

Wyoming Horse Council Meeting
November 22, 2008
Natrona County Fairgrounds - Arena Building

Members & Guests Attending: Nancy Hoffman, Cindy Sewell, Clara Wilson, Barbara Burns, Jack Settlemire, Bill Smith, Carole Smith, Judy Horton, Charles Moore, Bob Daniels, Gordon Booth, Sue Gentle, Gary Grubb, Harold Duane Cantrell, Pam Rivers, Rod Rivers, Milt Green, Jay Jackson, Scott Vetter, Barb Daniels, Bryce Reece.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Gentle.

Minutes of the August 9 meeting were corrected to read "Bill Gentle will write a letter supporting the proposed L Form." Cindy Sewell moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Seconded by Nancy Hoffman. Passed.

Treasurer's Report - Cindy Sewell reported there was \$1,111.62 in the bank account including 48 association, family & individual members. Bob Daniels moved, Nancy Hoffman seconded, the financial report be approved. Passed.

Ratification of Board Member - Barb Daniels moved Bill Smith be ratified as a board member from District 5. Seconded by Cindy Sewell. Passed.

Upcoming Legislation - Bryce Reece, Wyoming Woolgrowers Executive Director, stressed the importance of the WHC in speaking for horses and horsemen. Several bills will be discussed this year that are of interest:

- Animal Welfare - addresses increasing animal welfare calls. Wyoming Livestock Board is receiving 8 to 10 calls/day with 90% concerning horses. Also requesting funding to continue computerization project. Nancy Hoffman moved WHC support the Wyoming Livestock Bill, seconded by Barb Daniels. Passed.

- Wolves - Wyoming will maintain a pack of 15 wolves which could be located anywhere in Wyoming.

- Surface Rights - Makes wind part of surface rights and will make them severable.

- National Animal ID - stopping the Wyoming Livestock Board from participating in a national animal ID program.

- Video Lottery Terminals - will benefit horse racing as well as other nonprofit organizations involved in equine activities. Nancy Hoffman moved WHC support the bill, seconded by Barb Daniels. Passed.

Bill Gentle & Judy Horton will be the lobbyists for the Wyoming Horse Council at the 2009 Legislature.

Legislative Reception - All agreed that the joint reception in 2008 with the Wyoming Stockgrowers using AQHA grant money received by the Wyoming All Breeds Racing Association was a success. Barb Daniels reported there was WABRA money available for the 2009 legislative reception. Barb Daniels moved to accept money from the Wyoming All Breeds Racing Association for the reception, seconded by Jack Settlemire.

Passed.

Wyoming Pari-Mutuel Commission - New Executive Director, Charles Moore, explained the race industry is the strongest regulated industry in the state. The Interstate Horse Racing Act regulates simulcasting. They are currently dealing with the height of toe grabs on shoes, length of whips, and are moving forward with the process to ban steroids. There will be 16 days of racing in 2009, also pari-mutuel wagering at the Hyde Merrit Steer Roping and some of the timed events at the Sheridan Rodeo. The WPMC licensed about 880 people in 2008.

Wyoming Agriculture Horse Specialist - As a result of the Wyoming Horse Council supporting an equine position at the University of Wyoming, the College of Ag is currently interviewing for a position which will be 2/3 teaching and 1/3 Extension. In addition, Gary Grubb has been appointed as the Coordinator for 4-H Equine Programs. There are currently 1800 youth in the 4-H horse program and around 250 horse leaders. Gary is working on a building block system to develop a leader certification program to ensure that all leaders can pass the levels tests they give.

Committee Reports:

Ag Expo - Jack Settlemire reported that the advertising was very good but they haven't seen the attendance they expected. They are hoping there will be more people at the clinics tomorrow. Clinic fees are reduced by \$5 if a Wyoming Horse Council member.

Animal Welfare - Bill will be watching the process of the bill at the legislature and will email its progress to members. He encourages everyone to go to the legislative website - <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/> - and be familiar with the bills.

Communication - We need email addresses for all new members. Bill will write an annual report which will be included in the membership reminder and in the Wrangler and area livestock papers.

Membership - Need more visibility through articles, word of mouth. Will be sending a membership notice at the end of the year and put a membership form in the Wrangler. Bill Smith offered booth space and announcements of mission, etc., at his sale. Stockgrowers and Woolgrowers will meet Dec 7 - 10th. Jack Settlemire will share his space with the WHC and put up the display board.

Other Business:

It was noted that horses have been banned from using some National Forest Service and Park Service trails. Bill will contact the staff person in Cheyenne that coordinates Forest Service activities in Wyoming to determine the extent of this problem in the Forest Plans.

Horse Directories - Jennifer Cullen is developing a horse directory which will be a yellow pages for the horse industry. As a supporter, the WHC will get advertising in the publication. Clara Wilson moved to approve the publication, seconded by Nancy Hoffman. Passed.

American Horse Council - There was some question about the cost of the WHC to belong to the AHC. Judy Horton will check on this.

Next Meeting - will be the afternoon of the Legislative Reception - Jan 20th.

Cindy Sewell moved to adjourn, seconded by Nancy Hoffman. Passed.