

**New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors Meeting
July 13, 2009
Lamy, NM (Eldon and Karen Reyer's La Espuela Ranch)**



Directors Present: Rusty Cook (President), Val Cole (Secretary), Kristin Darnell, Eldon Reyer (Vice President). **Directors Absent:** Jeff Bader, John Collins, Winona Kennedy, David Kreger, Maura Lewiecki, Phil Reppert, Elsie Shollenbarger, Harry Touloumis, Lori Walton.

Eldon and Karen Reyer served grilled bratwurst, beans, green and fruit salad, soft drinks and iced tea. Karen Reyer was unable to remain for the meeting, as she had another meeting to attend.

1. **Call To Order.** Rusty Cook called the meeting to order at 6:45.
2. **Approval of the Agenda.** With the addition of more announcements, Cole moved, Reyer seconded that the agenda distributed to directors be approved. *Motion carried.*
3. **Approval of June 1, 2009 minutes.** Reyer moved, Darnell seconded that the minutes distributed by email be approved as sent. *Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Cole commented that there had been very little activity in the accounts in the past six weeks. She is holding a handful of checks to deposit.

Account Balance 6/01/09		\$10,700.07
Check # 2320, Val Cole Reimbursement	-403.59	
Check # 2321, Postmaster, one year PO 10206	-44.00	
Check # 2322, Qwest NMHC telephone	-62.75	
Check # 2323, Stubblefield, 100 liability signs	-1281.00	
Total Expenses		-\$1,791.34
No deposits		
Account Balance 7/13/09		\$8,908.73

- Some of the checks on hand are dues checks. A membership update will be presented by email.
- Forty of the liability signs are committed to be purchased by Expo New Mexico.
Reyer moved, Darnell seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. *Motion carried.*

5. **Old Business.**

Trail Ride. The NMHC 2009 trail ride is deferred for this year, since we were unable to find someone to manage a committee. We also did not hear from Valles Caldera about camping overnight, but the Socorro chapter of Back Country Horsemen has arranged a Valles Caldera ride, with overnight camping, for this coming weekend, July 18 - 19. Oscar Simpson emailed the NMHC today. They still have spaces left; Cook suggested that anyone interested contact Oscar. Reyer said that certified weed-free feed was required, and was uncertain who would be monitoring this; he also was unsure about insurance, since this may not be covered under the BCH memorandum of understanding with the Forest Service when trail construction projects are insured.

Report on Mini-clinic June 20. Darnell reported that not that many people attended, although she did not have exact numbers. Should we do this next year? Cook suggested perhaps in the spring, at a central location such as the 4-H Center, could bring more people in.

NMHC Foundation Scholarship. Applications were to have been received by June 15, but we have not heard who the recipient is. Darnell said the Foundation was discussing parameters of future awards, perhaps including someone who does not have a horse. Reyer suggested the recipient be invited to, and honored at, the NMHC Annual Meeting. He told directors that the scholarship awarded by the Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association is not given until the school sends a letter that the student is accepted and is going to attend, and then the award goes straight to the school. Cook said the Arabians also require applications and recommendations, and the checks go to





the school to be attended. Darnell said eventually an award might be given to an adult, to attend an equine clinic or seminar.

Other Old Business. Table at Lefty Converse show in Corrales August 15. Is Nancy Searles going to manage this table? Darnell has not heard. Cole also offered, but needs to pick up brochures, brochure holders, signs and other NMHC material before August 15.

6. **New Business.**

Update on vesicular stomatitis. Dr. Dave Fly sent a memo from the NM Livestock Board stating that a horse in the Fort Sumner area was confirmed with vesicular stomatitis (VS), a reportable disease, and quarantined in mid June. If no other cases are reported, NM could be free from restrictions in mid-August; however, at this point at shows, exhibitions and “congregations of horses” including out of state horses, a seven day health certificate for Texas and New Mexico horses is required. Cook and Cole have recently been at NM shows where a veterinarian came to the show to issue health certificates.

Also, many events where horses congregate now require a Coggins test within the previous twelve months for both out of state and New Mexico horses. Reyer asked if the twelve month Coggins test was verifiable and/or useful to prevent EIA positive horses in New Mexico.

Report on American Horse Council Convention (Cole). This is a brief summary (expanded report will appear in the next NMHC newsletter). Cole said this issues meeting, “the welfare of the horse”, was the best she had attended in several years. It is available as a webcast. Julia Anderson of the Unwanted Horse Coalition is sending us 100 brochures and fact sheets, but there is a great demand for them and no funds to print more. The “United Federation of the Horse” also had a meeting on reopening horse processing plants in the US the day before the AHC convention, and in a hotel across the street. Cole attended this meeting as well. The group will be introducing federal legislation to ensure humane care and management of horses – the H.O.R.S.E. act, standing for Humane and Optimal Restoration and Sustainability of Equines.

Unwanted Horse Survey. (Cole). The Unwanted Horse Coalition has published on its website the survey it commissioned recently. Cole has been unable to download it yet, but the memo from the American Horse Council has outlined some of the results. The problem of unwanted horses is perceived to be growing, with the economy a significant contributor. Two-thirds of rescue and retirement facilities are at or near capacity. Solutions preferred by most respondents include owner education, more retirement facilities, reopening US processing plants, and increasing options for euthanization and disposal.

Directors commented that potential horse owners truly need to be informed on the cost and consequences of horse ownership.

Darnell asked if the New Mexico Horse Council could be a source to disseminate information about, for instance, trainers or riding instructors? People purchase a horse they can't handle, can't find the right trainer or instructor, and end up in a dangerous situation. She also said we all need to think more about safety, and what to do about beginner riders. They need not only good instruction, but to learn what “feels right” when riding. Could NMHC have a booklet or brochure on safe things to do? Cook said NMHC should take a look at safety, but lists of instructors or trainers is another issue. They would, first, need to be NMHC members; liability might be a concern for NMHC. What distance will people travel for lessons? Who has safe school horses? We all want those who decide to try involvement to have a safe, comfortable and rewarding experience.

Horses as Service Animals (Darnell) Kristin Darnell has recently encountered Craig Cohen, a person who depends on the close society of his horse for his medical well being. His method to stay in close contact is to trailer his horse to various parts of town, park, and meet people. Darnell asked





if the definition of “service animals” could be expanded to include horses? Reyer said it might be more a problem of horses being unwelcome in specific areas of town. Cook said there needs to be some handicap to qualify for a service animal, but perhaps it need not be physical. Cole will try to get a definition. Reyer was aware of a veterans administration program that uses horses for such therapy.

Annual Meeting and Nominating Committee. Cook said we cannot continue with three, four or five people, need more on the Board or nothing will be accomplished. Discussion followed about a successful “pod” setup that would allow the directors to have a “working group” between meetings, and a meeting about four times a year. Cook said the working group has to come first, and be successful, before this concept can be used. We should consider the policy of a decade ago, get delegates (directors) from interest groups or clubs, which would back their participation and provide more people. Need chair for Annual Meeting and Nominating committee. Reyer said he considers NMHC *the* clearing house for general information because of the website and newsletter, and will continue supporting this group while cutting back on some of his other activities.

Tack Swap? Cannot be at Lefty Converse show because of the Corrales position on gross receipts collection. No other venue has been found. Table at Lefty Converse: Searles to do? Cole can do or help. We need to ask Nancy Searles; if she cannot, or do it only part of the time, need to get brochure holders, brochures and signs from her.

State Fair Booth. This was very successful this year, but needs an organizer. Cole said she will confirm the space and the tent, and put the preliminary material in the newsletter.

Other New Business. (Darnell) Update on San Ysidro Arena. The new arena is being used; 2 4-H rodeos and some clinics were packed. She had a sponsorship price chart describing advertising possibilities:

- Chute: \$500 per year
- Sponsor Flag: \$400
- Sponsor Banner: \$300
- Barrel Cover: \$150
- Program Ads: Full page, \$40; ¼ page \$10, ½ page \$20 per program.

Darnell asked how to find rental prices on other arenas? Answer: someone needs to sit down at a telephone and call all over. Admission prices? Reyer knew the prices for the Rodeo de Santa Fe, which were set as a “per car” price to bring in families.

Cole suggested that, rather than any of the above categories, NMHC consider donating liability signs with a donor announcement and purchase information attached to the signs.

Eldon Reyer asked if “New Business” could precede “Old Business” on future meetings. That way, people who must leave early because of long travel distances could participate in pending horse council plans.

7. **Announcements.**

Meddleton Equine offered to host our flea market. Although Algodones is too far away unless an extensive publicity campaign is started (which would put it into next year), Reyer said that Dr. Meddleton hosted a tour for members of NNMHA of his new clinic and it was an outstanding presentation. NNMHA limited the tour to members. We could perhaps pursue this. Another possibility: Dr. Noah Henningson’s reproductive services operation in the south valley.

Four Corners Equine Rescue has proposed a brand to the New Mexico Horse Rescue Coalition (of which the New Mexico Horse Council is a member). It has a basic shape, then a quadrant could be





specific to a certain rescue. Debbie Coburn has checked and the brand registry says there is no similar brand in New Mexico.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be held at Cherry Tree Farm, home of John and DC Collins, in the south valley (2315 Cherry Tree SW). Future meetings: October 5 (Corrales?), November 2 (North Valley, Cole's), December 7.

Handouts distributed at this meeting:

Memo from Dr. Fly about VS and travel with equines;

AHC memo, "Unwanted Horse Coalition Releases National Survey Results";

"United Organizations of the Horse" press release;

AHC memorandum, July 8, "Slaughter Horse Developments";

AHC letter, June 24, "Surface Transportation Act of 2009 includes Recreational Trails Program";

NMHC July 13 Treasurer's Report;

Horse TV memo: American Horse Council Forum on the "Welfare of the Horse" available on H-Span;

Senator Tom Udall's request (June 29) for NMHC position on Senate Bill 727.

Four Corners Equine Rescue memo about possible brand.

8. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

