

BOD Meeting June 23, 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.**

Minutes from May 26, 2021:

- Motion made by Lori Helmer to approve the May 26 minutes, seconded by Scott Steers. Passed

Treasurer's Report:

- Full reports of finances are in the meeting packet.
- Karen Kroll had several questions for Ron Miller. Karen questioned why several of the districts were listed with funds and why District 4 was not listed. It was explained that the listing was reporting what the districts had earned and added to their budget and that District 4 had not earned and reported any funds. The report shows that we sold a Trail Guide and we have stopped selling those. Ron confirmed that we did indeed sell a Trail Guide during the time period shown on the report. Karen wondered why there was such a big difference in the membership numbers from 2020 to 2021 and it was explained that the membership year runs January 1 to December 31, whereas our fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30. We receive memberships throughout the entire year and so it needs to be recorded correctly as to which fiscal year it was received in. Karen also asked what Drop Box was in our listed items and that she thought it expensive. It was explained that Drop Box is used for the sharing of large files between committee members and that it is the primary computer system back-up for the WHC Office files, etc.
- Motion made by Scott Steers to accept finance reports as presented in the packet, seconded by Lori Helmer. Passed

WSHCEF Treasurer's Report:

- Full reports of finances are in the meeting packet.
- Diane Sackett was not present at the meeting, so Nancy Edwards read a highlighted portion of the Foundation's last meeting minutes that were included in the meeting packet that the Foundation wanted the WHC Board of Directors to discuss and approve for them. The Foundation would like to redesignate the Olympic Incubator fund of \$10,000 to be for a Youth and/or Novice Equine Education Event fund. There was discussed and clarification of this request made by the Foundation. Lee Sackett made a motion to accept the Foundation's request to redesignate the Olympic Incubator fund of \$10,000 for a Youth and/or Novice Equine Education Event fund. Scott Steers seconded the motion. Passed

Legislative Report:

- Jolene gave an update on the passage of the state budget. Eliminate personal property tax and reduce WI state income tax. She also talked about PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) on state land.

Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- A report was included in the meeting packet and there were no other items to report at this time.

Old Business

DEI Discussion:

- Nancy Edwards was unable to reach Tracy Porter to discuss how her business is providing a DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity) program. Nancy did speak with Lia Sader of Stepping Stone Farms about her ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) program. Their program is geared for those with mental health issues as opposed to those that are disadvantaged or impoverished, but it was agreed that the two tend to go hand-in-hand. They work with the Boys & Girls Club, the job corp., foster care, group homes and the Milwaukee Academy. Those that would work with these kids need to have special diversity training, as a lot of the kids do not feel welcome in these types of programs. Considerations need to be made for those of varying ethnicities, i.e., helmets that fit correctly due to different hair types, etc.
- Nancy said a committee would need to be formed to discuss starting this type of program and to contact stables to see what they thought and maybe reimburse them once we have funds again. Nancy asked for volunteers to serve on this committee, and no one spoke up at this time.

- Bonnie Shepherd suggested that Ron Miller should check with our insurance company first to see what type of coverage would be needed to cover a program like this. Ron said that he thought that we would have to carry \$1 million coverage and so would the facilities involved. It would also depend on how many “events” would need to be covered as to how much this type of coverage would cost.
- Lila Lemanski said that the districts should work on this program, and we could support them. Nancy explained that this was discussed at the last board meeting and that is what was decided then as well, so everyone agrees.

Public Relations Statement Recommendation Review & Vote:

- The document was sent out only hours prior to the meeting, so Nancy asked everyone to review the entire document and e-mail their thoughts to Darla at the WHC Office by July 2. Darla will then consolidate everyone’s comments into one document and send it out to the entire board to review prior to the August board meeting. A vote was tabled until the August meeting.
- The question was asked where we would place this statement. Nancy thought that a handout could be created and maybe place it on the website.

Western Sports Coalition Support Request Update:

- Nancy reported that she did send a letter from the WHC, and that Darla posted the information and request for people to also send letters of support on the WHC website, the WHC Facebook page and an e-news blast was sent to the entire WHC membership.

New Business

Colorado & Oregon Legislation:

- The AHC annual meeting was held virtually this year. Nancy was able to attend parts of the meeting and will receive a full report from the event in its entirety. One thing that was discussed was Wilbur’s Law out of Colorado. The ranchers and the farm bureau created a coalition to fight it. It adds livestock and fish to breeding and slaughtering laws proposed by PAWS (Protect Animal Welfare Society). They are trying to get enough signatures to get on a ballot. Oregon has the same thing in their state, but it is even more restrictive and inclusive. They are afraid that it will spread quickly to other states, and they are going after everything in agriculture. Jolene Plautz stated that Wisconsin does not have ballot initiatives and that we would need an all-Democrat legislature for something like that to pass here as the Republicans would fight hard against it.

Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association Donation:

- The WHC received a letter and a check from the Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association, Inc. The GDHTA asked to have the donation, its designation and the amount of the donation read into the official minutes at the June 2021 board meeting. Nancy read the letter to the group. “The Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association (GDHTA) has dissolved. The GDHTA Board of Directors voted to donate the remainder of our funds to the Wisconsin Horse Council with the specific designation for the WHC Capital Fund for Trails. This decision reflects the main mission of GDHTA – namely the advocacy for and support of public equestrian trails in Wisconsin. Enclosed is a check for our remaining funds in the amount of \$6,724.31. Sincerely, Margaret Kraege, President, Ted Herrmann, Vice-President and Karen Kroll, Treasurer/Secretary.
- Lila Lemanski said that we should show our thanks and appreciation to the GDHTA for this donation and for all their work over the years for the trails of Wisconsin. Nancy Edwards agreed.

Other

Reminder: Wisconsin Farm Technology Days – July 20-22, 2021, in Eau Claire County:

- Nancy reminded the group of this year’s Farm Technology Days dates and noted that the WHC will not be involved with it this year.

WHC BOD July Meeting Discussion & Decision:

- The WHC BOD has not met during the month of July for several years in a row due to lack of items to be discussed and directors being busy during the summer. Scott Steers made a motion to not hold a WHC BOD Meeting in July 2021 unless an emergency should arise. Bonnie Shepherd seconded the motion. Passed

WHC Office Hours Update:

- Nancy stated that the WHC Office will have new hours effective the week of June 28. The office will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8 am to 4 pm. The office will be closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Future Meeting Dates:

- August 25
- September 22
- October 27

Motion made by Scott Steers and seconded by Bonnie Shepherd to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Passed

Respectively submitted,

Darla Schack
WHC Administrative Assistant