

New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors Meeting

February 2, 2009

Rusty and Martin Cook's house, 3607 Sunstar Loop, Albuquerque 87105

Directors Present: Rusty Cook, Eldon Reyer, Nancy Searles, Val Cole; Jeff Bader, John Collins, Kristin Darnell, Winona Kennedy, David Kreger, Phil Reppert, Elsie Shollenbarger.

Directors absent: Jan Henfling, Maura Lewiecki, Harry Touloumis, Lori Walton.

Guests: Martin Cook, Jackie Bouker, Catherine Logan-Carrillo (Horsemen's Voice), Marguerite Bowers (Bomar Equine Rescue & Rehabilitation), Dr. Joe Baker DVM (New Mexico Livestock Board).

Call to Order and Introductions. Rusty Cook called the meeting to order at 6:40. All present introduced themselves, and Rusty welcomed new directors Jeff Bader, John Collins, and Winona Kennedy. Dr. Baker offered to do his presentation first, and Rusty Cook agreed.

Dr. Baker, on behalf of Dr. Fly and the New Mexico Livestock Board, wished to update NMHC on the status of three diseases affecting horses: CEM (**contagious equine metritis**), EVA (**equine viral arteritis**) and EIA (**equine infectious anemia**).

CEM: In early December, a QH stallion in Kentucky tested positive for CEM, a venereal disease of horses. The United States up to this point had a CEM-free status, and could export to other countries without complicated testing protocols. Since then, there has been extensive nationwide testing of breeding stallions and broodmares. New Mexico has no positive stallions, and one exposed broodmare. Dr. Baker suggested that horse breeders really explore the history of any stallions they wish to use as sires. Stallions can be cured; as to curing mares, there is discussion among veterinarians whether one "cure" really gets to the problem, because the disease is present in the uterus and the protocol does not treat the uterus. Dr. Baker answered several questions from those present and distributed fact sheets on all three diseases, reminding people to call the NMLB if they have problems or questions. The CEM-free status of the US is now in doubt as several more stallions have tested positive, and the problem may have existed prior to the 2008 breeding season.

EVA: This is an infectious viral disease, transmitted through the respiratory system and the reproductive system, and it causes abortions. Although it does not kill mature horses, an entire breeding season can be lost, and "positive" horses can be barred from entering foreign countries. After adult horses recover, carrier stallions can shed the virus for years. There was one positive horse in New Mexico in 2006; there will be possible changes in permit requirements. Dr. Baker suggested that potential breeders check for any revisions with the NMLB prior to proceeding with their breeding plans

EIA: It is a virus from the same family as HIV; it creates its own DNA and incorporates it into the host DNA. It mainly occurs in the Gulf Coast states and the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys. There are three forms: *acute*, with the horses harboring a huge amount of active virus (but the horses do not live very long in this condition); *subacute or chronic*, where horses do poorly, don't harbor as much virus, but test positive; and *subclinical*, with no outward signs, and this stage is also hard to detect with testing. The Coggins test has now been supplemented with an ELISA test, which takes longer and is more expensive but can detect a lower level of virus. However, it can give a false positive, which is rare with the Coggins.

An outbreak of EIA in Texas was thought to be attributable to race horses that move back and forth to Mexico, coming to Texas for formal or informal "brush" races. The method of transmission in Texas was found to be through serum from infected horses being injected into other horses as a "tonic" or blood builder.

Dr. Baker said that horses travel around the country much more than used to be the case, and this has a huge potential for the spread of disease. Cows, he said, seem to be "on roller skates", they move around the country so much. Dr. Baker then answered questions from those present at the meeting.

Rusty Cook thanked Dr. Baker and he departed.

Approval of the (remainder of) the agenda. Shollenbarger moved, Cole seconded approval. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes. Searles distributed minutes for the October 6, 2008 and November 10, 2008 meetings of the NMHC Board of Directors, and a draft of minutes for the January 19, 2009 NMHC Annual Meeting.

Correction to October 2008 minutes: the winner of the Magic Horse Raffle was Cathy Garcia of **Cazam** farms. Shollenbarger moved, Cole seconded the October minutes be approved. **Motion Carried.**

Correction to November 2008 minutes: Cole clarified that the State Horse Councils do not wish to split from the American Horse Council, but to redefine the relationship so State Horse Councils have more influence and autonomy. Also, Cole announced that the fourth quarterly meeting of the Governor's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee would be held in Lordsburg November 19 (executive committee) and November 20 (public meeting) and asked if anyone present knew of possible horse people to invite. With those corrections, Shollenbarger moved, Reppert seconded that the November minutes be approved. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report.

- Cole reported that the membership roster stood at 86 individual and lifetime; 42 Club and Commercial. This is a very high number for the first month of the calendar year.
- Certificates of Appreciation and NMHC memo pads have been mailed to those not present at the Annual Meeting to receive them.
- The Equisure application for renewal of the club liability policy has arrived; the application needs to be completed, then Equisure will send a quote. Dates for our 2009 events have to be decided to be included on the application. The current policy expires March 13. Cole mailed the Directors and Officers insurance application to Jan Henfling's friend Adren Nance, who was to look it over. NMHC has not received his response.
- Your-site agreed to drop the NM Horse Fair domain name registration and hosting, and to apply the remaining funds to nmhorsecouncil.org. This will be equivalent to one year.
- Cole was asked to get a quote on the "Unwanted Horse" brochure, which is available as a pdf from the Unwanted Horse Coalition. To produce brochures of the same quality as those originally distributed by the Coalition would cost \$634.10 for 500, or approximately \$1.25 each.
- Coles may soon convert from dial-up to broadband. There is a chance that the Cole phone line, originally split so the NMHC business telephone could be installed, would need to be dedicated to the broadband. In that case, another line would need to be installed or the telephone moved to another location.
- The January 1 – January 31 treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.

David Kreger stated that he had finished a thorough but informal examination of the NMHC accounts for 2007, and they were in good order.

OLD BUSINESS

Report from Horsin' Around Committee (Darnell). The event will be held at the Corrales Library Park, and the committee will make the presentation to the Corrales Village Council tomorrow, February 3. It will begin around 10:00 AM and will again feature food, vendors, and many activities for children. The adjacent land may not be available for demonstrations in 2009. Kris Darnell will manage the park, and Nancy Searles will do the scheduling. Darnell appealed for help from NMHC members. Lori Walton suggests three or four clinics on different subjects to build momentum. And the committee suggested perhaps moving the silent auction, a moneymaker for NMHC, to the Lefty Converse show in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers for 2009. After discussion, the following were nominated and elected by acclamation as 2009 officers of NMHC:

President:	Rusty Cook
Vice-President	Eldon Reyer
Secretary	Valerie Cole
Treasurer	No candidate. Cole will remain as treasurer for a month.

Animal Legislation introduced in 2009 NM legislative session (Marguerite Bowers). Bowers reported that Animal Protection Voters, a New Mexico group generated by Animal Protection of New Mexico and

backed by national groups, will be pushing several anti-cruelty bills which have a very good chance of passing. They are being backed with national funds and a well organized effort. Bowers feels that Animal Protection Voters has no expertise with livestock and should not be attempting to apply rules that may be suitable for pets to farm animals and horses.

Bowers does approve SB 313, introduced by Senator Tim Eichenberg at the request of NMHC member Marcy Britton, which is a simple bill expanding the definition of cruelty to an animal to abandonment without food or water. This is more useful than some other, more complicated bills that set up funds administered through the state Attorney General's office, or create an "equine protection fund" supposedly funded by owners convicted of cruelty.

Other Legislation (Cole). Other bills of interest: HB 273, extending law enforcement authority currently approved for state parks and recreation areas to trails officially in the state trails system. HB 258, graduate the gaming tax rate on certain tracks (i.e. reduce it for Ruidoso Downs). HJR 19, Extend Downs at Albuquerque Lease. SB 222, take one mill from MRGCD tax collections to create a committee to promote more responsiveness to those who pay MRGCD taxes and use the trails, but don't get the irrigation benefits. SB 471, Create Rodeo Council. SB 492, Seizure and brand inspection of Livestock.

Reyer and Cole supported HB 273, and Cole said most NMHC members would support SB 222. No positions were taken on any bills.

Rodeo Day at State Capitol (Cook). The Rodeo Council is asking those supporting rodeo to visit the Capitol Tuesday, Feb. 3, and Caroline Stevenson requested that NMHC also publicize it for all horse events. NMHC did send the information to its member addresses and others, and several people will attend and point out that there are many horse events in NM other than rodeos. The early RailRunner train, leaving Belen at 6:00 AM, should arrive in Santa Fe in plenty of time for the group to assemble.

NMHC Foundation Board: Discussion and Appointments (Cook). New members will be appointed to the Foundation Board; several have expressed interest. Cook suggested the minimum Board should include President, Secretary and Treasurer, plus other Board members; current treasurer Kathy Falter has agreed to remain in that position. Cook said she felt awarding a \$250 scholarship this year to a high school senior with horse credentials would bring needed publicity to the Foundation, and she had some guidelines to provide from the Arabian Horse Association. Cole will copy and send Foundation documents to Searles.

Horse Rescue Coalition Update (Cole). The Coalition is attempting to meet with Dr. Dave Fly, State Veterinarian, but he is extremely busy and will be unavailable until the end of March. Cole will be away that weekend, but another NMHC director should attend. The Coalition is also holding informal discussions with livestock inspectors on a possible animal cruelty school, and looking at the Animal Welfare Institute to present it. Cole said that, despite its name, the Animal Welfare Institute is an animal rights group.

Trails Update (Jackie Bouker, in the absence of Maura Lewiecki).

- Mid Rio Grande Conservancy District solicited comments on proposed bollards to keep motorized traffic off bridge over Griegos lateral. Cole prepared a letter, but Bouker said the bollards were already installed and were adequate. NMHC decided to send the letter anyhow for possible future bollard placement on other bridges.
- NMHC letter commenting on Valles Caldera Preserve Environmental Assessment is ready to be signed and sent today (deadline for comments extended to Feb. 12). Information from NMHC members Jackie Bouker and Gary Morton (who has the contract to put cattle on the Preserve, in accordance to the enabling legislation that it remain a working ranch) was included in the letter.
- The Corrales Regional Meeting on trails is Tuesday, Feb. 4 and Lewiecki will attend along with several other Corrales residents. Input from equestrians is needed.
- NMHC has received the quarterly update on the Bachechi property from Clay Campbell of Bernalillo County. No changes since most recent plans, except that the special use permit for an equestrian park has been changed to a permit for Open Space.
- The Army Corps of Engineers has notified the Village of Corrales that they will be repairing levees in the Corrales Bosque Preserve, partly to mitigate damage from equestrian use.
- Bouker reminded directors of upcoming meetings on forest management plans, and reported on the Cibola motorized travel management plan meeting on January 13.

- Senator Dede Feldman sent a letter to constituents and supporters about SB 222, taking some control of recreational aspects of the District trails and ditch roads from the MRGCD Board. The Board attorney accused her of having a “temper tantrum”.
- Cedar Crest Stables has received no response on its request for renewal of its special use permit, and therefore still cannot operate. However, Cibola National Forest has sent letters requesting opinions on the use of chain saws in the wilderness.

Expo Task Force (Cole) The task force has completed its work, with five meetings or teleconferences and subcommittee meetings (including the equestrian subcommittee). The final scheduled meeting of the entire task force was January 16. Minutes were taken of all meetings and distributed to all task force members. Reading the minutes of other subcommittees, it is apparent that there is a divide between equestrians, expo staff, and community development areas on the function of equestrian events. The equestrian subcommittee worked hard and submitted a plan of its own for restructuring the northeast quarter of the Fairgrounds into an equestrian facility, but CH Johnson, the developer hired by Governor Richardson to facilitate the task force, said in an early meeting that they had used up the contract money and could not perform work to integrate the equestrian project in their design. They would add it to the report as an appendix.

Cole said the equestrian task force members (Caroline Invicta Stevenson, Gary Morton, Marty Perrins-Dallman from the Legislative Finance Committee staff, and Cole) worked hard on their plan but with the uncertainty of the Downs move to Moriarty, the entire project may be moot. Martin Cook said he had heard from a Downs manager that the entire project to move the track was on “permanent hold”.

Board meetings dates, time, locations. Some Board members cannot readily attend on the “traditional” first Monday of each month, and some cannot attend any other time. For **March**, Val Cole will host the meeting at her house, 1501 Los Arboles Ave. NW, Albuquerque, at 6:30 and offer a pot of chile con carne.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. Val Cole proposed that the NM Horse Council join this national organization at dues of \$100 per year, and briefly discussed the work it does. The Board decided to put this on the March agenda as an action item.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Horsemen’s Feed and Supply** party, April 18, 9:00 AM to ?. Things wind down after the mutton busting at 1:30. Owners have again offered a free table space to NMHC.
- **Ditch Pony Promenade** May 17, Topform Arena in Corrales. Free to exhibitors, sponsored by Dan’s Boots & Saddles. NMHC will spread the word.
- **Lefty Converse show** August 16, Topform Arena in Corrales. Sponsored by Dan’s. Possible date and location for NMHC tack swap, silent auction.
- **Bicycle/Pedestrian/Equestrian Committee** 2009 dates and locations: Roswell, February 25 and 26; Moriarty, May 13 & 14; Raton, August 12 & 13, Las Cruces November 12 & 13. Equestrian input needed at these meetings. 2009 BPE Non-Motorized Transportation Plan to be submitted to NM Department of Transportation Secretary in February. Minor edits of “Equestrian Awareness Brochure” have been completed and NMDOT is seeking a contractor for printing.
- **American Horse Council** has sent updates to members on the following measures introduced in Congress: (1) The Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2009, prohibiting carrying horses in double deck trailers; (2) The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009, which is the reintroduction of HR 504, preventing horse slaughter for human consumption. This reintroduction deletes the funding mechanism; and (3) Contagious Equine Metritis national updates. The AHC Issues Forum will be held in Washington, D.C. on June 16, as part of the Annual Meeting. The subject is The welfare of the horse. The State Horse Council’s semi-annual meeting will also be held during this time period.
- **The National Council of State Legislators** passed a resolution in December 2008 “recognizing the need for humane horse processing, and restricting regulations preventing the marketing or export of horses.”

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 8:45.