

## BOD Meeting October 27, 2021

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:

- Jolene and Megan have been looking to at the available Covid relief grant programs but because the rent for the Alliant Energy Center has been forgiven for the years for 2022 and 2023, the MHF will not be eligible for any of the Covid relief grant money.
- There is a bill draft in the meeting packet that was created by the bear hunters to prevent towns from creating more restrictive laws for animals than what the state animal laws are. This is not a bill yet, but it may move forward with the next session into a bill. Jolene would like WHC to support this bill as it would prevent towns and townships from creating more restrictive laws regarding animals than what the state laws are. There does not need to be a vote on this bill tonight but if this moves into a bill, we will discuss it again in January when the bill language will be done.

### Minutes from August 25, 2021:

- Motion made by Ron Miller to approve the August 25 minutes, seconded by Anne Murphy. Passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Ron reported that we received nearly \$40,000 from the IRS. \$30,000 is from our application in April 2020 for the Employee Retention Fund. The payment was received on October 3, 2021.
- WHC also received a check from the U.S. Treasury for \$12,000.00; there was no indication of what this money is for. Ron thinks it is a refund for 941 forms.
- There is also a bill for \$2600.00 from the IRS. With these checks and the money for the PPP loan which has been forgiven (approximately \$67,000), we have received over \$100,000.
- Karen asked Ron to explain the *lease audit asset* on the financial report. Ron explained that the money is recorded as an asset because it is a long-term lease. The PPP loan forgiveness is also recorded in the treasurer's report.
- Floyd Finney moves to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Lori Helmer. Passed
- Equine Foundation's report: The deposit has been made to secure the site for the Winter Day event on February 12. There has been no other activity with the EF.

### Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- The reports from MHF are in the meeting packets. Pat confirmed what Jolene has previously stated that the rent for 2022 and 2023 will be forgiven; the cost of labor and supplies will still be a cost to be paid. The Alliant Energy Center (AEC) is now under the city of Madison instead of the town of Madison and the Madison Fire Marshall has stricter interpretations of the fire codes and some of our vendors may be affected by these new codes. Some of the spaces that may be issues have been sold to vendors. Vendors will no longer be able to pull into buildings with their trailers to load and unload. These new fire code changes will affect all events that will be held at the AEC. MHF may have to move some vendors around to meet the new standards.
  - Pat reminded attendees that the information discussed regarding the Fire Marshal possible changes should not be communicated out to organizations; we do not want any organization or vendor to start to panic that the MHF may be having problems.
- The World Dairy Expo (WDE) attendance was down this year; international attendance was lower due to Covid. It is not clear if WDE would be returning in 2023; they have not signed a long-term contract with AEC yet.
- Trail riding numbers may be doing well but horse show numbers are down throughout the state; it is hard to predict if any off this will affect attendance in April at the MHF.
- There is a clinician coming to MHF in 2022 who does a good job with youth programs, and it would be a good time for WHC to talk to this person to see what can be done in our state to increase youth programs.

## Old Business

**Public Relations Statement Recommendation Review of Revised Document:**

- An updated statement was sent out to directors on Monday to review. The original document had verbiage about starting some youth programs. There was no support for the youth programs, but another idea surfaced during discussions and that was for the WHC to become a resource for other organizations who already have programs in place.
- Another document will be sent out to directors tomorrow. Directors should review this email and send in their suggestions for programs to be added to our 'resources' along with some appropriate questions to ask about the equine programs. Nancy would like comments returned to the WHC office within the next 3-4 weeks (until November 15).
- Cricket Jewett mentioned that Mary Monroe from the Outdoor Recreation asked her what WHC was doing for DEAI ideas. Cricket asked what the "A" stood for- it means Accessibility. Cricket explained about the sponsorship program and how over the years WHC has given over \$300,000 for therapeutic programs throughout Wisconsin. This information was unknown to Mary Monroe, and she was impressed to know WHC has been active in those programs.

### **New Business**

#### **WHC Proposed Bylaw Change Submission Review- 1<sup>st</sup> Review:**

- There is one bylaw change in the meeting packet for consideration. The change is about attendance of meetings by directors. The suggestion states that directors need to attend at least 75% of the meetings to remain an active director.
- A lengthy discussion was held on attendance and what actions could/should be taken, if any. Attendance is much easier to attend with the calls and Zoom meeting options. Will the consequence be a denial of membership to these groups?
- Karen suggested that the membership committee could reach out to the organizations who have directors not attending meetings. Bonnie commented that if the organizations don't want to participate, that is their decision. The membership difference between level II and level III membership is \$55 and if an organization wants to pay the higher fee for a level III membership and not have an active representative, it is their decision to make.
- The transitional directors were also discussed. Gail is the author of the bylaw suggested change and she will work on rewording the submission bylaws change and present it again at the January meeting.
- A decision was made that Darla was going to write a letter to organizations that have directors not attending meetings. The letter will include the different options available to attend meetings (in person, Zoom or conference call). Darla will also write up thank you letters to send to the organizations who do have active directors.

#### **WSHCEF Winter Day at Springbrook Update:**

- The event will be held on February 12, 2022, at Springbrook at Burnett. There is a committee working on planning the events. Indoor there will be the model horse show, vendors, exhibits, raffles, food, vendors and a photo contest. Outdoor events will be sleigh event, horse drawn wagons or sleds, dog sled exhibition, on outdoor bonfire and more events are still in planning stages.

#### **Other:**

- The cost to prepare the 990-tax form is \$1200 which includes the cost to apply for an extension. This cost will be included as an expense on a future financial report.
- The State Coalition of Horse Councils held a 3-hour virtual meeting today that Nancy attended. Some of the topics discussed were:
  - The use of pyrethrin. AHC will educate the EPA on the topic as this chemical does not present any problems
  - Campsites in horse campgrounds are being used by non-horse people in all states and it is causing some problems. These issues should be reported to the local DNR representatives.
  - MI hosts equine coffee hours. MI also hosts a 'dune' trail ride that is very successful. The ride is Nov 1-14<sup>th</sup> with 1800 people wanting to attend. The MI horse council supplied the event insurance for the event and as a result, people attending the ride were required to join the MI horse council; their membership is now up to over 900 members. Is this something for WHC to consider doing such an event?
  - WHC is hosting the State Coalition in 2023.
  - The Wisconsin Interscholastic Horse Association has their event in Madison this weekend. WHC will have a booth on Friday and Saturday.

#### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- January 26, 2022

Motion made by Scott Steers and seconded by Ron Miller to adjourn at 8:47 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jill Feller  
WHC Secretary