BOD Meeting September 23, 2026

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

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

Minutes from August 26, 2026:

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

Treasurer's Report:

- The financial report is in the meeting packet.
- MHF paid the second payment to WHC of $267,433.
- Floyd motions to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Lori. Passed

Legislative report:

- There is a Humane Officer training session is happening in Madison; it is a 5-day training session. There are about 1/3 of the WI counties and 90 cities, towns, and villages and have a Humane Officer. There is a list of all Humane Officers on the DATCP website.
- The AHC sent out a survey to poll states to see if there is any movement to make equine a companion animal and not livestock. There is no action like this in WI and for every bill that lists livestock types, WHC has always made sure the equine was listed on the bill. Nancy and Jolene completed the survey that was sent out from AHC.
- At the last meeting, an attendee at the WHC meeting said that she felt it was a good idea to require Amish buggies. Jolene explained that if there were a bill about licensing buggies, it would apply to all buggies and wagons that would be on the road, including driving in a parade; it would not be limited to Amish. Jolene would like a vote tonight from WHC if we would oppose any bill that would require licensing on buggies as a new bill may come up and Jolene wants to be prepared if/when it does.
    - Floyd motions that WHC will oppose any bill that requires licensing on equine drawn vehicles; Nancy seconds. Passed.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- The monthly report is in the packet.
- There is no further information on the possible construction of the coliseum as the proposed option has not been approved by the Dane County BOD.

Committee Reports:

- Annual Awards- Logan Sechler: collecting information on how to make the awards ceremony better.
- Budget & Finance- Nancy Edwards: nothing new
- By laws- Dana Sechler: three new bylaws were introduced last month. 21 directors voted and all three bylaws passed.
- Districts- Katie Bachhuber: District 3- Bonnie and Nancy visited a level II member and had a nice talk about WHC and MHF. Bonnie would like to see these types of visitations to new members from other directors. Last year, D3 gave out 10 WHC banners to be posted at different county fairs and events. District 4 hosted an obstacle with confidence clinic. There was very positive feedback from the clinic. District 5 sponsored a show from a new group. They are also doing two other events before the end of the year.
- Judges Program & Seminar- Dan Gruenwald: The committee hosted a Zoom meeting to discuss what topics they will cover over the next year. English Pleasure and Pleasure Driving will be two topics that will be covered by the committee.
- Member Services- Anne Murphy: the committee is working on changing the membership process.
- Policy & Procedures: Anne Murphy: Anne will be sending a new procedure to the EBOD for review this week.
- Public Relations- Bonnie Shepherd: WIIHA show is coming up this fall. If anyone has an event that they want WHC to attend, contact Bonnie.
- WSHCEF Scholarship- Linda Ernsberger: a report is in the EF minutes in the packets.
- Sponsorship- Heather Kuenzi: the fall deadline to apply for a sponsorship is September 30th.
- Technology- Dana Sechler: Dana reminded everyone that the new WHC is very robust. Dana walked the group through the WHC membership options for renewal. The template used to build the new WHC website does not have a search option. To include a search option, the website would need to be rebuilt with a search bar and there would be a cost to it.
- Trails- Floyd Finney & Kricket Jewett: Trail school in 2027 may be at La Riviere trails in Prairie du Chien. Trail grants are due by the end of January.

Youth Fun Night Recap/Presentation- Rachel Rogowski- WI Appaloosa Horse Club:

- Rachel gave a PowerPoint presentation on a fun night held by the WI Appaloosa Horse Club. The event was open to the public and all "Crazy Horse Kids". A variety of games were played all at no cost to any participants. There are plans to host this same event again next year.

Long-range Planning (LRP) Reports:

- Determine the Needs of the Equine Industry- Anne Murphy: Nothing new.
- Youth Initiative Discussion- Anne Murphy: Nothing New.
- Reevaluate District Functions- Katie Bachhuber: Nothing new.
- Long-Range Strategic Planning Process Status: Dana Sechler: nothing new.

Old Business

Proposed By law voting results:

- All of the submitted by law changes passed.

New Business

AHC Economic Impact Study:

- The AHC is doing another equine impact study; the last study was done in 2023. The last time WI participated in a state equine impact study was 2018. The cost for WI to get a state study completed through AHC is $35,000. A decision needs to be made at the October meeting; a vote will be taken then. Directors should think about the study and come to the October meeting ready to vote. Nancy will check with UW-River Falls and UW-Whitewater to see if they would be interested in preparing and conducting a study for us and if so, what those costs would be.
- Directors should also think about giving AHC money toward the national study.

Other:

- Mike's ranch has suffered a case of strangles with their barn. Mike is transparent with what is happening and how this has affected events scheduled at his ranch. The trail horses have been isolated away from the barn and are doing well. If any strangles develops in the trail horses, the trial riding operation will be shut down.

Future Meeting Dates:

- October 10/28
- November and December- no BOD meeting

Motion made by Floyd and seconded by Joe to adjourn at 8:28 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jill Feller
WHC Secretary