

**BOD Meeting September 24, 2025  
Monthly meeting**

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

Roll call with an introduction of each director: **An attendance chart is attached to these minutes.**

**Minutes from Aug 27, 2025:**

- Motion made by Floyd to approve the August minutes, seconded by Laurie. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- The financial report is in the meeting packet. The district's expenses have been updated since last month.
- Cricket is starting to move the WHC money to a bank closer to her.
- Linda motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Dana. Passed.
- The WSHCEF's treasure report is in the packet. Winter Day will be February 14, 2026.

**Legislative report:**

- Jolene discussed LRB-1259/2-A bill to provide a grant to newly graduated veterinarians of up to \$25,000/year for four years, if the practicing veterinarian agrees to work in a rural practice in Wisconsin where up to 25% of their patients are farm animals. The grant can be renewed annually for up to 4 years for a total of \$100,000.
  - Jolene would like to have someone from the WHC go to the capital to testify at the hearing of the bill. Anne, Dana and Nancy volunteered to attend the hearing.
  - A recommendation to the bill would be to change 'farm animals' to livestock and call out equine specifically. The way this bill is worded, farm animals are defined as 'for meat or fiber', which would not include equine. A veterinarian who is strictly equine would not qualify for these grants if the wording is not changed on this bill.
- DNR is looking for comments on trails that run along Lake Michigan. Watch for more info via email on this.
- Fees related to meat inspection animals are due to be raised 1700%. DATCP will be raising fees; the fees will not affect equine, just cattle for meat inspection.

**Midwest Horse Fair Report:**

- A report was included in the meeting packet.
- Volunteer applications open on Friday, September 27th- pass the word to your groups.
- Chris Cox has been announced as a clinician.
- WHC will be hosting 3 panel discussions at the MHF speaking on 'what to consider when purchasing a horse. Anyone interested in being involved in this panel should contact Jill.
- Final payment from MHF will be sent to WHC in mid-October and should be around \$200,000; final numbers will not be available until N4N finishes their audit of those numbers.

**Committee Reports:**

- Annual Awards- Pat Stevenson. All nomination forms are posted on the WHC website.
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: nothing
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: Nothing
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: there is a flow chart in the meeting packet to help districts understand the WHC organization. A few changes are needed to the flow chart; Katie will update the chart per the suggestions.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Gruenwald: Nothing
- Member Services- Anne Murphy: Nothing.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: Nothing
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: There are several events coming up that the PR committee will attend. There will be sign-up sheets at the October meeting.
  - There will be a WHC t-shirt for sale at the MHF in 2026 at the gift shop.
  - WHC is looking at getting an account set up on Amazon to sell merchandise. There would be multiple designs and colors besides other merchandise.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: nothing to report.

- Sponsorship- Cricket Jewett: Applications close on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>; there are five received as of today. The committee will be meeting in Oct to review the sponsorships.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: Nothing
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: Nothing

#### **Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:**

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Will be starting in winter.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: The new program is up and running. A survey will be sent out to all participating stores to get their input on how the program is going. A review of the replies will be completed before deciding if the program will continue for a third year.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: Choices of zoom meetings are being considered.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: revisit in October.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: revisit in October.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Liability Waiver Review:**

- The attorney has not gotten back to Anne with the updates to the document; this discussion is postponed until we hear back from the attorney.

#### **New Business**

##### **Other:**

- Jolene pointed out that Ag Day at the Capitol will be in January 2026.

##### **Event Dates & Deadline Reminders:**

- WHC Sponsorship Application Submission Deadline- 9/30/25
- Ag Day at the Capitol- 1/21/26
- WSHCEF Winter Fun Day- 2/14/26
- WHC Proposed Bylaw Submission Deadline- 2/15/26
- WHC Certified Judge Seminar- 4/11/26
- Midwest Horse Fair- 4/17- 19, 2026
- WHC Trail Design School- 5/20/26
- Midwest Carriage Classic- 6/19-21, 2026
- Wisconsin Farm Technology Days- 7/14-16, 2026
- Villa Louis Carriage Classic- 9/11-13, 2026

##### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- October 22, 2025
- November & December 2025- NO MEETING

The motion was made by Floyd and seconded by Ron to adjourn at 8:08 pm.

Respectively submitted,  
Jill Feller  
WHC Secretary