

BOD Meeting February 26, 2025

Call to order by **President Anne Murphy at 7:00 pm.**

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

Minutes from January 22, 2025:

- Motion made by Floyd to approve the January minutes, seconded by Gail. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- Cricket received the draft audit on Monday to review. Cricket is meeting with Melody from N4N to answer some questions before having the review given to the BOD.
- Floyd motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- The WSHCEF financial report was in the meeting packet. Winter Day was successful even though it was without snow again. Attendees and vendors were all happy. The model horse show was a huge success. Next year's event will be on February 14th.

Legislative report:

- The governor released his budget last week. Money for trails in Wisconsin did not increase or decrease within the budget.
- Ag Day at the Capitol is March 26, 2025. Darla will take care of registering WHC directors who want to attend this event.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A report was included in the meeting packet.
- The Clarion hotel is closing within two weeks and will be closed for at least 4 months for remodel. The hotel has been sold and will reopen as a Hilton. People who had reservations at the Clarion will be notified about the closure and the new owners will work on finding new accommodations for those people but there is no guarantee.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Pat Stevenson. Winner write-ups and pictures are on the website and in the newsletter.
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: April 8 is the deadline for budget requests.
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: proposed bylaw submissions are in the meeting packet. Most of the changes are just a 'clean up' of what our business practices currently are. Darla will get the survey out tomorrow to vote for the changes.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: there has been movement in all districts except district 4. If anyone knows someone in district 4 that would be interested, let Katie know.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dana Neary-Panella: Next seminar is 4/5/25; check the WHC website for details. Dan Gruenwald gave a short summary of the upcoming seminar.
- Member Services- Mike Kroll: there is nothing new to report.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: Cricket took the current policies and procedures and ran them through ChatGPT to update the language. The new policies will be presented at the EBOD meeting each month until we get through them all.
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: There is a sign-up for WHC booth at MHF. The 2025 WHC PR event list is in the packet. Miss Wisconsin Rodeo and Miss Teen Rodeo will both be at the booth this year along with Dan Gruenwald as a spotlight. The booth will be set up on Wednesday, April 9th at around 1:00 that day. Bonnie handed out WHC logo water bottles to everyone who volunteered to work in the booth at MHF. There is a list of events around the state that the PR committee could attend as long as someone wants to go, work a booth and represent the WHC. If anyone wants to go to any event, they can contact Bonnie to get supplies and go.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: the winner write-ups and pictures are on the WHC website and newsletter. Seven scholarships have been awarded and six will be at the award ceremony on Sunday.
 - Ray Antoniewicz passed away on January 21. The EBOD voted to create a scholarship in Ray's name.
 - Joe Parr gave a short speech on Ray and how he formed the WHC and created the MHF. Thank you, Joe!
- Sponsorship- Cricket Jewett: February 28 is the deadline to submit a sponsorship request; a meeting will be scheduled for March 20 to review them.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: there is nothing to report on technology.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: Trail Master certification course is scheduled for May 18-21 at Gov. Dodge State Park; there is information posted on the WHC website. There are still two spots left to fill. Best of America will be on May 30-31 at the Southern Kettle Moraine trails. Trail grants of \$25,550 were approved; eleven grants were submitted and all were approved.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: she will be working on a survey for farriers.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: the new round up program for 2025 has 18 businesses participating, two more than last year.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: last week there was a zoom meeting with the UW equine coach. Robert from Trailmeister will be the guest speaker at the March zoom meeting.

- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: see above info
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: nothing more to report.

Old Business

Proposed Bylaw Changes:

- Proposed changes are in the meeting packet.
- Voting on the submitted bylaw changes will be sent out via Survey Monkey tomorrow for directors to vote on.

Election Procedures for 2025:

- Procedures, self-nomination forms and the completed nomination forms are in the meeting packet.
- There were no nominations from the floor for the secretary position.
- There were no nominations from the floor for the open MHF position.

New Business

MHF Ticket Request Form:

- The request form and attendance records are in the meeting packet.

Other:

- Nothing

Reminder of Deadlines:

- WHC Sponsorship Application Deadline- 2/28/25
- WHC Roundup Program Submission Deadline- 2/28/25
- WHC Roundup Program 2024-2025 Winners Announced- 3/8/25
- WHC Budget Request Form Deadline- 4/8/25

Future Meeting Dates:

- March 26, 2025- Annual Meeting. Floyd moves that the meeting begins at 6:00 with pizza served beforehand; seconded by Scott. Passed.
- April 2025- NO MEETING
- May 28, 2025
- June 25, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- August 27, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November & December 2025- NO MEETING

Motion made by Scott and seconded by Dana to adjourn at 7:54 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary