

Wyoming Horse Council Meeting
April 25, 2009
Riverton, Wyoming

Members & Guests Attending: Valerie Harris, Dick Inberg, Ted Pierce, Bob Daniels, Judy Horton, Bill Smith, Ruth Esperance, Milt Green, Rod Rivers, Bryce Reece, Deb Simpson, Barb Burns, Bill Gentle, Budd Betts, Jim Logan, Iva Korell, Mantha Phillips, Karen Buchanan, Barb Daniels.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Gentle.

Minutes - Bill Smith moved the minutes of the Jan 20th meeting be approved as written, seconded by Rod Rivers. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - Barb Daniels reported for Cindy Sewell. Expenses included payment to Wyoming Stockgrowers for the Legislative Reception, check to Wyoming State Fair for 2 youth horse show awards, AHC membership. Income included membership fees and a check from Wyoming All Breeds Racing Association for the Legislative Reception. Balance on this date of \$1433.62.

Board Member Appointment - President Gentle reported that Lori Schafer had resigned as a Board member from District 1. He moved that Judy Horton replace her and that Debbie Simpson fill the vacancy in District 5. Seconded by Barb Burns. Passed. Bob Daniels reported that Dan Reimler, board member from District 4 is unable to attend meetings and has asked to be replaced.

By-Law Amendment - Article V: Board of Directors; Section 11. Attendance: Attendance of directors at membership meetings and board meetings is very important. Any director that misses three (3) meetings in a row will be asked to resign their place on the board. Judy Horton moved to approve, seconded by Rod Rivers, Passed.

US Forest Service Access - Ruth Esperance, District Ranger in the Shoshone National Forest reported that a 15 member Resource Advisory Committee for Fremont & Park Counties is being formed. They are looking for representatives from different user groups. Applications are due May 18th. Laramie is also forming an advisory committee. She recommended to call the local Forest Service office to determine if advisory committees are being formed in that area. A travel map of existing conditions will be out by the end of 2009. Next year they will begin travel management decisions for each area. Horseback travel is not addressed by the map as horses can use any trail they choose.

Grant Request - Representative Sue Wallis. A request for a donation to help her travel to other states on the horse slaughter issue was received. After considerable discussion Bill Smith moved to not approve the request, seconded by Barb Burns. Passed.

Back Country Horsemen - Dick Inberg reported that the purpose of the organization is to

keep public lands open for pack and saddle stock. They are in 27 states with 14,000 members. They work with land management agencies such as Forest Service and BLM and do a lot of volunteer work. In Wyoming they provide \$200,000 worth of volunteer work annually such as trail clearing, inventory, education, bridge building, corrals, supplies & tools for work parties. They are sponsoring a pack clinic in Riverton on May 16th and have several day rides planned including July 4th weekend at Long Creek Trailhead & DuNoir. Also on July 18 & 19 at the Continental Divide Trail. They will provide an article on their projects.

Ag Classification - Budd Betts reported that an ag product must be produced for land to be classified as agriculture. Productivity is based on \$500 threshold under normal conditions. Each county interprets the rules differently. Some require a minimum acreage. Open spaces on Game & Fish Lands are considered agriculture.

CEM, Other Equine Health Issues - Dr Jim Logan discussed Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). It is considered to be a foreign animal disease and is treatable. It was found in December 2008. We do not appear to have it in Wyoming. Dr Logan has a list of antibiotics that are effective. He also noted that other bacteria can cause the same symptoms.

Brand Inspection Issues - Barb Daniels reported that the Livestock Board will be discussing increasing brand fees at their May 20th meeting. Proposed increases for horses include Form A & B from \$10.50 to \$11; Form L from \$18 to \$20, Brand Inspection Surcharge from \$9 to \$10. After much discussion it was decided that Rod Rivers would attend the meeting and request no increases for horses.

Brand laws for horses were discussed as a detriment to the unwanted horse issue because a horse cannot even be given to someone without a brand inspection and the resulting fees. Lots of discussion on this one. The next Horse Council meeting will focus on his issue.

Everything Equine - Milt Green reported for Robert Fowler. This organization is located in Natrona & Converse Counties. It is for all breeds, all events, and for people who want things to do with their horses. For more information see their website:

www.everythingequine.org.

Clinics, Membership Growth - Ted Pierce offered to set up educational horse clinics at county fairs to introduce more people to the Wyoming Horse Council. He would have a booth set up with membership information.

Update on UW Equine Specialist - Amy McLean has been hired as the new UW Equine Specialist and will begin in August. Bill Gentle received a letter from Dr Doug Hixon, Animal Science Department Head expressing thanks to WHC for helping to get the position created.

Committee Reports - Ag Expo - Wyoming Business Council will not be sponsoring the

Ag Expo this year. It was decided that the Equine Expo was a success in 2008 and we would like to continue in 2009. Equine Expo Task Force members: Ted Pierce, Milt Green, Scott Keith, Jack Settlemire, Judy Horton. Discussed holding it at the State Fair Grounds in Douglas, continuing with the Stallion Row.

Committee Reports - Legislative Update - the Legislative Reception was a success. Bill Gentle has spoke with the Stockgrowers to co-sponsor in 2010. It will be at the Stockgrowers Office. He has written a letter to Representative Lummis for support on the horse transportation issue and he will be writing to Representative Barrasso and Senator Enzi also.

Committee Reports - Animal Welfare - Bryce Reece said the Livestock Board is working on clarifying in the statutes that they are responsible for livestock and there should be a separate board for pets & companion animals. However, that would require about 11 new positions. And what to do with horses. They decided that horses are livestock. We are probably looking at rules for minimal care of animals because of the few that don't take care of their animals properly. Hoarders sometimes call themselves rescuers and have created a lot of problems. We will probably see licensing in this area to ensure proper care and treatment.

Committee Reports - Communication - Barb Daniels reported that six articles have been sent to The Wrangler, Wyoming Livestock Roundup, Rhonda Sedgwick Stearns (Over the Corral Fence column) at Tri State Livestock News and Rocky Mountain Rider since the last meeting.

Committee Reports - Membership - Regional Directors will identify horse clubs in their area to be contacted. Bill Smith has offered space for a membership booth at his sale on May 16th. Bill Gentle has updated brochures on his computer, contact him for them. Bryce Reece, Wyoming Woolgrowers, may be able to copy the brochures for the cost of the paper and ink. Rocky Mountain Rider has offered to send a free subscription to WHC members. Barb D & Bill G will work on an agreement that they send only the magazine, not advertisements. Barb D will contact members to let them decide if they want to get a free subscription.

Other Business - The Forest Service pack mules that have been at State Fair the last few years need funding help to attend this year. Bob Daniels reported that the owner of Wyoming Downs has requested a reduction in race days this year. Bill Gentle will send an email to Charlie Moore, Executive Director Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission, expressing support for the original 16 days.

Next Meeting - State Fair (Aug 9 thru 15th) the morning before the Wild Horse-Mustang Challenge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barb Daniels, Secretary