

**BOD Meeting May 28, 2025
Monthly meeting**

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

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

WHC Director Introductions:

- Per request from President Anne Murphy, each director introduced themselves and what organization they are representing.

Minutes from March 26, 2025:

- Motion made by Dana to approve the March minutes, seconded by Floyd. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- The budget and balance sheet are in the packet.
- Floyd motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- The WSHCEF's next meeting will be in June.

Legislative report:

- Jolene discussed the WI budget. Depending on how it goes, the two organizations that could be affected by the budget are DNR and DATCP. Jolene will keep us informed on the budget process and if anything in the budget will have an impact that we need to be aware of.
- The Federal Farm Bill, which usually gets renewed every 5 years, is not going through as quickly and is tied up in the "Big Beautiful Bill". Some legislatures want more cuts in the bill while others want less. Jolene will keep us informed on this bill and how/when it will be approved.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A report was included in the meeting packet.
- The MHF has been nominated for the [Wisconsin Governor's Outdoor Industry Awards](#) that recognize the people, businesses, organizations and places leading Wisconsin's outdoor recreation industry. Hosted by the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, these awards are designed to celebrate outstanding accomplishments that drive economic impact and amplify the profile of Wisconsin's thriving outdoor industry. The awards ceremony is being held on June 26th at the Wisconsin Executive Residence where the winners will be announced. Teri and Jill will be attending the ceremony. Cricket Jewett sent in the nomination for the MHF.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Pat Stevenson. Nothing
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: See below remarks
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: Bylaws will be working with the policy and procedures committee to work on what needs to be in the bylaws and what is a policy or procedure.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: Nothing
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Grunewald was not at the meeting.
- Member Services- Mike Kroll was not at the meeting. There is a report in the packet; we are at the highest membership since 2016.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: See comments above under bylaws.
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: Bonnie thanked everyone for their help at the MHF. If anyone has an event that MHF PR committee can attend, they should let Bonnie know. Mark Long has several events he discussed; he will contact Bonnie to provide details.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: nothing to report.
- Sponsorship- Cricket Jewett: nothing to report. The report on sponsorships was in the last newsletter and will be in the next meeting packet.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: nothing new.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: Trails school was full; it was held at Gov. Dodge Park. It rained several days but it was a success.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Nothing new.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: The new program is up and running.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: several youths volunteered at the booth at MHF.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: revisit in October.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: revisit in October.

Old Business**Elections:**

- Budget and Finance:
 - Nominated: Bonnie Shepherd, Dana Sechler, Jim Slovik, Ron Miller, Nancy Edwards
 - Voting ballots were handed out.
 - Elected were: 2- year terms will be Dana Sechler and Jim Slovik; 1-year terms will be Bonnie Shepherd and Nancy Edwards
- Logan motions to destroy the ballots; seconded by Dana. Passed.

New Business**Review proposed budget:**

- The second payment from MHF from 2024 will be used for the upcoming budget which allowed the B&F to approve all of the budget requests. The balance left from the trails committee was requested to be put into the trail capitol fund which the B&F committee granted.
- Each district was allowed to keep the money they earned this year plus they were given \$2000. At the end of 2025 fiscal, any money not used will be zeroed out and each district gets \$2000.
 - A discussion was held on allowing the districts to keep the money that they earn. Nancy stated that there is no documentation on how the district money is to be handled at the end of each fiscal year. There is a paper trail of all money that came in and out of the districts.
 - Nancy said that B&F will revisit this issue.
 - Nancy explained why the directors who were elected to the B&F tonight were given either a 2-year or 1-year term. The bylaws state that B&F replaces two members each year. Due to directors passing and Covid, the B&F elections got off this schedule over the past few years and will now be back to following the bylaws.

Other:

- Lee gave a talk on the history and significance of the MHF. The EBOD minutes include a motion to bring MHF finances to the BOD for review and this would not be in keeping with the formation of the MHF Board that was put in place years ago. Horse expos are very competitive and having that information released to the BOD could be harmful to the MHF. Lee is totally opposed to the motion made by the EBOD.
- Ron talked about the uniqueness of the MHF and why the MHF BOD was created. The MHF BOD is responsible for the success of the event. WHC elects the MHF board members; if they don't trust the board to monitor the financial aspects of the MHF, they can elect other directors to the MHF BOD.
 - From July 2024- July 2025, the MHF BOD was missing one seat from a director as no one wanted to be elected to the board. The MHF BOD reviews all of the finances monthly at their meetings. If directors feel they want to be part of that review and hold that responsibility, they should nominate themselves for the MHF BOD.
- Diane Sackett stated that she feels that financials from WHC, MHF and EF should not be put in packets that could be sent out for people to see.

Future Meeting Dates:

- June 25, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- August 27, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- November & December 2025- NO MEETING

The motion made by Scott Steers and seconded by Anthony Kuenzi to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jill Feller

WHC Secretary