

## BOD Meeting January 26, 2022

Call to order by **President Nancy Edwards at 7:00 pm.**

**President's message:** Silence phones and speak loudly so directors who are calling in or on Zoom can hear. Directors on the phone and Zoom should mute their phones and computers to prevent background noise.

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

### Legislative report:

- Ag Day at the Capital was today, Jan. 26 and there was a poor turnout (weather was below zero all day). WHC will be able to provide better support of this event in 2023.
- Update on SB778 & AB780: The bill author put out a call to fill the room with town's people so the bill would pass; this did not happen and there is no action on the bill right now. The session ends on March 10<sup>th</sup> and if the bill is not brought up again before that date, the bill will die. IF the bill is brought up, Jolene stated that if WHC and/or representatives who oppose the bill, do not show up for the hearing, the bill would pass. Pat Jenkins said she could respond to a call from Jolene to bring Amish people to the hearing to oppose the bill if the bill resurfaces before March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Lobbyist Payment Discussion: Lobbyists need to be paid to be on 'the books' as representing the organization. WHC is registered for two years with the Ethics Board. Ron motions we pay Jolene \$1000 to keep her position as Lobbyist for WHC, Floyd seconded. Passed.
- MHF- Jolene sends articles regarding the Alliant Energy Center (AEC) to Megan to read. The vaccination clinic is not affecting other events at the AEC currently because it is in the Exhibition Hall. One news article explains that there are only 14 people working at the AEC which is limiting the amount of work that required to be completed between events. The cleaning services have been outsourced until the problem is solved. The lack of help could affect the MHF but it is too early to say and more people may be hired by April.

### Minutes from October 27, 2021:

- Motion made by Gail Seasor to approve the October 27 minutes, seconded by Anne Murphy. Passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

- The 1099's and W-2's have been completed and sent. Quarterly reports are done also. All money coming back from IRS has been received. \$16,000 was the last payment for employee retention money and it has been deposited.
- Joe Par asked for an explanation on the October minutes as to what payment has been forgiven with the Midwest Horse Fair in 2022 and 2023. What was 'forgiven' is the rent amount paid by the MHF to the Alliant Energy Center not the annual payment amount.
- Scott Steers moves to accept the financial report as presented; seconded by Floyd Finney. Passed.
- Equine Foundation report was in the meeting packet; no questions were asked of the report.

### Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- The report is in the meeting packet for Directors to read.
- MHF has been getting some negative fan mail, some could even be considered threatening. Pat is asking for help; if any horse enthusiasts bring up the subject of having to be vaccinated to attend the rodeo, please inform them that the rules in place are from the Alliant Energy Center and not from MHF.
- The MHF office is busy, please do not call the office with general questions.
- The Executive Director at Alliant Energy Center (AEC) has resigned. There is an interim director starting on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Megan is working hard with AEC to get everything all set up and ready for the MHF. It is a slow process due to the lack of employees and the fact that all the employees are new and have never worked the MHF before.

## Old Business

### Public Relations Statement Recommendation Update:

- At the October meeting, it was announced that Directors should respond to Darla's email regarding a PR statement about volunteer organizations. No responses were received therefore Nancy and Darla will work together to create a statement for review at the next meeting.

**WHC Proposed Bylaw Change Submission Review- 2<sup>nd</sup> Review- Revised Proposed change from Oct meeting:**

- The proposal was changed to specify that *Legacy* Directors must attend a minimum of 25% of the BOD meeting each year. If the 25% attendance is not met, the Director will be permanently removed from the BOD. There is still a bit of confusion in the wording of the proposal. The proposal will be reworded for clarification and be in the February meeting packet for the third review.
- There are six legacy directors left; four attend meetings and two do not attend meetings.
- A discussion on the value of Legacy Directors followed.

**WSHCEF Winter Day at Springbrook Update:**

- February 12 is the day! There will be a Breyer Model horse show with participants from five states; vendors indoors, breakfast and lunch meals served, dog sled exhibitions, sleighing and a sleigh parade, bobsled rides, and more. Volunteers are always welcome.

**New Business**

**Election Procedures for 2022- procedures & self-nomination form in meeting packet:**

- The meeting packet contains the information regarding elections. The following positions are open: Vice President, 2 positions on the Midwest Horse Fair, 2 positions on Budget and Finance and openings on the Equine Foundation. If anyone is interested in running for one of these positions, the self-nominating form can be found in the packet.

**PR Committee Update & MHF Booth Sign-Up Sheet- Bonnie Shepard:**

- A sign-up sheet was sent out to the Directors for those not coming into the office for the meeting and a hard copy was circulated at the WHC office during the meeting.

**PRCA Rodeo Concerns- Documents in Packets:**

- The information about legislation in CA that would ban rodeos was sent to the MHF office. Sometimes new legislation and/or complaints are filed because someone does not understand the situation; they see one thing and without researching it, they decide that there is animal mistreatment involved which is not always the case. One way to combat these types of legislation is to educate the public on rodeo and how well the animals are taken care of.
- Ron suggested that the Budget & Finance look at putting a donation amount into the next budget to help the rodeo groups fight the legislation.
- Karen asked if Lila's group who she represents (WI High School Rodeo) is aware of the rodeo info in the packet. Lila's group is very proactive on education of rodeo and how well cared for the animals are; education will help to stop these types of movements to ban rodeos.
- Nancy suggested that we post on the WHC website an article on how rodeo animals are cared for as part of the education of the public. A discussion followed; the article will not be posted but used as a reference if anyone expresses concern about rodeo animals.

**Other:**

- Nothing

**Future Meeting Dates:**

- February 23, 2022
- March 23, 2022- ANNUAL MEETING
- April 2022- No meeting
- May 25, 2022

Motion made by Ron Miller and seconded by Scott Steers to adjourn at 8:06 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jill Feller  
WHC Secretary