

BOD Meeting January 28, 2026
Monthly meeting

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

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

Minutes from Oct 22, 2025:

- Motion made by Floyd to approve the October minutes, seconded by Nancy. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- Cricket is still working on getting all of the WHC accounts switched over to the new bank.
- Dana motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- The WSHCEF's treasure report is in the packet. Winter Day will be on Feb 14th. They are planning some contests including a pie contest. Volunteers are always welcome!

Legislative report:

- Ag Day at the Capital was held on January 21, 2026. Anne Murphy and Chris Nelson attended.
- Jolene talked about a discussion she attended on Ag Day that discussed sustainable aviation fuel made from paper product waste in WI.
- Jolene talked about a constitutional amendment that would take away authority from the DNR regarding trails and other services. No action was taken at this time. If this moves into a bill, WHC will need to decide on what stance will be taken.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A report was included in the meeting packet.
- The WHC presentations at the MHF are still open for volunteers to help. Friday and Saturday topic is 'what to consider before purchasing your first equine'. The Sunday presentation will be on "What to ask the Judge" and will be led by Dan Gruenwald.
- Chris Cox will be conducting a short seminar/presentation of his Lead Changes program on Friday of the MHF. Lead Changes is a non-profit program that teaches youth (ages 12-17) leadership skills using horses. Lead Changes holds two camps each year: one for male and one for females. The cost of the camp is \$10,000 for a two-week program. The MHF is seeking financial support from the WHC to offer a one-time scholarship of \$5000 to a youth who attends the MHF and applies for the Lead Changes program and is accepted into that program. If no one applies, there will be no scholarship. Information about the Lead Changes program is in the meeting packet. The program was explained to the group. A discussion was held on the program. Some thoughts were held to keep the money in state with programs. There is about \$64,000 of money available that is not budgeted at this time; the \$5000 would be 8% of the unbudgeted money. Chris Nelson motions \$5000 to be put into a scholarship for the Lead Changes program; seconded by JoDee Lochner. The vote was moved to a roll call vote. Motion carries 21 to 13.
- The MHF board is requesting that the MHF reserve fund be increased to \$400,000.00. B&F will discuss the issue and bring it back to the BOD at the February meeting for discussion.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Logan provided a list of the award winners.
 - Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Anne Clary and Diane Sackett
 - Special Achievement: Barn Besties and Katie Brucks & the Lucky Foundation
 - Equine of the Year: Lewey- District 3
 - Horseperson of the Year: Katie Brucks
 - Director of the Year: Mark Long

- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: Deadline for budget requests is April 8; the form is in the packet.
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: Deadline for next changes is February 15.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: There are three documents in the meeting packet. After a review and discussion all three documents were accepted.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Gruenwald: next seminar will be held on April 11.
- Member Services- Anne Murphy: stats are in the meeting packet.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: There are two documents in the meeting packet. No discussion was held as these documents were sent to legal counsel and were not back yet so discussion will be held in February.
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: Let Darla know what schedule you can work at the WHC booth for the MHF WHC booth. The PR event list for 2026 is in the meeting packet.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: there is a list of the 2026 award winners in the meeting packet.
- Sponsorship- Heather Kuenzi is the new chairperson for this committee. The fall sponsorships were awarded. The spring sponsorship deadline is February 28th. Darla was recognized for her assistance in mailing out information about sponsorships.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: A directional mike is being considered for the BOD meetings to allow for better sound with the zoom meetings.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: the Trail Master Certification course is scheduled for May 13-16 at the Southern Kettle Moraine Trails. There are six applicants who signed up; there is room for 10 more. Trail grant deadline is February 1.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Nothing new.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: maps need to be in by the end of February. After a survey was taken with the participating vendors, a decision has been made to not continue this program. Thank you to Bonnie for all of your work and dedication over the past two years with the Round Up program!
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: this might be the final year if there is not more participation.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: see the notes above on the new forms that will go into circulation for districts.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: nothing new.
- Discussion regarding third party involvement in reworking WHC bylaws, policies and procedures is on hold.

Old Business

Liability Waiver Review- copy in packet:

- The new liability waiver was reviewed. The document was approved by the insurance company and recommends that it should be used at all WHC events. The attorney approved the form.

Proposed By-law Change Submission Deadline is February 15:

- Form is in the meeting packet.

New Business

Election Procedures for 2026- procedures and self-nominating form are in the meeting packet:

Other:

- Bonnie recommended that the award committee create a Youth award. Dan Gruenwald also promotes this award.
- The AHC announced today that the HPA (horse protection act) will be stayed until December 31, 2026.
- Farm Tech days will be holding a horse event. Nancy Young volunteered to do Farm Tech Days in 2026.
- Lee asked Dana to discuss his idea to provide scholarships for youth programs in WI. Dana talked about setting up an annual scholarship for WI youth programs. No actions were taken as more details on how this program would work is needed.
- Chris Nelson asked about the process used to bring ideas to the WHC. A new ad-hoc committee that would 'vet' ideas is being considered. No action was taken.

Future Meeting Dates:

- February 2/25

- March 3/25
- May 5/27
- June 6/24
- July 7/22
- August 8/26
- September 9/23
- October 10/28

Motion made by Ron and seconded by Scott to adjourn at 8:49 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary