

Wyoming Horse Council Meeting
February 23, 2016
Wyoming Livestock Board Conference Room
1947 WYdott Dr., Cheyenne, WY

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Candice Carden. Also present were Vice President Judy Horton, Treasurer Virginia Wakefield, and Bill Gentle. Guests included Bob Meyer, DVM, Assistant State Vet; Travis McNiven, State Natural Resources Advisor for Senator John Barrasso; June Wendlandt, Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program.

Today's meeting agenda was approved. Virginia volunteered to take notes for minutes of this meeting.

Judy reported that she took care of filing the 2015 WHC's nonprofit status report with the Secretary of State. It should be renewed again August 1, 2016.

Minutes of the last meeting November 13, 2015 were approved as read.

Virginia Wakefield presented the Treasurer's Report. On January 1, 2016, the checking balance was \$870.90 and the savings balance was \$1,501.74. Bills approved to be paid included \$165.00 to Bill Gentle for membership in the WY Capitol Club and \$100.00 to Logan Craig for the annual WHC domain name renewal and web hosting which will expire 11/15/16. After these bills were paid as of February 23, 2016, the checking balance is \$605.90; savings balance is \$1,501.74. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Dr. Meyer summarized information from an Equine Disease Forum he attended in Denver from January 19-21, 2016. The Forum was sponsored by the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Full information can be found at <http://animalagriculture.org/equineforum>. He updated us on the status of VH and EHM outbreaks.

Dr. Meyer spoke at length about an important new website for the Equine Disease Communication Center: www.equinediseasecc.org. It coordinates and presents current, **factual** information about equine disease and health concerns across the U.S.

The need for biosecurity at race tracks and other horse event centers was discussed.

Judy Horton invited horsemen to attend and volunteer to help with the 2016 Wyoming Horse Expo to be held in Douglas April 22-24 at the Pepsi Equine Center. WHC will have a booth and will volunteer to help with judging classes and the parade of breeds.

Bill Gentle reported on ag-related bills in the current legislative session in Cheyenne.

Travis McNiven with Senator Barasso's office is the on-site advisor to the senator regarding State Natural Resources. Originally from Lander and now living in Rock Springs, Travis is meeting with groups around the state. He said, "We are proactive in finding what user groups

want and need and in relaying this to Washington, D.C.” He deals with policy issues and as a resource to state and federal agencies. He noted that equine issues such as wild horses, horse slaughter, and “equine personhood” items are a “hot button” for the public and in Congress.

Travis said that the Wyoming County Commissioners Association (WCCA) has formed a Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI) to develop a locally-led, Wyoming-specific, legislative lands package to address designation, release, or other management for Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Wyoming. Full information is on their website at wcca.org. This is of interest to horsemen regarding access to roads, trails, etc.

Judy Horton reported on the 2015 Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Live Race Meet, Simulcast, and Historic Horse Racing financial Summary. Figures can be found on the Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commissions Website.

Of extreme interest to all Wyoming horsemen, Bill Gentle introduced the topic of six-month equine health certificates (equine passports), such as the Montana Department of Livestock has initiated. Following discussion and questions, Bill will draw up the paperwork for a similar system in Wyoming to present to the Wyoming Livestock Board for their approval.

June Wendlandt with the Wyoming Wild Horse and Burro Program provided updated information. The website is www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Wild_Horses.html... They will have 16 wild horses and 4 burros at Cheyenne Frontier Days July 22-31 this year. Bravehearts, a veterans’ program, will give demonstrations. The Deerwood Ranch Wild Horse Eco-sanctuary, Centennial, Wyoming, will host a Public Hay Day, August 6-7, 2016, with demonstrations of horse-drawn activities.

Due to lack of members present election of WHC officers for 2016 was postponed. The next WHC meeting will likely be a conference or Skype call the first part of April.

All present were reminded of the WSGA Legislative Reception held tonight at 6:00 at the Stock Growers office. WHC and Wyoming Land Trust are co-hosting the event.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Wakefield
Secretary Pro Tem

