-hand is higher than this time last year as well as higher than was reported during the November 3, 2017 Board meeting. The Capital Campaign, initiated ten years ago, has successfully concluded. All receivables have been collected and the account is at a zero balance. Overall, memberships are up slightly, while horse registrations are down slightly from this time last year. One question was raised regarding what constituted the decrease in the money market account from 2017 to 2018. Lisa Moss confirmed those funds were transferred from the money market account to a more FDIC-insurance protected environment. No additional questions were raised.

Mr. Langer made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report, as presented; Mr. Bahret seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII.  Process for Nominating Committee Population
Ms. Babick summarized the timeline and dates associated with the process of USHJA Board appointments to the Nominating Committee. The names of qualified candidates should be provided to the office by March 23, 2018, and the voting process is to be completed by April 9, 2018. A request was made to distribute a list of all Board seats up for election and reelection eligibility status for those currently seated. Ms. Babick agreed and indicated the information would be disseminated very shortly.

IX.  Informational Reports
Written reports were provided to the Board for consideration and discussion.

- Jumper Department & Jumper Working Group Report
  - No questions were raised
- Hunter Department & Hunter Working Group Report
  - No questions were raised
- Sport Department Report – Consolidated Host Applications
  - No questions were raised
- Sport & Association Services Department Report
  - No questions were raised
- Zone & Affiliate Programs Report
  - No questions were raised
- Education Department Report
  - No questions were raised
- Foundation Report
  - No questions were raised

X. Program/Committee Proposals

Mr. Langer made a motion to place all the program and committee proposals on the floor for discussion; Diane Carney seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2018 Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications
The Board members reviewed the specifications presented and noted that there is no language contained within these specifications or elsewhere that addresses the $25,000 allocation/transfer from the Green Hunter Incentive Championship Fund to the five Green
Hunter Incentive Regional Championships for their guaranteed prize money. Although not noted, this allocation/transfer occurs prior to the national Championship prize money distribution process outlined within the Championship specifications. After discussion, the group agreed that for the purpose of providing an audit trail, this clarification language regarding funding should appear somewhere, but did not agree that the Championship specifications document was the correct location within which to place it.

There was additional discussion regarding the fact that there is no provision for a soundness jog associated with these Championships. Given the significance of the event, and the importance of ensuring horse welfare, the group felt that some mechanism should be implemented to verify the soundness of those horses competing. Counter points were raised that no jogs occur for a Green Incentive classes leading up to the Championship, so why would one be instituted at this one event? Additionally, finding time within an already tight schedule to accommodate jogs, whether limited to placing horses or required for all horses prior to competing, could prove problematic. After additional discussion, the Board members felt that given the significance of this championship event, and the importance of keeping the welfare and best interest of our green and young horses at the forefront, it is incumbent on USHJA to provide for some method of soundness verification. As a result, several Board members recommended that a formal jog for soundness be conducted prior to the beginning of the event. The decision was made to table vote on the specifications and provide the Board’s recommendation to the IHD/GHI Task Force for their consideration. The Board members also wanted to note that if the Task Force wishes to meet with the Board to discuss this issue further, a special meeting can be scheduled. Final vote on the specifications can be facilitated by email vote once the Task Force responds to the Board with their decision.

Ms. Carney made a motion to table deliberation on the 2018 Green Hunter Incentive Championship Specifications (both the 3’/3” and 3’6”/3’9” events) until IHD/GHI Task Force can be informed of the Board’s recommendation to add a formal jog for soundness (to be conducted prior to the start of the Championships), to the specifications for both championship classes. Betty Oare seconded, and the motion was approved by majority vote with one vote of disapproval recorded.

Revised 2018 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications
The Board members reviewed the specifications presented which were revised slightly to clarify that the Regional Championship rounds may be run concurrently with another Green Hunter Stake class or championship, and that the second round of the Regional Championship must be run with a minimum of 12 entries (or the entire class if there are fewer than 12 entries total). The only comment raised was that the prize money payout scale listed within the specifications totals only 94% rather than 100%.

Hearing no further discussion, the Board unanimously approved the revised 2018 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Specifications with the stipulation that the prize money percentages be corrected to reflect 100% distribution.

2019-2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Host Application
Hearing no discussion, the Board unanimously approved the 2019-2021 Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship Host Application, as presented, but with the note that an option for providing a mail-in option for application submission be added.
2018 Zone 4 Pony Finals Challenge and Handling Clinic
The Board reviewed the funding request submitted by Zone 4, and approved by the Hunter Working Group, which outlined Zone 4’s plans for conducting a series of classes, as well as a handling clinic on June 18, 2018 designed to prepare participants for Pony Finals. The classes, as well as the clinic would be offered at no cost to Zone 4 members, and the classes will offer nominal prize money as a participation incentive. Funding for this event will be assumed entirely by Zone 4. Ms. Babick noted that USEF does not want the word “Final” associated with this event. Due to the proprietary branding, USEF has specifically requested that the word “Finals” be removed from the title of this event. It was further noted that this request is in-line with prior requests from Zone 4 which has traditionally offered its members a free clinic each year. This event meets the Zone’s mission to provide educational and competitive opportunities for its members.

Ms. Carney made a motion to approve the 2018 Zone 4 free event and clinic, as presented, with the stipulation that the name/title of the event be changed to remove any reference to Pony Finals. Tobey McWilliams seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

XI. World Equestrian Games/World Equine Expo/WEQx Games Special Competition Application Update
Ms. Babick updated the Board with respect to the status of the Special Competition request for the 2018 WEQx Games proposed to take place in conjunction with the World Equestrian Games. The USHJA Executive Committee met on March 5 and voted unanimously to recommend disapproval of the event due to their concerns that the exhibition compromises the integrity of the World Championships by distracting form their importance and undermining the significance of the World Equestrian Games. Ms. Babick went on to report that several USEF councils and committees had reviewed the request with mixed results. The National Breeds and Disciplines Council (NBDC) disapproved the WEQx Games application in its entirety, while the National Hunter Committee voted to disapprove, but would approve if there were no qualifying procedures associated with the “DerbyX” event/class being proposed. The International Disciplines Council approved the application pending receipt of some additional language, but disapproved hosting the U25 National Championship, and the Jumping Sport Committee disapproved the application in its entirety. The USEF Board meets on March 13 to provide final vote on the application.

XII. 2018 International Hunter Derby Championship – Testing Protocol Discussion
Ms. Babick presented a concept document for Board discussion that proposes implementing an enhanced monitoring and testing protocol for International Hunter Derby Championship horses in lieu of utilizing secure stabling. The proposal has yet to be fine-tuned but was presented to the Board in concept for comment and input. The protocol mandates that the top 12 horses in all rounds will be drug tested, with additional random testing being conducted as well. Additionally, the top 12 horses going into the final round and a number (yet to be determined) of the top Tier II placings will be monitored beginning 12 hours prior to the competing in the final round. A suggestion was made to keep the Tier II call-back number fluid each year, and recommended the language be worded to indicate “up to the top 12 in the Tier II placings will be monitored.” Additional discussion took place, and although the general consensus was that this protocol provided a sound alternative to secure stabling, there were concerns raised with respect to its cost to the Association in comparison to secure stabling. Ms. Babick reported that the proposal will be fine-tuned.
with detail added with respect to cost and the entire proposal will be sent through the full committee and Hunter Working Group review process before being presented to the Board for final approval.

XIII. Old Business
None

XIII. New Business
None

There being no further business, Mr. Langer made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Langer, Secretary