

**DELAWARE EQUINE COUNCIL
MINUTES
March 20, 2017**

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

Board Members

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

Absent: Dr. Christina Dayton, Cyndi Vollmer

Secretary's Report: (Pam Nebel) February 2017 minutes are available on the back table and also on the DEC website at www.delawareequinecouncil.org.

Treasurer's Report: (Tami Stevens)

Starting balance as of 2/20/17: **\$33,691.15**

Deposits: \$2,268.75 (dues, directory ads, DECF donation, Equisure ins premium, newsletter ad)

Deductions: \$5,290.62 (Pam for postage, sympathy card, Economy Printing – Directory, Suzanne Webster – Directory, Harrington Fire Co., - donation for room use, PayPal fees)

Ending balance as of 2/20/17: **\$30,669.28**

George Parris motioned to pay all bills. It was seconded by Kay Mildon and passed.

New member, Kate Bowski, from Lone Star Stables, introduced herself. She and her daughter live in Georgetown, DE, and hope to begin boarding at their stable soon. They have two of their own horses. Welcome aboard Kate!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

License Plate Design (Stan/Julie): There were no winning designs in the license plate contest, therefore, we will take another avenue to get our DEC license plate created. Julie Warrington has contacted Becky Raubacher (artist) who is very interested in helping us design our plate. More info to follow.

Southern States POP): Be sure to collect your proof of purchase seals to bring to the meetings for Marie. We have been averaging \$500 per year in income with this program.

Sonny Garguilo Clinic (Pam): Wendy Lippincott spoke with Kim Chick about arena rental at Gambler's Choice Equestrian Center. Kim will let DEC use one or both of the arenas for a clinic at the cost of \$500 for the entire weekend. Stalls are \$25 each. Pam has prepared a contract for GCEC and DEC along with a waiver. Both documents have been reviewed and approved by Stan and Ken. Just need a motion to go forward with the clinic. Motion was made by Wendy and Pam seconded. Pam will proceed with advertising etc. The clinic will be held on June 10-11 at a cost of \$375 per person. Pam/DEC will collect all monies and handle all payments. The

American Mustang Burro Association has indicated interest in being a sponsor to this event. Pam will be at their meeting on March 27 and get the specifics of how they want to help. Auditing will be available at a cost to be determined.

Equisure Insurance (Stan): Stan reminded members that you can get a one million dollar policy through Equisure at a cost of \$25 per person or \$40 per family. Let him know if you are interested in acquiring this excellent policy.

Stan also reported that we presently pay Farm Family \$500 per year to insure our 10 meetings held each year. This policy does not cover any of our events. He checked with Goetz Insurance (they advertise in our Directory) and for \$427 they will cover our 10 meetings, the Poker Run, the Sonny Garguilo Clinic and Member Appreciation Day. Julie made a motion to change to Goetz Ins and George seconded and it passed. Stan will get in touch with his contact at Goetz and tell them to move forward. Once the new insurance is effective, the insurance with Farm Family will be canceled. Nice job, Stan, with getting this great rate!

Redden Forest Jester Tract (Stan): The Jester Tract parking lot and pavilion are closed indefinitely due to the nature of suspicious activities taking place in this area. Stan has contacted Kyle Hoyd who is the State Forestry expert and Junior Webb (Redden Headquarters) to discuss the possibility of creating permits for horseback riders to ride at Jester Tract between the hours of 9am and 4pm. A letter is also being sent to Mr. Hoyd as a follow-up and to offer DEC's assistance in any way.

Kentucky Horse Council (Ken): Ken obtained copies of the two programs (Geld and Euthanasia) KHC has put in place. He reminded everyone that KHC has paid employees that oversee the programs and KHC is a 501 (c) (3) organization who receives financial support through donations. For the Geld Program there is a limit on income for qualified recipients which would be \$40k or less. Plus they must be Kentucky residents and have 4 or more horses per home. Vouchers would be for a total of \$135 per horse or \$300 per family. Documentation such as tax returns, pay stubs, student ID and public assistance must be shown in order to qualify for the voucher. The Euthanasia Program is very similar but less documentation required. Julie asked if there was a possibility that DEC could become a 501 (c) (3). Stan mentioned that DEC had become a 501 (c) (5) years ago when we were partnered with the Department of Agriculture. That partnership is no longer in effect. Wendy made a motion that DEC look into becoming a 501 (c) (3) and Julie seconded and it passed. Wendy fully supports the idea of the two programs and suggested putting it in the budget. Stan wants to discuss at a board meeting and come back to the members with a recommendation. Wayne stated that people would be more willing to donate to DEC if we were a 501 (c) (3).

Shirts (Pam): Pam reported that she has passed the baton on the shirt responsibility and that Joan Siler has graciously picked it up.

TEC/DEC Poker Run (Julie): The Poker Run will be held on April 23 at the Tuckahoe Equestrian Center. First ride out at 9am, last ride out is at 11am. There will be approximately 18-20 obstacles located at 8 different stations. Members cost is \$25 for adult member, youth 18 and under \$15, family of 4 is \$50. Non-members cost is \$30 for adult member, youth 18 and

under \$20, family up to 4 is \$60. If you pre-register prior to April 16 you can deduct \$5 from any of the noted fees. Register with PayPal at www.delawareequinecouncil.org. Julie passed around flyers for distribution. Be sure to like and share on Facebook. If you have anything for the Chinese auction, please let Julie or Pam know.

Van Ness Award (Tami): Tami mentioned that the Van Ness Award is coming up soon. This award is given in honor and memory of Marjorie Van Ness from New Jersey, a long-time leader and friend to the entire horse industry. The award is presented to an individual that best emulates the dedication and commitment of Marjorie Van Ness to the improvement of the horse industry at the state level. Nominations must be made by May 17. Contact Tami if you are interested.

Economic Impact Study (Stan) Members were briefed on the EIS study. The American Horse Council quotes the cost to be \$500k to do the study, with State breakout reports at a cost of \$20k each. A few states have already signed up for a breakout report. Julie asked what the advantage would be for the study. Ken said information from that particular study can be used to tell what kind of economic impact it would be for the state.

Coalition for Recreational Trails (Ken): Federation of National and Regional Trails related programs. You can apply for this if you do something to expand trails in your state. Stan mentioned that they all have paid staff and lobbyists.

Scholarship Dinner Wrap-up (Wendy/Wayne): The previous balance on the DECF account prior to the scholarship dinner was \$8,731.66. The present balance is now \$11,415.74, which shows an increase in additional income of \$2,684.08 after all expenses have been paid. The silent/live auctions alone brought in \$3,717.00. Ken stated this event was the nicest we have ever had and thanked the scholarship committee for their efforts. The group tossed around the idea of possibly increasing the scholarship amounts next year. On the downside, there were some issues that need to address: 1) tables too close together and crowded, 2) line too long and slow at the buffet, 3) slow at the bar. Pam and Wendy will be meeting with Dottie and MaryLou at the Moose soon.

Miscellaneous

Joan Siler reiterated that we need to redo the board for our booth/table. All materials are outdated. Ken agreed and will begin working on this. Lots of horse shows are coming up that Joan will be able to display a DEC table.

Wendy mentioned Trails Clean Up Day coming up in late June and that we should try to get youths to help out this year. Stan mentioned that we did not do a clean-up last year and that we would not be going back to the Jester Tract for clean-up, especially with youths, due to the nature of some of the objects found throughout the clean-up process. Stan suggested looking at other places for clean-up. Julie suggested getting the kids to do something fun and horse related. Great idea Julie! Perhaps getting them to help with set-up for the Poker Run in April. Joan said she could get several youths to participate. She will be in touch with Julie.

Wendy suggested that we go back to the State Fair and put up our booth for 2 days. Both Stan and Ken disagreed stating that it is basically a waste of time and money. There was rarely ever any interest in our booth. Most people just came by for the giveaways. Pam agreed that it would be nice to have the booth there, but reiterated that it is VERY difficult to get people to donate their time to man the booth. Many people have spent many hours at the booth when it was at the fair previously.....none of which are likely to do it again. Stan told Wendy to feel free to set it up if she is interested in monitoring it.

Ken discussed the Nutrient Management Plan and indicated that several complaints have been called in to the Nutrient Management Group regarding small acreage horse property not being in compliance rules and not having a nutrient management plan. DEC will have a special guest at the April 17 meeting to discuss this issue.

Ken reminded Wayne that DEC owes DECF for the free B/W ad that went into the Directory for the Platinum sponsorship donor for the scholarship program.

Pam read a thank you note from Dr. Sharon Little and family, thanking DEC for all they do for the community.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kay Mildon and seconded by Pam Nebel.

Next Meeting – April 17, 2017 at the Harrington Fire Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

Minutes submitted by Secretary Pam Nebel