

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 16, 2018**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Stan Vonasek

Board Members

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

Absent: Kate Bowski, Cyndi Vollmer

Welcome to new commercial member Patty Gilmore (The Reiki Experience) and her husband Peter. Patty is a certified Master Reiki Practitioner located in Milton, DE. She trained on horses for her certification. Reiki helps to strengthen the animal/human bond through transference of energy. Reiki sessions are a safe, gentle approach to support the health and well-being of animals through energy. As in humans, behavioral problems and the majority of illnesses are often linked to stress and emotions. Patty's dog had anxiety issues when adopted and her Reiki sessions have calmed and relaxed him significantly. Animals are known to be able to absorb our energy easily. Patty currently works at Changing Fates Equine Rescue of DE in assisting the rescue horses with a sense of calm. Check out her website at www.trythereikiexperience.com.

Secretary's Report (Pam Nebel) Minutes available on table and on website at www.delawareequinecouncil.org Stan asked for a motion to approve minutes. Pam made motion and Wayne seconded it. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: (Tami Stevens)

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

Deposits: \$1,485.00 (Dues, Directory Ads, Newsletter Ad, License plates)

Deductions: \$1,178.66 (Equisure Ins premiums, envelopes, Doug Kerr webmaster, PO Box Rental, New Banner, Paypal fees)

Ending balance as of 4/16/18: \$34,002.52

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Redners Save a Tape Program (Tami) - Present receipts totaling \$3042.20 give us \$30.42 in cash.

Newsletter (Julie) – Julie and Laurie will take the lead in publishing future newsletters due to the resignation of Wendy Lippincott in March. They are accepting articles now. It was determined that it would be difficult to keep information updated and timely with a quarterly newsletter so Julie made a motion to return to bi-monthly newsletters. George seconded the motion. All agreed and motion was passed. The next newsletter will be published as the June/July edition.

POP Program (Marie) – Keep saving your proof of purchase coupons and bring to the meetings.

Surveys (Ken for Kate) - Kate is putting together a spreadsheet showing the results of the recent survey sent out to members along with being posted on Facebook. At the present time the participation results are as follows: 77 private individuals, 16 commercial businesses, 5 organizations and 13 equine related services/businesses. Feel free to send these surveys to your friends and ask them to fill them out. Just takes a couple minutes.

License Plates (Stan) – So far we have received \$2,065 in license plate income for the months of December 2017 thru February 2018. Will have results for March shortly. **(Update – March income for plates was \$595)** DEC is very pleased with the success of this program. Waiting for Scott Clapper at DMV to prepare legislation for approval of these tags for trailers. Hopefully, they will be approved with the upcoming legislative sessions. Julie suggested taking DEC's sample license plate to one of the hearings in order for people to see what they are voting for. Great idea and Stan now has possession of the little plate.

OLD BUSINESS

AHC Survey (Stan) – American Horse Council sent a survey around a couple of years ago and study was done recently. We purchased the new \$40 Economic Impact Study pamphlet sharing the stats of this survey. DEC found it odd that the survey reports 13,000 horses in DE in 2004 and only 8,000 as of 2018. The top three horse populations states were Texas at 767,000, California at 534,500 and Florida at 387,100. Pam will scan the pamphlet and email to the Board.

Deer Management/Sunday Hunting (Stan) - Stan and Wayne recently attended a meeting which included DNREC and Secretary of Agriculture Michael Scuse and others requesting additional Sunday hunting days to be added to the present five Sunday hunting days between September and January along with Sunday hunting days outside of these months. The reasoning behind this effort is to help farmers dealing with extensive crop damage due to deer. There are two programs set up to assist farmers with a third one in the works.

- Deer Damage Assistance (Sept 1 thru Jan 31) This is private land and does only. Requesting all Sundays.
- Severe Deer Damage Assistance (Aug 15 thru May 15) Private land. Requesting all Sundays.
- “New Program” Extreme Deer Damage Assistance (May 16 thru Aug 14) Requesting all Sundays

Each farmer will have to create a Deer Management Plan...but...they cannot write it themselves or have a template. It must be an individual plan written by someone approved by DNREC.

The bottom line is that Sunday hunting will increase from the five approved Sundays from Sept to Jan to eight Sundays in addition to 20 more Sundays requested whereby 13 of the 20 will be on public and private land. This is why we need people to contact their senators and delegates to

voice their opinions on this issue. Stan spoke with the wildlife biologist who confirmed that from 2016-2017 there were 1,176 deer harvested on Sundays and in 2017-2018 there were 1,170 harvested on Sundays. There is an effort for hunters to lease out two Tracts from Redden State Forest. DNREC is also looking at increasing the hunters access to public lands via using ATVs. DEC does not support either of these efforts.

First Time New Horse Owner Seminar (Ken): Dr. Paul Hanebutt has committed to being a speaker at the seminar. Need to form a committee and select a date so that a HOLD THE DATE can be included in the next newsletter with any available information at the time. Possible time frame would be the latter part of October.

Membership Drive/Ride Up North (Julie) – Stan, Ken and Julie took a trip up north to Stuart Ramsey’s farm located a couple miles off Rt 202. Met with Mr. Ramsey (father of Carl Ramsey who was one of our 2018 scholarship winners) to discuss possibility of a structured trail ride/drive. He welcomed the idea. The date suggested is Saturday, September 15 with rain date of Sunday, September 16. Trail ride would be led by seasoned riders/drivers familiar with the trails in the area. We are looking at three trails for at approximately 1-1/2 hour rides/drives. This would include one for drivers, one for hunt and one for a leisurely pace. The ride will be held on National Parks, State Parks and private land. Rolling hills, pastures and wooded areas are said to be beautiful in the area. Nice picnic area to use at the Ramsey farm and we would provide lunch and a portapotty. Looking at a cost of \$20 per person. Ken mentioned that horses would need to be fit for the up and down hills. We hope that this type of ride will provide DEC with a better state-wide presence. Stay tuned for more information.

ARG (Stan) – Wendy had suggested at the March meeting that DEC create a position for a volunteer coordinator. The Board of Directors reviewed the material she handed out and ultimately agreed that DEC does not need a coordinator. Most organizations with volunteer coordinators have paid staff along with many volunteers. DEC is a smaller organization with no paid positions and unanimously believes that a coordinator position for our organization is not warranted whether paid or unpaid.

AHC Conference (Stan) – The upcoming AHC conference will be held again in Washington DC on June 10 – 12, 2018. Sunday and Tuesday are the best days to attend. Cost of hotel room is \$365 per night. Might just want to go for one day. Will discuss further at the next meeting.

Scholarship Winners (Stan) – Ideas were floated about reaching out to former DEC scholarship winners to see if they would be interested in getting involved with DEC activity. Ken mentioned that Courtney Bowski was a huge help at the recent scholarship awards dinner/fundraiser. Laurie suggested contacting various colleges to see if there are any student requirements to volunteer their time and work on projects as part of their curriculum. Ken will contact Jennifer Ridgely to inquire about Equestrian Team interest.

NEW BUSINESS

DEC Apparel (Julie) – Julie has taken the lead on ordering the new DEC logo apparel since Joan Siler is busy with her mom recovering from surgery. She met with Donell Winder at the Corrections Facility to discuss prices for sweatshirts and tee shirts. The Dept. of Corrections provided very competitive estimates for producing the apparel with our new colorful logo. This will allow DEC to sell the items at a reasonable price. Stay on the lookout for the new apparel. Julie provided color charts and asked that interested members please get with her after the meeting to put in an order.

Ken mentioned that we might want to get the present sweatshirts and polo shirts back into the trailer and find a way to sell them half price somewhere. Julie will contact Joan.

MISCELLANEOUS

“Are Horse Owners Prepared for Natural Disasters” (Stan/Wayne) – See attachment at end of minutes with information forwarded by State Veterinarian Dr. Heather Hirst.

Pam read a thank you letter received from First State Animal Center/SPCA thanking us for the \$300 donation to help take care of the Wicomico horses seized from a cruelty/neglect case. Horses are all doing well and a couple foals have been born.

Pam shared a request from the Delaware Quarter Horse Association requesting a sponsorship from DEC for their upcoming show at Quillen Arena. Ken made a motion to be a Bronze Sponsor with a \$100 donation. George seconded and motion was passed.

Julie made a motion to get another new banner to hang at the DQHA show, as our present banner will be hung at Annett Farms during the Karen’s Show series from April thru November. Ken seconded the motion. Motion was passed. Pam will order banner.

George Parris mentioned that the Delmarva Driving Club Spring Show will be held at the Caroline County 4H Park in Denton, MD, on May 12 this year. Come on out and join the fun.

Pam mentioned that the Equine Spring Festival hosted by Annie Trice Courageous Hearts will be held on April 21 from 10-3 at the Caroline County 4H Park in Denton, MD. This will be very similar to an Expo, but on a smaller scale. This is a first time effort, so please come out to support them. If successful, they hope to continue this effort on a yearly basis.

Motion to adjourn made by Tami. Seconded by Carol.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting May 21, 2018.

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel.

Attachment to April 16, 2018 Minutes

Horse Owners: Are You Prepared for Natural Disasters?

By [Equine Disease Quarterly](#) | Apr 10, 2018 | [Commentary, Disaster Preparation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Recovery, Horse Care, Welfare and Industry](#)

This is a clarion call for every equine owner, manager, caretaker, veterinarian/scientist, or other equine stakeholder with the desire to maintain and improve the welfare of the horse and the quality of life of the equine industry stakeholders before, during, and after disaster events.

Water, food, fuel, shelter, medical care—how will you access these vital needs for survival for you, your horse(s), and other family/team members, pets, and livestock if faced with a disaster event like those that affected millions last year along our coasts, in our heartland, and in cities, towns, and villages all over the U.S. and in other countries?

What is your plan when water is rising or fire is racing so fast around your farm or stable that you cannot get your horses out? What is your plan if you and your horses are involved in a vehicular accident during transport or if you are required to “stop-movement” due to a disease outbreak? With the multitude of maladies that can and will occur to us and our animals in our lifetime, can you answer “yes” to the question, “Have we done ‘due diligence’ with [developing a functional all-hazards disaster plan](#) to protect us and the animals that make up such a significant part of our lives?”

In an age of increasing exposure to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change along with human and animal population expansion, it is not a matter of if, but when will it happen to each and every one of us in some capacity. It is time for us as equine stakeholders to wake up and heed the call over 13 years (or longer) in the making, to take responsibility for our own lives and the horses that mean so much to us, our families, our economy, our country, and our world. Since 2005, post-hurricanes Katrina and Rita, animal issues have become a real part of the discussion regarding emergency planning in communities, especially pet animals since saving animal lives saves human lives. People are more apt to evacuate out of harm’s way if there are provisions for their animals.

Many areas of our country have made major progress and have made it a priority and routine to be proactive with planning in areas prone to repeated disasters (e.g. coastal Florida, parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, Texas, California, and others). However, it is clear that complacency and lack of situational awareness related to individual risk still seems to be the norm at the local community level. Although there are numerous stories of heroes, lives saved, positive outcomes in recent and past disasters, the losses continue to mount. Many of these losses are repeats of the same mistakes happening again and again. Will it really take a disaster such as Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Maria, or major wildfire for folks to realize that responsible horse owners must have a functional disaster plan?

Let’s take 2017 as the real wake-up call and apply our passion for these majestic animals to make 2018 and our future stronger, brighter, and better for the horse and the people who share this common bond.

Let’s make coordinated, concerted efforts in our own communities to strengthen our home, farm, ranch, business, and community disaster plans. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the numerous resources that are available to assist with local community disaster planning. The

American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, and state Ag Extension services and community response teams are good places to start:

- aaep.org/horse-owners/owner-guidelines/owner-emergency-disaster-and-preparedness
- ebusiness.avma.org
- training.fema.gov/emiweb/downloads/is10comp.pdf

Contact—Rebecca McConnico, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM (LA)—rmconn@latech.edu—318/257-2418—Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana

This is an excerpt from Equine Disease Quarterly, funded by underwriters at Lloyd's, London.