

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 19, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by President Stan Vonasek

Board Members

Present: Stan Vonasek, Ken Horeis, Tami Stevens, Pam Nebel, Julie Warrington, George Parris, Cyndi Vollmer

Absent: Kate Bowski

Welcomes and introductions were made to new guests attending tonight's meeting.

Secretary's Report (Pam Nebel) Minutes available on table and on website at www.delawareequinecouncil.org

Treasurer's Report: (Tami Stevens)

Starting balance as of 2/19/18: \$34,789.88

Deposits: \$2,515.00 (Dues, Directory Ads, Equisure Insurance, Liability signs, License plates, DECF reimbursement for on half meeting room donation)

Deductions: \$3,608.70 (Directory formatting, directory ad award, Delmarva printing, JD Sign Co, Postage, Donation to Annett Farms, Paypal fees)

Ending balance as of 3/19/18: \$33,696.18

George motioned to accept Treasurer's report and Kay seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Redners Save A Tape Program (Tami) - Tami reported to date we have collected \$2,819.55 in receipts, which is the equivalent of \$28.20. Stan reiterated to new attendees that if you have a Redner's card you can save your receipts for DEC and we can collect 1% in cash for each receipt total. He also mentioned that Dover Symphony has reached the \$2 million dollar mark and can collect \$2,000. Great way to receive extra income.

Newsletter (Wendy) – The next quarterly newsletter will be the spring/April-June issue. Barbara will put together what she has for the newsletter to date and let Wendy know how much room is left. The goal is to have it distributed by April 1. Dover Chevrolet may purchase advertisement space in the next three newsletters. Wendy asked if someone could get a survey article to her for inclusion in the upcoming issue. Wayne will provide one. Wendy announced that this will be the last newsletter with her as the Editor. Stan stated that his wife Laurie is willing to take on the Editor position but would like a committee to be formed to assist. Please let Stan know if you are interested in helping out. The newsletter is now published on a quarterly basis, so there will only be four newsletters per year instead of six.

License Plates (Stan, Julie) – Stan described the license plate program to new attendees. He met with Dave Wilson last week and they are moving forward on legislation to include the license plates to be put on trailers in addition to cars and trucks. Draft legislation should be ready very soon. This will be great for those who have horse trailers and wish to purchase a

DEC license plate for \$50. \$15 goes to DMV and \$35 goes to DEC. Vanity plates are available for an additional cost. You can check out the DMV website to see which vanity plate names/numbers are available.

Scholarship Dinner (Stan, Julie, Wayne): Stan stated that the scholarship dinner was once again very successful and fun for all. The Women of the Moose did an excellent job on setting up the room and preparing the food. Love those carrots!! Kudos to all involved. We had 135 people signed up, lots of silent and live auction items, 50/50 raffle and door prizes. Wayne mentioned that we need a chairperson and co-chair for next year's event. Be thinking about serving on the committee for 2019. We need to book our location asap. Consensus at the recent post-event committee meeting shows the desire to continue hosting our event at the Harrington Moose Lodge.

Surveys: Kate created surveys and posted them on DEC's Facebook page. These easy to complete surveys can assist DEC in determining what activities we need to be involved in and/or focused on. Please take a couple minutes of your time to fill out a survey.

OLD BUSINESS

Deer Management/Sunday Hunting (Stan): As representative for DEC, Stan attended a recent meeting at the DNREC office in Dover with several agencies to discuss agricultural damage caused by deer. There was no actual statistics of damage, so the powers that be estimated it at \$58k to \$100k per farm. Actual damaged acres is unknown. There is a Deer Damage Assistance program and a Severe Deer Damage Assistance program which allows harvesting of deer on your own property August 15-May 15. Land owners can sell hunting rights to organizations for a price. Dept of Ag and DNREC appear to agree crop damage is due to deer and there needs to be some type of control. This meeting, in turn, raised the desire for more Sunday hunting. Brenda Kibler (Maryland member) mentioned that the only way to fight Sunday hunting is to make it a safety issue. You have to keep records of any hunting accidents. DNREC had no record of any accidents on Sunday hunting during the past two years.

Two years ago when the Sunday hunting issue came up, Stan suggested no hunting from 10-3 on Sundays. It was presented at the Senate vote but fell on deaf ears. We can try it again once Sunday hunting is on the docket again, but it may not be accepted. In 2016 several groups, including DEC, attended committee meetings and testified against Sunday hunting to no avail. The committee voted in favor of a bill for five (5) Sunday hunting days. It passed the house with only 2 against it. Passed the Senate with 4-5 against it. Primary reasoning was that hunters work 5-6 days a week and never get to hunt. With NRA and the Sportsman Coalition supporting this bill, our opposition did not have a chance.

Stan commented that 500 deer were harvested each of the past two years that Sunday hunting has been allowed.....the majority (approx. 90%) being in rut season during November. Cost for dressing a deer is \$70. What happens to all the meat?

At this time, there is no Sunday hunting at Redden State Forest. But...two tracts (Tunnel Tract 826 acres and Long Tract 245.3 acres) are out for bid to organizations for Sunday hunting

First Time New Horse Owner Seminar (Ken): Ken revisited the idea of a clinic for prospective new horse owners. This would entail education on breeds, disciplines, boarding, farrier, dental, shots, all types of medical care, housing, food, pre-purchase exams, bedding, what to look for, initial costs, maintenance costs, commitment, etc. It would help to answer numerous questions that new horse owners may have. If you would like to be on a committee to help with this effort, please let Ken know.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)/Electronic Logging Device (ELD) – [Click here to see attachment from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration \(FMCSA\) covering specifics on this topic.](#)

NEW BUSINESS

Economic Impact Study (Stan): This study was done nationwide and statewide. DEC did not participate due to astronomical cost of \$10k as a State participant. The final study has been published. A shorter version booklet is offered for \$40. A full report is offered for \$80. Wendy made a motion to purchase the \$40 version and Julie seconded. Motion was passed.

Riding at Redden Forest (Stan): Stan, Wayne and Pam met with Delaware Forest Service (DFS) staff Erich Burkentine and Junior Webb on Thursday, March 15, to discuss the areas designated for horseback riding. The only areas allowed for horseback riding are the wide trails known as the long loop and the short loop. Wayne projected the map on the wall so that everyone could visually see the designated areas. The two main reasons that DFS staff does not allow riding off the wide trails are 1) safety and 2) invasive species of grass and weeds that out-compete the native species of vegetation. These invasive weeds are brought on by horse manure and the spread of these species is difficult, if not impossible, to control. DFS wants to maintain the forest in its true nature and these invasive species are a constant roadblock in maintenance efforts. DFS asks that you please comply with the rules that are set forth and make the forest a pleasure to visit for all users. Maps of the forest and designated user areas are available at the office.

Member Ride North: Kate had suggested via email to the Board that perhaps having an additional DEC trail ride during the year and holding it in northern Delaware might help acquire more members up north. Brenda Kibler mentioned that Lums Pond is a great place to ride. Trails are rock, dirt and stone dust. You can ride around the pond or over to the canal. Parking may be an issue as the lot is small. But, we may be able to get permission to use additional parking, depending on availability and time of year. Julie suggested maybe taking a ride up north to see what is available for trail riding. It was also suggested that perhaps we start with Blackbird Forest for our first ride, and if successful, we could move further up north next time. Another suggestion was C&R Center in Felton, which would be approximately mid-state. Everyone can think about this and bring their ideas to the April meeting.

Wicomico County Abused Horses (Ken): Most everyone has seen the news regarding the abuse of over 100 horses on a farm in Hebron, Maryland. Twenty-five horses were deceased on the property and approximately 70 more were starving to death. These horses have had no medical treatment, shots, farrier, dental work or human contact in years. Several of the mares are pregnant. Stallions roam the farm freely and keep the mares in foal. Incredibly sad case of abuse and neglect. Authorities finally took action and all horses are being seized and taken to various locations to be cared for temporarily until the court case is heard. Horses will be quarantined the appropriate amount of time. One horse has been transported to New Bolton. Changing Fates Equine Rescue of Delaware (CFERD) along with First State Animal Center/SPCA (FSAC/SPCA) have arranged to care for some of the horses. Discussion about donations to both organizations ensued with varying amounts. A motion was made to donate \$500 FSAC/SPCA and \$300 to CFERD. Motion did not pass. A motion was made to donate \$500 to CFERD and \$300 to FSAC/SPCA. Motion passed. Tami will forward checks to both organizations. The DE rescues could be at full capacity and this can affect the horse industry in DE as other horses will not have a place to call home in the event they need help. Something to think about in case this comes to fruition.

Website Re-Vamping (Wendy): Wendy suggested that we remodel the website and bring it up to date with our new logo. Julie suggested perhaps discussing this with Kate since she is quite astute with computer knowledge and could provide great ideas

MISCELLANEOUS

Wendy recommended that DEC get a volunteer coordinator. She handed out information from Association Resource Group (ARG) that covers volunteer recruitment, management and retention. She feels DEC should provide incentive for volunteers who want to help out. She also announced her resignation from the Board of Directors. Stan noted the Board will review the ARC materials and discuss at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Pam. Seconded by Wayne.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Next meeting April 16, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel.