

Gladwin County 4-H Horse Project Association Minutes

Thursday, September 29, 2016

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Andie Fisher; Jeremy Fisher (Beaverton Buckaroos); Kim Bruner (Country Blend); Gwen Tweed (Farm Central); Jill Nartker (Hoof Beats); Denise Shears (EUTS); Jessica Hufford (MSU Extension Office)

Secretary's report – Minutes from May 12 regular meeting and May 31 special meeting handed out. Kim B made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Gwen supported. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – \$547.44 in checking account; \$1,234.27 in savings. One outstanding overall showmanship winner check still outstanding – Kaitlynn Maxwell

MSU Report:

Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 1 p.m. is the 4-H Fall Awards Banquet. All are invited.

Next week is 4-H week; Science Blast on Tuesday, October 4 at Mid Michigan Community College, from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, October 5 from 4-5:30 p.m. there will be another Science Blast held here at the Gladwin City Park Pavilion.

Adult leader trainings –

Wednesday, October 5 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. – Creating a club environment and igniting 4-H enthusiasm.

Thursday, October 6 from 10 am – 3 pm – 4-H Club 201 – Kick up your volunteer program

4-H Advisory Group retreat – November 19-20 at the Kettunen Center. Cost is \$25.

Fair wrap up – Gwen did like that the judge dismissed the kids before announcing the placings. She wonders if it is something that could be done again next year as it made it go much quicker; possible make a note for the judge and ask if it can be done that way again.

Could the south gate be fixed? The gate does not touch the post at all and it's dangerous for speed kids.

Could we have a jumping clinic? There are some kids that want to jump and not all leaders know how to teach that.

Do we still need a pony class? There are only a few kids that ride ponies and it makes for a longer day. This has to go before the fair board to see if we can take it out of the fair book.

Should we make it to where the kids don't have to move up if they win their division one year, but only if they win 2 years in a row?

Ribbons – do we need to address this or is it taken care of through the fair? Jessica said that it has to go through the fair board.

How are points calculated? If there are the maximum number of riders in the class the maximum points will be given. If there are only a few kids, the points will be changed accordingly.

Why were there not the appropriate ribbons handed out, as we had ordered them prior to fair. This needs to go before the fair board again to see where the ribbons we ordered are.

Judges – they are the responsibility of the fair board. Why did we have only 1 judge show up this year for overall showmanship?

Youth v 4-H – the fair board is going to keep everything the same for next year. The fair is not 4-H's responsibility; we only do the auctions. The fair board wants the animal associations to decide if they do or don't want 4-H. It is not up to 4-H leaders, kids, parents to make this decision. Jessica is trying to get a meeting with 4-H and state fair board higher ups and the fair board to go over the specific responsibilities of both the 4-H and the fair board during fair week.

Addition to agenda – Other counties do not have separate associations; they have committees which are umbrella'd under the Leader's Council and operate solely with these committees. If there is an issue, a committee would get together, discuss the issues, and take it back to the Leader's Council and report to them what was discussed and what, if any, decisions were made. The horse association would need to go before the Leader's Council and ask if they could disband as the horse association and turn it into a "horse project committee". The money would stay with the committee, as long as it is written into the by-laws. There would be less positions that would need to be filled and less meetings to be held.

By-laws –

Article 3; E – pictures. Remove this as it is redundant and unenforceable.

Article 6: section 1 – meeting dates – specify month but don't put time; this way we can make it earlier or later if we need to. Also, do we need to have a meeting every month or can we cut back. Looking at past minutes to see if there is actual business conducted at each meeting or if we just meet because we have to.

Article 6; section 4 – if we do remove any meetings, we need to remember to revise the number of meeting you have to attend.

Article 8; Committees – remove C – concession stand committee. Kim made a motion to remove this from the by-laws; Jeremy supported. Motion carried.

Rules –

How do we enforce the 6 meeting rule that is in our bylaws? Should it just be taken out or reworded to state "recommended".

#17 – Overall high point – why are we paying out \$75 to each kid when they already receive incentive awards and high point awards and trophies? This money could be better used toward something that would benefit the overall association.

#18 – pictures. How do we enforce that this is being done? Again, we need to revise the wording to say "recommended".

October annual meeting – Thursday, October 20

Horse mentor program – Gwen made a motion that we start a horse mentoring program, where we would pair a 5-8 year old cloverbud (lead line) with either a level 3 or 4 rider on that member's horse, both at workouts and at fair. This would give non horse kids an opportunity to show at fair. The cloverbuds would participate in chores with their mentor so that they know what bringing a horse to fair entails; as well as exercise the horses. Kim supported. Motion carried.

Would there need to be a special waiver drawn up since there could be some non horse families?

Would it matter if they didn't own a horse, or would they be covered if they paid their insurance fee?

There would need to be cross club participation; as some clubs have more cloverbuds than older riders.

Some recognition would be nice to give to those older kids that want to mentor the younger kids. They would be considered a teen leader and could be recognized at the 4-H fall awards banquet.

Kim made a motion to adjourn; Gwen supported. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: October 20 at the MSU Extension office.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Shears, Secretary