

On Thursday, May 25, 2017, the South Carolina Horsemen's Council Board of Directors conducted a meeting via the "Go To Meeting" application. Present via call or computer link were Wanda Wood, Mike Kinsey, Carl Cartwright, Bill Steele, Donna Patterson, Lisa Zappolo, Wendy Manos, Merry Roberson, Kathy Swanson, Randy Creamer, Kenny Mullis, Gary Biggerstaff, and Pam Worthy. Absent: Adam Eichelberg, Kerrie Jane Taylor, Jackie Twigg, Billy Joe Williamson, Ben Doyle, Pamela Sheaf, Mark McCarter, Kendra Carter.

Wanda called the meeting to order and offered a prayer.

Wanda began the meeting by explaining that the President keeps information for the Council and attends meetings as such. She apologized for the cancellation of the previously scheduled planning meeting of May 6. The cancellation was due to the ongoing illness of her sister and her inability to compile all of the necessary information. She explained the purpose of the Strategic Planning meeting. She reiterated that e-mails should only be sent to current board members and sent blind copy. This may be addressed at a later date at a face-to-face meeting. If you wish to be on agenda, please request so prior to the meeting. She said that if we have questions or issues, we can send an e-mail to the board, and if a special meeting needs to be called, we can do that.

She then made suggestions for the Strategic Planning meeting. She suggested making a brochure, "How to be a Good Neighbor". She said that she is researching an agricultural permit to help farmers and horse owners when constructing buildings. She will get back to the board with her findings. She wants to help people with insurance referrals because insurance companies are canceling policies if a homeowner has livestock.

She gave a recap of the Council's accomplishments of the last four months: January - board meeting. February - Annual Meeting. With a short Expo and ACOS planning after. March - trail ride and obstacle challenge, and met with Palmetto Carriage Tours. April - Expo with obstacle challenge and trail ride, kicked off Animal Control Seminar Program, attended SC Taste, received final version of Feed Promotion Bill. She thanked those that helped.

Merry questioned if the first Animal Control Seminar had been held. Wanda informed us that it was held on April 2, 2017, in Andersen County. Lisa questioned when the final product came before the board for approval vote. Wanda said that she would have to look over her notes and meeting minutes. She said that the course was reviewed by Adam Eichelberger, DVM. Randy said that the seminar was well received by Andersen County, and that they would like to come back for more information.

Wanda submitted **Tamara** Brown as an interim Director for District 5 until the next annual meeting. Her bio was sent out for review. She called for a motion. Questions were asked regarding her bio and equine involvement.

Lisa requested that all members on the call identify themselves because 11 callers were logged on, but not all names were showing. Randy, Mike, Lisa and Carl were on video. Wanda said that Bill Steele, Pam Worthy, Donna Patterson, Merry Robeson, Wendy Manos, Kathy Swanson, and Kenny Mullis were on the call. As per the app, Caller 2 and 3 were unidentified on the app.

Lisa made a **motion that Tamara Brown be accepted as a Director until the next annual meeting**. Merry seconded. A voice vote was called for: Donna, yes; Merry, yes; Bill, yes; Mike, no; Kenny, yes; Carl, yes; Randy, abstained, Wendy, yes; Pam, yes; Wanda, yes; Kathy, yes; Caller #2 no reply; Caller #3, no reply. **Motion carried with 9 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain, and 2 no replies.**

Wanda called for a motion to accept Cassie Wycoff of Clemson University to an advisory position for the Board. In addition to working for Clemson, she is on the Farm Bureau Equine Committee. Kenny made a **motion that Cassie Wycoff be accepted as an advisor to the Board**. Donna seconded. Discussion ensued. Wanda was unable to send her bio. Kenny gave information regarding Cassie's accomplishments and qualifications. Wanda clarified that Cassie will not hold a voting position. A verbal vote was called for; Bill, yes; Caller 2 &3, no reply; Carl, yes; Kathy, yes; Kenny, yes; Lisa, yes; Wendy, yes; Merry, yes; Mike, yes; Pam, yes; Donna, yes; Randy, yes; Wanda, yes. Kenny was identified as Caller #2. **Motion carried** with 12 yes, and 1 no reply.

Wanda relayed that Jackie Twigg, former secretary, would like to remain on the board. She called for a motion for her to remain as a director. Donna called to attention the fact that she is not a member. Donna had questioned her at the Expo regarding her membership, and Jackie had said that she was thinking about it. It was pointed out that we cannot accept a non-member onto the board. A discussion ensued. Carl expressed that we need to verify that it is not a clerical error.

Minutes

The board approved the meeting minutes from Jan 10, 2017, and the corrected minutes from Feb 11, 2017.

Financial

Financial Report was e-mailed for review. Operating Fund \$20,628.34, Designated Funds \$3,355.77, Scholarship Fund \$2,615.61. Donna reports that the expo totals reflect a \$1,652.16 profit including the sponsorships.

Expo

Wanda reiterated that though the attendance was down, we still made a profit. She suggested that we contemplate what we need/want to do in the future, so that we may discuss it at length at the strategic planning meeting. She thanked everyone for their assistance with the expo.

Membership

A current membership list was emailed prior to the meeting. Wendy reports that there are 120 members including sponsors and associations. Kathy questioned the fact that when printing, it is a 92-page document. Wendy explained that it was due to the width of the pages and the amount of information contained within them. Kathy requested recommendations for printing. Merry questioned how to find the current list. It was explained that there are tabs at the bottom of the document that bring up different years. The opening page is not necessarily the current year. Wanda suggested finding a way to extract the current year for printing. Donna confirmed that Cassie Wycoff's membership had been received.

Trails

Wanda reports that most of the trail maps have been submitted. She reports that she has most of the information collected for the booklet to be published. She will compile and send to the board for approval. She reports that SCTRIL.NET has updated its website and although attractive, it can be confusing. She suggested that SCHC maintain on its website a list, map and contact information. She will compile and send to the board for approval. Carl stated that we must be independent and accurate. She hopes to be able to bring the booklet before the board before the planning meeting.

Wanda reports that Back Countries of America, which airs on RFD-TV, has contacted SCHC and wants to do a show in SC. She reports that she has written a piece and needs to have it mailed tonight. They requested 2-3 places to ride. Wanda has Walhalla, H Cooper Black, and is requesting another suggestion. Wendy suggested Hitchcock Woods in Aiken, or Mullet Hall in Charleston. Merry suggested contacting Marsha Hewitt, Equine Specialist with the Dept of Ag, as she has ridden most of the trails in SC. Carl recommended Hitchcock Woods due to its being well funded and maintained, and its variety of difficulty levels. Kathy suggested that our recommended sites include camping areas.

Merry brought to our attention that a new caller #4 had joined the meeting. It was determined to be Gary Biggerstaff.

Carriage Support Release

Wanda asked if everyone had reviewed the edited release. Several people said that they had not as it had just been sent at 7:43 pm, during the meeting. She offered to read it for the board. The release was posted on the Go To Meeting so those online could see it. Merry questioned that a letter of support for "Charleston" carriage horses, does not include the entire industry.

Wanda explained that the release does not say "Palmetto: It says Charleston Carriage Companies. That covers all carriages companies. There was a question of the board only visiting one company. Wanda reported that only one was "toured", but the other two had been visited by Mike Kinsey, VP External Affairs, and he had taken carriage rides and inspected the animals at the other facilities. Wanda relayed that all carriage companies must operate within the same guidelines, and the guidelines were reviewed. Wanda has talked at length with Ben and Tommy to be sure everything written is correct.

Gary stated that if they are mandated by the same guidelines, we cannot just support one company we need to support the industry as a whole – to encompass the other cities and areas of carriage horse use. He contends that the industry is regulated by local ordinances and guidelines and if we support one, we must support the entire "industry". He insisted that we represent the entire horse community within the state. Gary asserts that it is not our job to police the industry, merely support all or none. If they shut down one they will shut down all.

Pamela expressed concern with supporting the industry as a whole without investigating every company, in case one is not following guidelines.

Carl suggested that we support the industry throughout the state of SC because we are a statewide organization.

Wanda agreed but stated that we would need to remove the 4th paragraph because we don't know about other cities. We need to remove most of this.

There was a call to order for Gray to allow the person speaking to complete their comments. Wanda said she did not disagree with supporting the industry but that we would need to edit the letter because this release was focus on what is happening in Charleston. Also, due to not knowing what are the regulations in other cities. This was brought to the president's attention months ago through the Coalition of Horse Councils. They sent SCHC what NY Horse Council had release

Merry agreed to reword using "SC Carriage industry" and Donna suggested using the Charleston Carriage regulations as an example.

Carl said this will us to show support for Charleston because they are under attack right now. He feels the we need address this as state wide. This would show we are behind the industry and we are behind Charleston.

Kathy expressed that she has been closely involved in following the Charleston situation, and that the regulations imposed in that city are probably the most stringent.

Lisa asked if VP Mike has visited all three carriage companies. Mikes said no, toured one, rode and looked horses at two others. Lisa questioned what committee has been working on this topic.

Wanda said that it has not been in committee, it was brought to light when the board went to Charleston to visit, but it has been a topic within the Coalition of Horse Councils, which she is a part of. That is where her inspiration to visit Charleston came from. This was not part of our board until we went to Charleston. She did not want to bring it to the board prior to her having something the board could look at. She stated that this is just the beginning.

Merry stated that she had spoken with Ben Doyle today, and it is not dire to have this published immediately without rewriting and including the entire industry. She informed us that there are five, not just three, carriage companies in Charleston. She suggested approaching all of the companies and asking them to join the Council.

Kathy attended a meeting of the Charleston Tourism Commission and feels that the Council needs to address this issue in a timely manner. Merry conveyed Ben's desire to address the board personally.

Donna made a **motion to approve the concept, subject to a revision of the letter**. Gary seconded. Wanda requested that Carl revise the letter and send it back to the Board. Wanda called for anyone opposed to the motion – none. **Motion passed**.

Feed Promotion Bill

Wanda reports that the Feed Promotion Bill is a cause to unite us. She reports that in 2007, the membership was surveyed and the Board approved a letter of support. This was approved back in 2007 because this is a new board, she is informing everyone of what is occurring. Lisa address the board asking if anyone read what she sent out. Several said yes. She expressed that the board didn't approve this version. Her belief was that the original bill – read at the 2016 Expo - would be reworded and only the addition of two chairs, to be determined later, has been changed.

Wanda said that this bill was given out at an expo meeting and at two regular meetings.

Merry contends that she prints everything, and has never been given a copy of this bill prior to this meeting. She is disappointed that no updates have been given.

The bill was written by the SC Department of Agriculture's and the Farm Bureau legal people. We were on the committee that worked on revising it, and represented what we felt the horsemen of the state wanted. Merry asked who were "we". Wanda stated Farm Bureau Equine Committee that she is a part of that she represents as president of SCHC. And past board members. Merry expressed she had not gotten a version of this before.

Donna reminded the board it was gone over in detail at the 2016 Expo. That we need to support it or not support it. We do not have the clout to push for changes.

Carl feels that there is good and bad within the bill, and that no one bill can satisfy everyone. The Council was instrumental in initiating the bill in 2007 and therefore must see it through. If kicked back now, it will be lost. He believes it is SCHC's responsibility to ensure that the monies are utilized for their true intent.

Donna believes that if the bill is kicked back now, we will be viewed as adversarial by the industry. She believes that the bill is going forward and our support is irrelevant.

Wanda said there were compromises, but those working on this worked hard to ensure horsemen in SC had a voice on that board. David Branham of Farm Bureau and the Dep of Ag lawyer will determine when it will be introduced.

Gary questions who all will be controlling the money and how many different compartments? How much for horses and for administrating fees? How many horsemen true will have a say so? Wanda answer it is listed on what was sent out.

Lisa questioned the SC Feed Dealers Association being on the committee when a search reveals no such entity, and it is not listed on the Dept of Ag links. The claim that it is a Dept of Ag formed association, gives reason for concern regarding the number of influential votes from the Dept of Ag.

Wanda explained that this was presented from SCDA as a group. This is not a Dept. of Ag group. Wanda explained that the Feed Promotion Bill states who is on the board. The feed dealers are not part of the Dept. of Ag, she said that nobody listed on the Feed Promotion Bill would have been a party to those writing the bill. But that they are members of that future board listed in the bill.

Gray said we should have a meeting face to face to see what is taking place and understand. Donna explained it will move forward with or without SCHC.

Wanda explain this not something they need our help with they have offered to let us to be a part of. This will be good for the horse industry, as stated in the update that Wanda had sent out. this is not as tax. It is something that people can apply for grants. There will be a good board that can be appointed.

Lisa commented that SCHC would not receive any money due to conflict of interest because they sit on the committee. Donna expressed the industry will and that is what we support. Wanda stated that this is not for SCHC to make money on. This is something for the horsemen for the state of SC. That they would have an avenue to get grants to bring in revenue into our state. Lisa doesn't see the average horse owner getting any grants.

Carl said he didn't see anything in the bill that would be a conflict of interest. The one sitting on the board would get the money. Those are the people who are going to determent the funding. He believes that any organization can apply for money and be chosen by its validity.

Gray asked if horsemen will know if they can get their money back. That is correct. Gray asked if people will know if they can get that money back. Donna said the cattle industry knows but only a couple people have asked for it back. Carl stated that that is a great opportunity to publish that we support the bill and to let horsemen know they can opt out. We can turn that into a positive.

Wanda insists that this is not a tax, and the fee is paid at the mill. It is up to the feed stores to let consumers know of the charge. Once it passes there will be education from SCHC, Dept. of Ag, Farm Bureau.

Gray insist it is a tax. Donna ask how many time has your feed prices gone up and you ask questions about it? He contends that we represent all horsemen in the state, we have a responsibility to act in their best interest. He questions how many surveys have been conducted regarding the matter. He contends that we do not have the option of paying the fee, therefore it is a tax – much like income taxes which are collected and then refunded. He insists that we need to act in the best interest of the average horse owner and the industry, and not that of SCHC. He is concerned that owners will not be informed they are paying a fee, and not educated as to the opportunity for a refund and how to obtain it.

A motion was made. Gray attempted to make a motion; there was already a motion made. Mike made a **motion to move forward with a letter of approval**. Donna seconded.

Kathy feels that the topic warrants more discussion. She believes that if we vote this in, we will never receive support from owners and feed dealers in her district. The constituents of her district are opposed to this bill. If the Council votes in favor, we will be looked upon even more poorly than at present. Kathy stated she has spoken with horsemen in her area who are against this. Wanda explained that is where education comes in. We will be doing this with Dep tog Ag and Farm Bureau.

Gray asked what would they be getting out this feed bill. Farm bureau would get nothing, this is for the horsemen in the state. Dept. of Ag will be over seeing this and anyone body can apply for a grant.

Carl address the board saying SCHC should educate and advocate. This is a perfect example where we need to do both. Explain to horsemen how it is going to help them and how they can get their money back.

Donna stated the 85% will go to equine industry we have to have confidence that is what's going to happen. As far as the feed store I'd ask them why would you want to short change the equine when you allowed it on cattle feed. Dept of Ag receives a 15% administrative fee, Farm Bureau receives no money, and audits will be conducted yearly.

Merry What are they going to do with this money? She says it is an opened ended thing if not used what happens to the money?
 Donna explain the members of the board shouldn't let that happen.

Kenny brought attention to the Beef Check-Off System it has been very successful. It requires owners to pay \$1 every time a cow is taken to sale. It is a one-time fee which is placed into a fund. The State Beef Council was formed to educate people and provide scholarships and grants. It is very well run for the beef industry. The committee members are all cattlemen, and it is beneficial to the industry. He is not sure if that bill and the Equine Promotion Bill are worded in the same manner. Wanda said that this is exactly what this bill was modified from beef industry.

Donna called for the question, Carl said we should call for a vote. Wanda called for a vote.

Wanda called for a voice vote. Bill yes; Kenny yes; Gary no; Carl yes; Kathy no; Lisa no; Wendy abstained; Merry no; Mike yes; Pam yes; Donna yes; Randy yes; Wanda yes. **Count – 7 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain. Motion carried.**

Merry questioned the president's right to vote. Carl said that the president votes as a tiebreaker. Kenny said that at a recent seminar he learned that this is a misconception and that the president may vote. Kathy said that it would be stated in the Articles of Incorporation, which she has been unable to obtain.

Wanda set the date for the Strategic Planning Meeting for June 24, 2017, location to be determined. Kathy requested a calendar to be set for the year. Wanda clarified that in the past, it has been the second Tuesday of the month, but it will be determined at the June 24 meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Item	Assigned	Target	Completion
Agricultural permit funds	Wanda	Strategic planning meeting	
Research Jackie Twigg's membership	Wanda		
Extract current membership list for printing	Wendy	Strategic planning meeting	
Compile trail maps and submit to Board	Wanda	Strategic planning meeting	
Submit list of 3 trails to Back Countries of America	Wanda	5/25/17	
Revise Carriage Horse Support letter and submit to Board	Carl	As soon as possible	