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MINUTES of the 40th ANNUAL WMRA CONGRESS

Tuesday 6 June 2023; 9:00AM-12:00AM

1. Opening of 40th WMRA Congress by the President (art. 15.10.1) - Called to order at 9:22AM

2. Roll call - 22 nations present. ARG, AUS, AUT, BEL, BRA, CAN, CZE, DEN, FRA, GBR, GER, HKG, IDN, IRE, ITA, JAP, MEX, NZL, SVK, SLO, SUI, USA

Introduction of Alex with LOC - welcome and good wishes for the competition. Tomo presented Alex Pittl with a memorial award.

3. Appointment of three scrutinizers (Art 15.10.2) - for the Congress - USA, BEL, AUT.

4. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Congress (Chiang Mai, Thailand); (art. 15.10.3) - formally approved as no comments or changes had been received.

5. Report by the Council (art. 15.10.4) - last Congress just 7 months ago. Very busy time since November. The World Championships has been a big project, along with setting the 2023 calendar for the WMRA including the World Cup sponsored by Valsir, the World Masters, and U18. Working on calendar and planning for 2024 including U18 and requesting interest from nations to host. Canfranc hosting the masters.

6. Report by the Treasurer and by the Auditors (art. 15.10.5,6) - all the papers will be sent with the minutes to all of the delegates. The reserve 142000 euros at year end 2023, of which 33000 is linked to the World Cup to be spent in the next 2-3 years. The World Cup is self-sustaining as a WMRA project. WMRA receives funding support from WA and presently working on the MOU/agreement letter for support in the coming years. WMRA has two bank accounts - one in USA and one in Germany, but aiming to have one account in Europe. Expenses going forward will include upgrades to the website and media investment. Budget for 2024 will take into account spreading out the WA funds (directly related to the World Championships). For the World Cup - increased investment in anti-doping, media support, and hiring manager Jonathan Wyatt.

7. Approval of the 2022 Audited accounts (art.15.10.7) - motion by second by. Mr. Dunham from USA and Miss Sandra Hegmann from Germany. Agreed.

8. Report on the 2023 Budget

9. Appointment of the Auditor for 2023 accounts (art. 15.10.9) - agreed to ask Mr. Dunham for the USA/dollars account and Miss Sandra Hegmann for the GER/euro account.

10. Report by WA - Alessio Punzi welcomed all. Mountain Running is an important part of athletics worldwide. WA has seen the importance of World Championships. For 2021-22 - 85000 USD for 2023-2024 cycle 85000 to be paid in two installments. Estimated that in 2025-2026 an additional 10000 euro. The MOU will include a clause that there will be a minimum of 25000 provided by WA should the WC not be held. WA envisions spending money and resources (seeking sponsors) to support the sport. The Dentsu marketing relationship runs to or through 2029. At present, the WTMRC LOC can secure sponsors. WA has plans for a "working group" for mountain and trail running. Presently there are four commissions in the WA including athletes, governance, development and competition. Existing relationships with WA and WMRA are solid. The growth in mountain and trail running shows the interest. The market for trail running shoes is projected to grow in 30 years from 7 billion to 13 billion - almost an 8% growth. Seeing the upward trajectory shows the importance of trail and mountain running. The success of the 2022 and 2023 WC showcases the scope of trail and mountain running. In 2022 there were 3 reps from WA, this year there are 11 reps from WA. Increased attention and momentum. The World Cup professional approach is recognized by WA. Athletics Integrity Unit has a relationship with WA, but did not have the relationship with World Cup. This will change for results management of World Cup to go to the AIU. Reiterate that the WMRA are volunteers and appreciates the roles that the council has fulfilled, understanding that volunteers are the lifeblood for an organization to thrive and survive. Tomo thanked Alessio and WA for their support and hope for continued working relationship.

11. Proposals by the Council (art. 15.10.12) - Council proposes the Congress move from annual to every other year (this is due to the change of the World Championships to biannual). WMRA considered doing a virtual platform in the off year, but not the same as having an in-person meeting. Secondary proposal to have the annual fee paid 350 euros which would cover two years. Canada motion to approve, Denmark second - no further discussion, proposals accepted unanimously by those present.

12. Proposals by the Members (art. 15.10.13 & 15.12) - none received.

2023 Mountain Running competition program

13. 2nd World Mountain and Trail Running Championships, Innsbruck/AUT – June 6-11 - logistics in place, short review of the program. Looking to have a wonderful competition in the coming days. There will be livestreaming for the events via Facebook (6 outlets).

14. 22nd WMRA/WMA Masters World MR Championships – Madeira/POR – classic and long distance – September 16-17 - encourage participation by athletes and register soon for planning purposes. Representatives from the LOC will be present in Austria with leaflets to promote the event. There will be for the first time the long distance (approx 30KM) in addition to the classic distance. Help WMRA share the information about the event via social media.

15. 16th WMRA U18 International MR Cup – Annecy/FRA – May 27-28 - successful event as mentioned above.

16. World Cup 2023 - Jonathan Wyatt is the World Cup manager. Organizers of some of the events in the World Cup will be on site in Austria. There is a meeting planned for this Friday at 8:30AM for World Cup organizers.

17. Continental competitions - European Off Road Running Championships are every other year (alternating with the World Championships). The next installment in 2024. NACAC Championships - September 15-17 weekend — Saskatchewan is the host in Canada - 50km for the long distance and the classic is up/down. Four nations have sent in PEF - El Salvador, USA, Mexico, Canada.

2024 Mountain Running competition program

18. 23rd WMRA/WMA Masters World MR Championships – Canfranc, Spain. There will be a third event added. There will be a short (classic - approx 10KM uphill), mid distance (30KM), and long distance (50KM). There was a question whether the masters staged every other year (in off years of WMTRC), but at present it will stay an annual event.

19. 17th WMRA U18 International MR Cup – TBD (no candidates to date, accepting interest from nations).

20. Continental competitions - European Off Road (Annecy), Mexico plans to host NACAC.

2025 Mountain Running Competition Program

Recent announcement that Canfranc, Spain 25-28 September to host. Third unified edition, very much looking forward to hosting. This event has hosted the World Cup in the past. The course is technical, in the heart of the Pyrenees. One airport close by - Bilbao, and two other airports to consider Madrid, Barcelona - high speed train traffic.

There will be a presentation at 1700 for Canfranc on Saturday and there will be an exhibit in the expo space with information on Canfranc.

Miscellaneous

21. World Ranking - report - looking at ways to change, or modify the program, but strategy is to continue.

22. Relationships among mountain running, ultra-distance and trail - principles between trail and mountain international organizations are a bit different (federation-driven as opposed to membership-driven), but the partnership between ITRA and WMRA has been positive as related to the WMTRC.

23. WMRA promotion tools: web site, social networks, Newsletter, eNewsletter - Hector Rubio was introduced as the new WMRA media manager (as of mid-May). He has been the World Cup media manager and now takes on the overall media for WMRA.

24. MF Questions - none

25. Date and venue of the next Congress - Canfranc September, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM CET.