

BOD Meeting September 23, 2015

Call to order by President Nancy Edwards at 7:03 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.

Minutes from August 26:

- Motion made by Steve Haase, seconded by Floyd Finney to accept August minutes as amended. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Motion made by Gail Seasor, seconded by Floyd Finney to accept treasury report as presented. Passed.

Legislative report:

- Jolene Plautz presented guest speakers Janet Abrams and Paul Libeck from the Division of Income, Sales and Excise Tax speaking on tax issues.
- Janet Abrams explained the differences between sales and use taxes and how these taxes affect the equine industry. Paul talked about tax auditing and how to keep the paperwork correct.
 - The discussion was very insightful and informative and a hand out was presented to all Directors.
- Jolene talked about a bill that may be created which will set a tax of \$45 for any buggy or wagon using steel or iron wheels.
 - Motion made by Karen Kroll if this bill is drafted, WHC will take a neutral position; seconded by Gail Seasor. Passed.
- Jolene also discussed another bill which, if created, would create a tax exemption on wagons/buggies that are used for recreation or tourism.
 - Motion made by Karen Kroll that if this bill is drafted, WHC will take a neutral position; seconded by Eloise Simons. Passed.
 - Neither of these bills have been drafted yet and if they are drafted, they may not pass.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A handout from Mark Clarke was presented at the meeting which outlined AEC facility updates that are completed or in progress. This handout will be sent out electronically to directors who are calling in to the meeting. The handout is attached to these minutes.

WHC District Committee Report:

- Mike McGowan & Lila Lemanski presented a report on the districts. A letter, as presented at the WHC meeting, will be sent out annually to the district presidents. Along with the letter will be scholarship and sponsorship information and some educational flyers about the WHC. Along with the annual membership renewal forms, a letter will be included that explains the districts, have contact information for each district and a listing of all WHC committees and contact information for those committees.
 - Mike would like some guidance on what the districts can use the \$1000 for; no further discussion was held on this subject.
 - Mike would also like the directors to give their ideas on what the districts purpose is; no further action was taken at this time.
- Lila Lemanski talked about the different WHC committees and the letter she prepared. The committee contact information is on the protected page of the WHC website; it is unavailable to anyone who is not a director. Lila suggested that the committee list be moved from the protected page so everyone can access it. Darla explained that the committee information is on the non-protected part of the website but there is no contact information on that page. After a discussion, it was decided that the chairperson of each committee will have his/her email address listed on that part of the page. *Note: Darla updated the website on September 24th to include this information.*

Old Business

WHC Proposed By-Law Change due Date Reminder:

- By law changes are due in the office by October 1st.

Coalition of State Horse Councils Fall Meeting:

- The meeting is to be held on October 30, 31 & November 1 in MN. The cost is \$150/person. If anyone wants to attend, at their own cost, they should contact Nancy Edwards as soon as possible.

New Business

WLAER Activity Update:

- Ann Murphy reported that a group of 12 veterinarian students was recently trained in large animal rescue. This makes 24 students who have been trained in the past 2 years. First responders are also being trained; recently there were over 40 people who attended a training session in MN. An invite has been given to WLAER to come back next spring to do a 3-day training sessions.

NMRTC- Non-Motorized Recreational Trail Council:

- Ann Murphy represents the equine aspect in this council. There is a group of dual-purpose sport bikes that want use of the public trails to hold organized events. The trails would be closed during these events and the DNR said these bikers would have to pay for any damage at these events.
- Letters of support for the Sauk Prairie Rec Area horse trails need to be submitted by Sept 25. Cricket will get the email address to Darla to send out to Directors.

Stable Certification Program:

- WHC talked about this program a few years ago, but no action was taken at her time. Pam and her husband are interested in this program and being the point person for this program if WHC would want to start it. Pam explained how the MN program works; more information can be found on the MN horse council website. Some WI boarding facilities are calling WHC asking about starting a certification program in WI.
 - A discussion followed. The MN program inspects a boarding facility at the start of the process and then does not inspect the stable again unless there are complaints.
 - The inspection form from MN includes fire safety, feed safety, etc. These are both things that the average person may not have enough knowledge to inspect; electric safety code knowledge would be required.
 - There is a national certification program; why would we not just use this National program and list those boarding stables on our website?
 - District 3 is hosting a clinic on December 12th that will discuss the National Certification.
 - No further action was taken on this subject.

Other:

- The NIAA (National Institute of Animal Agriculture) is going to concentrate on equine health at the next meeting in spring. Cal will provide more information to WHC once the final meeting and agenda are decided.

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 28, 2015

Motion made Steve Steers seconded by Rae Geb to adjourn.

Respectively submitted,

Jill Feller
WHC Secretary