

BOD Meeting January 27, 2016

Call to order by **President Nancy Edwards at 7:02 pm.**

President's message: Silence phones; please stand up to talk and talk loudly so everyone on the phone can hear.

Roll call: **An attendance chart is attached to these minutes.**

Legislative Speaker:

- Jolene Plautz presented guest speaker Senator Luther Olsen to speak about the Fencing Bill.
- Senator Olsen explained that we are a "fence in state" which means a property owner is responsible to fence his/her livestock in. At this time owners on both sides of the fence are responsible paying for and upkeep of his/her side of the fence whether or not they own any livestock.
- Senator Olsen is proposing a bill in which the person who owns the livestock would be responsible for the fence expenses. If later the neighbor gets animals that need fence he/she will assume ½ of the fence cost going forward. If either party no longer has the animals needing fence, that party no longer is responsible for the fence costs. If both parties no longer have use for the fence, they may agree to remove the fence at shared cost.
- Senator Olsen also wants to change the present requirement for a fence to have a wire at 4 inches from the ground. Instead it would be just the 4-wire fence which would require wires at 12 inches, 24 inches, 36 inches, and 48 inches.
- A straw vote showed the BOD about evenly divided on this bill.

Minutes from October 28, 2015:

- Motion made by Ann Murphy , seconded by Gail Seator to accept the October minutes. Passed

Treasurer's Report:

- Ron Miller reported that it was necessary for us to purchase a new computer for the treasurer. It is up and working.
- The final audit is done.
- We are up to date on everything.
- Motion made by Mike Kroll, seconded by Floyd Finney to accept the treasury report as presented. Passed.

Legislative Report:

- Jolene Plautz talked about a slaughter Bill that would change the fees and make it easier to send animals to slaughter. This bill does **not** include horses.
- Jolene also discussed a proposed bill that would increase fines for commercial feed producers for not accurately describing feed ingredients.
- Jolene also said that the Buggy Bill is postponed but we will need to discuss it again in March.

Ag Day at the Capitol Report:

- Floyd Finney and Eloise Simons attended this.
- Floyd reported that the State Transportation fund was discussed. Many ways have been proposed to raise funds in this area but Governor Walker has vetoed all.
- They reported that the format of the meetings has changed. Now they are meeting in a large room by county. This means people are not getting the personal time talking with senators and assembly people. However, they thought they did get a well-rounded picture of issues with which other groups are concerned.
- Eloise stated the Farm Bureau is concerned about cutbacks. She feels this could affect youth programs negatively.
- There is still concern about how to deal with high capacity wells.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- Pat Miller reported that because of an increase in vendor space requests, the lecture rooms downstairs in the Exhibit Hall will be used as vendor space. The lecture rooms have been moved upstairs in the Exhibit Hall.
- She also reported that there will be a competition for youth.

Championship Challenge Report:

- Pat Miller reported that the new Championship Challenge Program is in place on the website. It is a cumulative awards program with points earning year-end awards and on going cumulative awards. This should increase the number of people getting awards.
- These awards will probably be given out at the WHC Booth at the Midwest Horse Fair.

WSHCEF Winter Day at the Park Report:

- Pam Pritchard reported that it is on February 13, 2016, at Fireman's Park in Columbus, WI.
- Pam reported that there will be four horse drawn bobsleds, a model horse show, skijoring, pony rides with pictures and a pony kissing booth, and food. Gary Cross will entertain.

Old Business

WHC Proposed By-Law Changes Review:

- Article VIII, Section 5: Vacancies - After much discussion it was decided that Eloise Simons will rework this and bring it back when done.
- Article V, Section 4: Officers - Ron Miller explained that this was put in to get new people into offices. Discussion ensued. By-Law change will remain as is for voting at Annual Meeting.
- Joe Parr submitted a change that no BOD may hold more than 5 committee positions in the Horse Council. This one will stay as is and go to vote.
- Joe Parr also proposed that we have the same attendance requirements to receive MHF tickets or to run for office. It was discussed and decided that this is a policy change, not a By-Law. The Policy Committee will look at it over the next month and bring back a recommendation.
- Lila Lemanski withdrew her submission on a nominating committee.
- Article XII, Absentee Ballots - Eloise Simons withdrew her submission.
- Mike Kroll moved and Rae Geb seconded a policy change in our voting procedures that states:
 “Nominations from the floor will be accepted for all open positions at the February meeting. The person must be present or on the phone and eligible for the position.” Passed.

Newsletter and Website:

- WHC is offering business card advertising in our newsletter and on our website. The introductory price for the newsletter is \$10 monthly for WHC members and \$15 monthly for non-WHC members. The prices for the website have not been set.

Equine Disease Communication Center:

- Nancy Edwards stated that this was brought up at the Coalition of Horse Council meeting this fall. She said many states are supporting the site with donations.
- Discussion ensued.
- Motion made by Mike Kroll that we donate \$500 for this year to the site. Seconded by Eloise Simons. Passed.
(see attached roll call vote)

New Business

Election Procedure:

- Nancy Edwards requested everyone read through this before elections.

Coalition of Horse Council's Fall Meeting:

- Report postponed until February

Reminders:

- WHC Annual Awards 2016 Voting deadline is February 1, 2016
- Stateline Equine Education Program is March 5, 2016

Next Meeting Date: February 24, 2106

WHC Annual Meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – 6:30 pm - pizza with the meeting at 7:00 pm

Motion made by Gail Seasor and seconded by Rae Geb to adjourn. Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Bachhuber
WHC Vice-President