

PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee

March 28, 2008

Minutes

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Patty Kelly, Duane Duncan, Betsy Ullrich, Dave Gallaher, Christine Corl, Andrea Graeff, and Donna Zang. Lori Little and Jim Sharp participated in the meeting by conference phone.

The meeting was called to order by Patty Kelly.

Pat asked for corrections to the committee membership list.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the January 23, 2008 minutes.

Lori reported on the nominating committee. She has contacted two volunteers and plan to contact at least one additional volunteer to determine their interest. Lori has also contacted some educators. Lori is working to get educators from the east that are willing to serve on the committee since there are already representatives on the committee from the west. Lori will prepare the ballot for the Advisory Committee meeting.

Duane presented the treasurer's report. It was noted that there was an increase in expenses associated with the 2007 State 4-H Horse Show. The cost of printing the rule books was a significant expense for this year. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

Terry Etherton joined the meeting to discuss the proposed endowment fund. The endowment will be managed through the College of Agricultural Sciences. The committee reviewed and discussed the draft of the guidelines for the endowment. Andrea Leonard from the development office joined the meeting by phone to answer questions from the committee. It was suggested that a separate committee of key individuals be formed to focus on soliciting external funds in support of the endowment. The current sub-committee will consider this as they continue to move forward with the endowment effort.

A sub-committee was appointed to review the strategic plan to propose changes. The current strategic plan will be distributed at the Advisory Committee meeting on April 21. Advisory Committee representatives will be asked to provide input for revisions from their respective districts. The sub-committee will report at the May 19th Development Committee meeting. The sub-committee consists of Patty Kelly, Pat Comerford, Dave Gallaher, and Lori Little. They will meet via conference call on April 22nd at 3:00 p.m.

The screening committee for the extension associate positions has begun the process of reviewing applications. It was reported that there were a large number of applicants for the position. Phone interviews will be conducted in late April as part of the process to identify candidates for face to face interviews. Due to the many variables involved, it is difficult to predict an exact timeline.

2008 dates and events were reviewed. An updated calendar of events is available at <http://www.das.psu.edu/4h/horse/>

The following dates were determined for 2009. The Ag Arena is reserved for February 13 to 15, 2009. It was decided to hold a Horsemanship Skills Clinic. Specific details will be distributed as soon as available. The PA Horse World Expo will be held February 26-March 1, 2009 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The Winning Ways Clinic is scheduled for March 14-15, 2009.

The Horse Show Judge's and Show Management School went well. The event was self supporting. Approximately 150 people attended and evaluations were positive.

The AYHC National Youth Horse Leaders Symposium – Pat reported that there was a good turnout with close to 300 participants. There were several volunteers from Pennsylvania in attendance. The educational sessions were good. Helene McKernan and Pat presented a session on the Penn State USDA/NAIS equine identification project involving 4-H member horses. Pat also participated in a safety panel and moderated a roundtable session on resources for leaders and educators. Pat specifically mentioned a good session on the issues dealing with the unwanted horse. AYHC is striving to educate youth and leaders about the facts involved with unwanted horses and end of life issues. The 2009 symposium is planned for March 27th - 29th in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Curriculum items – Horsemanship Skills – The Horsemanship Skills curriculum committee will be meeting to review suggestions for changes. The committee includes Patty Kelly, Tammy Eichstadt, Pat Comerford, Betsy Ullrich, and Donna Zang. Pat has been keeping a list of proposed changes to the skills.

The new safety book turned out well and has been well received. Feedback has been positive from volunteers and educators. It is a good addition to the safety curriculum. Duane brought up the subject of farm safety in general, specifically the farm safety quiz bowl. PA 4-H may lose this opportunity unless there are at least 8 teams to compete in the contest held the Wednesday of Ag Progress Days. Is this something that we can get horse members involved in? It was agreed that we need to make horse clubs/members aware of this opportunity. It was suggested that we contact Amy Murphy in Potter/McKean counties to explore ways to link it to our safety program. Duane will follow up with Amy.

Production – The committee discussed the May 1st deadline for foals to be born to show in the current year. After considerable discussion it was moved, seconded to enforce the May 1st deadline as included in the current rulebook this year. Showing foals born after that date is a humane issue for the horse program. Motion passed with one opposed and one abstaining.

Betsy distributed copies of a draft project book for Recreational and Alternate Equine activities. This project could be used for youth who are involved in almost any equine activity, including activities with other horse/youth organizations. Betsy plans to develop a separate electronic record. Andrea will follow up on formatting for the electronic record. The project is being piloted in Clinton and Northumberland counties and has been used in Chester County. Betsy will send electronic copies of the project to committee members. The committee will also look at developing a suggested list of awards/recognition levels. Pat notified counties in a recent e-mail to contact Betsy if they are interested in reviewing or piloting the project materials. The materials will also be distributed/discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting.

Pat reported that there are efforts being made to make the other project records available in an electronic format. Andrea will follow up to help ensure consistency in records and avoid duplication of efforts.

Youth Advisory Committee – Lori and Bryan are working on this, establishing guidelines, etc. Tabled for further discussion until May.

Help is needed with the 4-H Equine Skillathon at Ag Progress Days. Christine volunteered to help put the stations together. Andrea will coordinate Skillathon. Contact Andrea if you are willing to help.

A chairperson for the State 4-H Model Horse show is needed. We need an educator to chair the event. There are volunteers with expertise in managing model shows who may be willing to assist the educator. It was also suggested that we look at ways of generating funds to hire a coordinator for this event.

State Show Items:

Vince Verbeke has been asked to develop a report that will pull out a list of members that do not have signed photo release forms.

As per the show entry and animal health requirements distributed to counties, a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection will not be required for the state 4-H horse show.

Connie Garman has retired as show secretary. Brenda Campbell will be the new show secretary. She is available to travel to all of the production shows. Brenda will be hired at same rate as Connie.

Pat will talk to Jackie Simon to see if she is willing to coordinate a dance for the show participants.

Pat reported that we are no longer able to rent a cargo van from PSU fleet to haul supplies to the show. We will need to find another alternative to transport equipment and supplies.

AQHA is planning to offer classes at non-AQHA shows. Should this be considered for the state 4-H show? If so, the same option should be available to other breeds, perhaps on a rotating year basis. These would be “open” classes and would provide a reason for kids that are already showing at higher level with another reason to stay in the 4-H program. This may also be an incentive for other kids to strive to be competitive in these classes. Concern was express about the limitations for other additional classes for all breeds in the state show. Pat will look into this opportunity further. Tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

Samea Baker has inquired about the possibility of getting a judge for driving. Andrea will discuss this further with Samea. We will need to remember that we have multiple breeds showing in the driving division when hiring as separate judge.

Pat shared the proposed rule changes that will be discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting on April 21st.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna S. Zang, Secretary