

BOD Meeting May 27, 2026

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

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

Speaker- Shelia Martian of Triple H Horsemanship & Therapeutic Riding- Sponsorship Presentation

- Their ranch is in Milton in Rock County. They currently have 23 students and over 40 volunteers. Besides therapeutic riding, she hosts clinics for the scouts and camps for kids to learn about horses. They are expanding into riding programs for Alzheimer's patients soon.

Minutes from March 25, 2026:

- Motion made by Linda E to approve the March minutes, seconded by Floyd F. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- The end-of-the-year expenses are coming in. Some outstanding expenses from the districts and trail school are starting to come in for payment.
- Dana motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Nancy. Passed.

Legislative report:

- Jolene was approached by the Executive Director of police association and EMS. Years ago, this group was granted \$5 million to do some geo mapping for large venues to prepare for active shooters incidents. Part of the geo mapping that was completed was Alliant Energy Center. This group wants to know of any events for groups with attendance of over 500 attendees; they would like these groups to lobby to get them \$6 million to do more geo mapping at other events if they are needed. There are no events with the WHC groups that would fit this model of events with over 500 attendees other than the MHF. Since MHF is held at the Alliant Energy Center, that venue is already geo mapped.
- At the county fair meeting, there was a representative from DATCP (WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) that discussed the requirements for bringing animals to fairs. Besides the Coggins, out of state animals, except for those from MN, need a health certificate. Any open sores found on a horse should be signed off by the horse's veterinarian as saying the horse is healthy and fine to be transported to the event.
- The DNR have lost staff over the years. As an organization, we cannot lobby for more DNR staff. We can lobby for more trails but not more staff.
- Cricket reported that the USDA inspectors showed up at a TN Walker showed in Custer two weeks ago to inspect the horses under the Horse Protection Act. They did inspect all of the horses; no infractions were found/ no citations were issued.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- The monthly report is in the packet.
- There was record attendance at the MHF in 2026 with 60,500 total over three days. There were 820 horses representing 45 different breeds, which are also records!
- We are planning the 2027 MHF and once contracts are accepted and signed, we will begin announcing our clinicians, competitions and entertainers.
- Teri will be at the June meeting and present a 10-minute presentation summary of the 2026 MHF.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Logan; nothing new
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: nothing new
- Bylaws- Dana Sechler: nothing new
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: there are two district reports in the packet. Every district is represented at the WHC meeting tonight!
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Gruenwald: not present. Minutes of the last meeting are in the packet.
- Member Services- Anne Murphy: nothing new.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: nothing new
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: A big thank you to everyone who helped in the booth at MHF. The special branded shirts that connect MHF and WHC can be purchased for \$15 at the WHC office.

- There is a list of upcoming events where WHC could set up a booth if someone wants to attend the event.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: nothing new. A discussion was held on how the awards ceremony should be held at the MHF.
- Sponsorship- Heather Kuenzi: the spring sponsorship meeting was held after the March WHC meeting. There were 19 applications; 18 were granted. \$74640 in funds was requested and \$42300 was awarded to the groups.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: A new copier has been implemented with a stapler.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Cricket Jewett: there were 10 students that attended. The school was a success.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Nothing new.
- Round Up: Bonnie Shepherd: this program has ended.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: Nothing New.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: note are above.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: nothing new.

Old Business

New Business

Other:

- Joe Parr talked about the WHC EBOD minutes where the building rent was discussed. Is there any consideration in combining WHC and MHF into one building to save on costs? Anne explained that there is consideration in doing that at this time. Leases of the two buildings are being coordinated to ensure they expire at the same time in the event we do combine the two offices in a future year.
- Joe asked about the district committee. He has asked to talk to the committee and the executive board regarding the districts, but he has not heard back about his questions or his acceptance to address either group. Anne explained that she is doing some research on how the districts should function and how it works within the by-laws. After Joe questioned the policy that districts cannot use the money for a party, Nancy explained that the verbiage regarding holding a party was in the original documents. The purpose of that verbiage was to prevent the districts from holding only social events to party; treats for meetings are not banned from the district money.
- Mike Ruch from Palomino Pines gave a big thank you to the WHC and district 3 for their financial support to his organization.
- Lila would like a review of the committees and how their chairs are elected. There is a document on the website that lists out the committees and what each committee does along with the chairperson. Darla explained where to find that list on the WHC website.
- Lila would like the WHC to create a disaster plan and post it on our website.
- Farm Technology Days- the check for a booth has been sent in. Anne is working on the details of the event.

Review of Proposed Budget for 2026-2027: Budget is in the packet:

- The proposal is in the packet. The budget will be approved at the June meeting.

Future Meeting Dates:

- June 6/24
- July 7/22
- August 8/26
- September 9/23
- October 10/28

Motion made by Ron and seconded by Floyd to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary