

# New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors Meeting

## November 2, 2009



The meeting was held at Randy and Val Cole's house in Albuquerque's North Valley. Val served chili con carne, salad, tortillas and soft drinks; Winona Kennedy provided dessert.

Directors Present: Rusty Cook (President), Eldon Reyer (Vice-President), Val Cole (Secretary), John Collins, Kristin Darnell, Winona Kennedy, David Kreger, Maura Lewiecki, Elsie Shollenbarger.

Directors absent: Jeff Bader, Phil Reppert, Harry Touloumis. Guests: Ann Bologna, Jackie Bouker, Lisa Welter.

- 1. Call to Order.** Rusty Cook called the meeting to order at 6:30.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda.** Kreger moved, Collins seconded that the agenda be approved as distributed. *Motion carried.*
- 3. Approval of August draft meeting minutes.** With the addition of the date, Kreger moved, Collins seconded that the minutes be approved. *Motion carried.*
- 4. Treasurer's Report.** In lieu of the usual monthly report, Cole presented a report covering the entire year to date. (Attached.) She pointed out that most of the usual NMHC events for 2009, particularly fundraisers, had been cancelled due to lack of support from possible organizers. No replacement newsletter producer has come forward. In addition, the 22 valued lifetime members mean a loss of annual dues in subsequent years.

The result: the balance in the treasury (exclusive of the savings account) has dropped by a third since the beginning of the year, with no income anticipated until 2010. Membership has also dropped significantly. With the current state of the economy, raising dues in 2010 is not an option. (Directors mentioned that recent closures in the local horse businesses include Action Trailer Depot and the Amigos Tack Shop.)

Cole also suggested that the savings account be merged with the checking account. Falling below the minimum balance results in a \$9.00/month charge, and the savings account earns less than a dollar a month interest. Kreger moved, Darnell seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted for audit. *Motion carried.*

Discussion followed on how to raise revenues. It was generally agreed that NMHC has to be perceived as valuable to horse people in promoting their issues. Also, one very successful strategy in the past was having NMHC directors (or involved members) give presentations at club meetings. This has invariably resulted in several individual memberships, and almost always a club membership. NMHC directors also were often chosen to represent a particular interest such as hunter/jumper or western stock showing.

One director commented that horse people are a "huge dysfunctional family", stretched too thin to keep up with threats to the horse community and unable to generate enough committed people to generate funds to support the Council. We need to be the "hub" of a wheel of horse owners and riders, and be sure to promote our census and economic data.

### 5. Old Business.

**Trails Update.** Maura Lewiecki reported that work on the Rio Grande Trail had ceased due to lack of funds. Stimulus money could possibly be available, after many procedural steps. Also, the Pueblos and the Village of Corrales are holding up portions of the design. The Corrales portion will still be part paved and part unpaved.





Jackie Bouker reported that motorcycle barriers are being destroyed in the Sandia Ranger District. The trails map is distributed and the signs are up, but the user groups will have to police themselves – again because of lack of staff funding.

The Bachechi property is in the construction document state. Amenities for riders still include a round pen, trailer parking and a trail to the bridge.

**NMHC Foundation Report.** Rusty Cook said she had sent Nancy Searles several invitations to report on the Foundation scholarships but had received no reply. Val Cole said she had gotten a call from the mother of one of the supposed scholarship recipients, reporting that the student's thank you note to the Foundation PO box had been returned marked "undeliverable". She checked with the Alameda Post Office and found the box had been closed due to lack of payment, and no forwarding address had been filed.

Discussion followed about the lack of communication with the Board of the NMHC Foundation. Cole was asked to see if P.O. Box 10513 was still available, as the Foundation must have a mailing address with the bank of record and the state corporation commission. Elsie Shollenbarger said it was very reasonable for the NMHC Board of Directors to request an audit of Foundation funds.

**State Fair Booth Report.** Cole reported that NMHC did go ahead with this project, even though planning was late and incomplete. The booth had occupants for 14 of the 17 days of the State Fair, and again all those representing the horse community in the booth reported that many people stopped to listen and learn. Unfortunately, NMHC directors or members were unable to represent the Council, and the clubs generally did not know enough about NMHC to "sell" the Council. However, in general the horses were well represented – especially compared to livestock in general. Groups using the booth included: Juan Tomas Hounds, Baca Horse Conservancy, NM Paint Horse Club, La Espuela Ranch, Rancho DuBois (Equine Assisted Therapy), the Bernalillo County 4-H clubs, the NMHC Foundation, Single Action Shooting Society, Savvy Horse Whispering, Land of Enchantment Miniature Horse Club and Telquest Miniature Farm, Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Club, and the Arabian Horse Association of New Mexico (in calendar order).

NMHC also turned down an applicant for the first time. The New Mexico Horse Project (Carlos LoPopolo and Paul Polechla) asked for a weekend, but NMHC has had unfortunate encounters with them before, and also disagrees with their philosophy and methods. The Horse Project appealed to Alison Haxton, horse superintendent, and to Craig Swagerty, Expo Manager, but both said NMHC was solely responsible for the booth.

The booth cost was: Tent rental, \$275; Passes, \$192; Insurance rider \$51.50; supplies, \$12.93; mailing costs, \$18.71 for a total of a little over \$550. Cole especially mentioned the "Booth Angels" – Expo New Mexico, for providing the free space; Alison Haxton, the Horse Superintendent; Jean Rowe in the stall office; Quickstalls and Charlie and Mary Ann Poore, for lending the display stall, including delivery and pickup; Ralph Walker and 4W feeds, for the shavings; the office staff (Lois Seibel, Laura Cunico and Lillian Creel) and Don Romero, equipment manager for the Horse Arena.

Discussion followed on making the booth pay for itself and getting more NMHC participation. If Expo would guarantee the space earlier in the year, planning would be easier. However, they sell the rest of the space in front of the Horse Arena (as well as any other space they can get income for). Other groups that could participate, but declined this year: Search and Rescue, Horse Rescue, horse racing? An adoptable horse would be a great idea – groups reported that people often asked if the horse in the booth was for sale.





**Other Old Business.** None.

**6. New Business**

**Nominating Committee and Annual Meeting.** Several dates in January (perhaps the 23<sup>rd</sup>?) and possible venues (Ranchers Club, Armory, Mario's, Sadie's, other restaurants) for the annual meeting, dinner, awards and elections were suggested by Board members. The Armory would require our arranging for the food. At Rusty's request, John Collins agreed to head the nominating committee. Cole reminded directors that our Bylaws require mailed notice of the meeting at least a month in advance. Maura Lewiecki moved, Elsie Shollenbarger seconded that John Collins be authorized to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting. *Motion carried.*

**Other New Business.** None.

**7. Announcements.**

**Next Meeting.** Rusty Cook will host the next Board meeting on December 7 at her house, 3607 Sunstar Loop SW.

**Other Announcements.** Val Cole will be attending the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee meeting in Harrisburg, PA, November 6 – 9.

A survey sponsored by the American Horse Publications and administered by the veterinary college at the University of Florida has been distributed online. Cook asked Cole to send the link to Board members.

Cook said the US Equestrian Federation was also conducting a survey.

Several directors had seen the article authored by NMHC member Susan Seligman on horseback riding for those in the senior age group in the Boomer magazine published by the Albuquerque Journal.

**8. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

