

BOD Meeting March 25, 2026
Annual meeting

6:00 pizza and beverages served for annual meeting.

Call to order by **President Anne Murphy at 6:30 pm.**

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

Minutes from February 25, 2026:

- Motion made by Linda E. to approve the February minutes, seconded by Nancy E. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet in an expanded format to allow committees to plan their budget for next year.
- Dana motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.
- The Equine Foundation report is in the packet. The Equine Foundation has a new logo!

Legislative report:

- Senate finished up two weeks ago. The surplus money is still being talked about and where to put that money; there are no bills to discuss.
- If any director meets anyone from the legislator, please introduce yourself and talk about horses. Let Jolene know of any interaction that happens so she knows when she meets that legislature person, she can follow up on that conversation and point it back to WHC.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- The monthly report is missing from the packet. Darla will send it out via email to directors.
- The question was asked about how the coliseum construction could affect the MHF. IF the renovation of the coliseum does get approved and happens, the 2028 MHF will not have access to the coliseum during the renovation period. There are multiple approval processes that need to happen yet so while we are aware of the situation and are monitoring it, we are not making any backup plans yet. We are concentrating on 2026 MHF. We will be discussing this issue at our annual strategic meeting in July.
- There was a question about John Nolen Drive construction. John Nolen Drive is open, but it is down to two lanes, vs four lanes, coming over the bridge if you are coming around on Hwy 151. It is still drivable, but there are some backups with the two lanes. There is no construction past that bridge at this time so anyone coming from the beltline or down Park Street and crossing over will not have any construction delays.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Logan; nothing new
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: Deadline for budget requests is April 8; the form is in the packet.
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: the by law suggested changes that were sent to legal counsel for review in January are still not returned. The two bylaws that were voted on did pass.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: there was a zoom meeting. District 4 is working on getting back up to running.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Gruenwald: next seminar will be held on April 11.
- Member Services- Anne Murphy: nothing new.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: some policies are in the works.
- 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. Directors who sign up to work in the WHC booth at MHF will receive a WHC logo sweatshirt. Set up is on Wednesday and tear down is at 5 pm.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: nothing new
- Sponsorship- Heather Kuenzi: March 30 is the spring sponsorship meeting.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: no updates
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: the Trail Master Certification course is scheduled for May 13-16 at the Southern Kettle Moraine Trails. Only 9 people have signed up; there are 7 openings left open. The deadline to register to attend the school is mid-April.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Nothing new.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: the program has finished the awards have been sent out.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: nothing new.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: see note above.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: nothing new.
- Discussion regarding third party involvement in reworking WHC bylaws and policies. This has not been approved, but is being used by the by-law and policy committee.

Old Business

Elections:

- Vice President: Heather Kuenzi
- Member at large: Mark Long
- Midwest Horse Fair (2): Jill Feller and Nancy Edwards
- Budget and Finance (3): Bonnie Shepherd, Sarah Long, Nancy Edwards
- Equine Foundation (2): Jennifer Juliuson and Linda Ernsberger
- Nancy motions to unanimously accept all nominees into position; seconded by Rae. Passed.
- Ron Miller recognized Katie Bachhuber for her time serving in the VP position.

Distribution of MHF tickets:

- MHF tickets were handed out to directors.

New Business

Other:

- There was a joint meeting of Coalition of State Horse Councils/American Horse Council meeting. A new tool has been created called a State Horse Council Tool Kit. Nancy handed out the table of contents that is included in the toolkit.
- Dianne shared a story of the Winter Day event that is on You Tube. A participant from Canada shared with Dianne that Canada has no support for the horse industry and we are lucky we have horse councils for support.
- Farm Tech Days is holding a spot for WHC in the non-profit area.

Future Meeting Dates:

- 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 6:58 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary