

**Pennsylvania Equine Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Final Minutes
August 15, 2017
Ag Progress Days
State College, Pennsylvania**

1. **Call Meeting to order** – The meeting was called to order by President, Charlie Van Auken at 5:30 pm.

2. **Roll Call :**
 - A. **Board of Directors Present:** Charles Van Auken, President; Bud Wills, Vice President; Edith Ryan, Treasurer; Aleta Seifert, Corresponding Secretary; Gail Eichelberger, Recording Secretary; Judy Cole, Amanda Gerner, Jeanne Goforth, Linda Golden, Mike Kraft, Desilene Phillips, Guy Seifert, Skip Seifert, Rick Shiffler, Burt Staniar, Ann Swinker and Elaine Winters.

 - B. **Board of Directors by Teleconference:** Not available for this meeting.

 - C. **Board of Directors Absent:** Donna Foulk, Capri Stiles-Mikesell, Sharon Kessler and Helene McKernan

 - D. **Guests:** Ann Macrina, John Ryan, Susy Seifert and Gwen Wills

3. **Approval of the Minutes** – Minutes of the May 13, 2017 meeting were emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review prior to the meeting. See attached. *A motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Bud Wills. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.*

4. **Resignation of Board Member** – Charlie reported that Desilene Phillips would like to give up her position on the board as Membership Chairman. Guy Seifert showed interest in the position. Karla Mertens will help him with the membership paperwork. Desilene agreed to stay on until the end of the year to help with the transition. This is a position that would be appointed by Charlie.

5. **Treasurer’s Report** – Edith Ryan: A Financial Statement was emailed to members of the Board of Directors for review. See attached. Beginning balance June 1, 2017 was \$36,749.60. Total deposits for June were \$5,760.58; total payments were \$8,541.84. Ending balance June 30, 2017 was \$33,968.34.

Beginning balance July 1, 2017 was \$33,968.34. Total deposits for July were \$3,209.91; total payments were \$4,357.39. Ending balance July 31, 2017 was \$32,820.86. ***A motion to accept the treasurer's report subject to audit was made by Elaine Winters, seconded by Aleta Seifert. Motion passed.*** Edith reported that the postage cost for the Horse Power Newsletter is \$490.00 every three months. There is additional postage to mail newsletters to each County Director. That is about \$95.00 dollars every three months. A question was asked if this is necessary. Aleta said she emailed all of the County Directors to see if they are using the newsletter. She did not get a good response. ***A motion to discontinue mailing the newsletters to the County Directors unless they requested them was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Desi Phillips. With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.*** Requests should go to President Charlie.

6. Corresponding Secretary's Report – Aleta Seifert had no report.

7. Foundation Report – Jeanne Goforth reported. There is \$641.67 in the scholarship fund. There was a \$10,000.00 donation made to the Foundation for the Trail Stewardship program from the Fort Fetter Riding Club.

8. Old Business

A. Fall Annual Meeting – Bud Wills and Ann Swinker reported. The Annual Meeting and Issues Forum will be held November 3 and 4, 2017 at the Super 8 Hotel in State College. The board meeting will take place Friday evening and the Issues Forum will be held on Saturday. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a power point program about the burro and wild horse problem in America. Burt suggested that Bud and Gwen should present the program. He commented that they would be able to do a good job. It may be possible to have someone from the BLM on a conference call to answer questions. Charlie suggested that we invite the associations and organizations to attend the Issues Forum. Capri has been checking the E-Blast to see if people are reading them. The response has not been very good.

B. Regional Board Members – Charlie VanAuken reported – Due to Desi's resignation at the end of the year, a decision must be made in how we will fill her board seat. Do we want to consider a regional director to fill the seat? Rick Shiffler and Helene McKernan also will not be returning to the board. Guy asked if Charlie had someone in mind to ask. Crawford County does have someone interested. ***A motion to not expand the number of board seats but fill the open seats through attrition, and continue to discuss a plan to recruit board members from the regional directors or other organizations was made by Guy Seifert, seconded by Skip Seifert. With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.***

People under consideration should be asked face to face. Linda commented that she approached a person that was a former 4 H member. If any change is made to the configuration of the board then a By-Law change must be made.

Ann Swinker's replacement at Penn State can be an ex-officio member of the board.

- C. No Question Horse Surrender** –Skip Seifert reported. This event was held at the Solanco Fairground in Lancaster. It was a program where a person could sign over their horse to be evaluated for either adoption from a rescue or euthanasia. Horses approved for adoption would then go to a local rescue. The cost to a rescue was \$150.00. Due to the fact that protestors did show up at the fairgrounds, certain horse programs will no longer allowed at the facility. Guy commented that the County Animal Rescue Team (CART), which is run by the counties, is only as good as the people running them.
- D. PEC Membership Ride** – Bud Wills reported. The ride sign-up is full. Everything is ready. Skip reported that there will be two member rides planned for next year. Jim Theurer has volunteered to help plan one in the eastern part of the state. Only members that did not participate in this year's ride will have first chance to sign up. After the deadline for sign-up is met, previous years' riders may register.
- E. American Horse Council (AHC) Equine Population Economic Impact Study-** Ann Swinker and Charlie VanAuken reported. As of August about 17% of the PEC members responded to the survey. Charlie received information on a spread sheet of information gathered so far. He is hoping more members will respond before the extended deadline. Out of the top nineteen contributing states Pennsylvania ranked ninth. Charlie will keep us updated as he receives information about the study.

9. New Business

- A. County Chapter Expense Reimbursement**– Charlie VanAuken reported. There is a request that the PEC would provide \$100.00 in start-up money for new chapters. It was suggested that this could cover costs such as postage and paper. *A motion to provide \$100.00 to a new county chapter towards start-up expenses upon submitting of receipts by a new county chapter was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Burt Staniar. With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.*

- B. Shirts for ELC Volunteers**– Charlie VanAuken reported. A request was made to the Executive Committee to purchase shirts for the volunteers helping at the ELC at the Bloomsburg Fair. An e-mail vote was taken and the request was approved.
- C. Temple University Equine Study** – Charlie VanAuken reported. Charlie responded back to them that at this time we would not be participating since we are already participating in the AHC study.
- D. Butler County Director Request** – Charlie VanAuken reported. There was a letter and resume received from a Butler County member interested in becoming the Butler County Director. There was a discussion with no resolution. There was also a discussion about the use of the PEC logo and who can or cannot use it. *A motion that only the Executive Board can approve the use of our logo was made by Bud Wills, seconded by Mike Kraft. With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion passed.*

10. Committee Reports

- A. Advertising** – Bud Wills reported. Bud asked if the decline in membership is because we are not advertising in as many places as we had been. Guy commented that if we cut back in funds and events we may lose membership. Marketing is important to gain and retain membership. Linda commented that one in every ten calls she gets is from a member. She always asks the caller if they belong to the PEC. Aleta suggested that we not increase the funds but instead spread the funds around more. Maybe not always use the same publications. Guy commented that companies use one to two percent of their gross sales on advertising. Burt commented that most companies can afford to hire someone and that can be very expensive.
- B. Collegiate Membership** – Burt Staniar had no report.
- C. Education Grant Program** – Donna Foulk. No report.
- D. Electronic Director’s Manual** – Helene McKernan. Report emailed to the board.

E. Equine Learning Center – Mike Kraft reported. Report emailed to the board. The volunteer list is building for the York Fair. This is our next big event. Joan Pauley will be organizing the event at the Bloomsburg Fair this year. This is the third year that the ELC will be at Bloomsburg. Mike will be checking on them during that event to make sure all is going well.

F. Equine Health and Regulatory – Ann Swinker reported. There has been a lot of attention being given to the import/export of high performance horses. Also about the micro-chipping of horses. Burt commented on the importance of the information provided by the Center of Disease Control. Attention should be given to a poisonous weed called Palmer Amaranth Waterhemp. It resembles Pigweed.

G. Facebook – Amanda Gerner reported. Report emailed to the board. She would like to keep posting Skip’s Tips. She has about 1,300 “Likes” on the PEC page. She did post information and the link for the AHC survey.

H. Legislation - Linda Golden reported. Report emailed to board members. Linda explained HR 544. This bill addresses land owner liability. Most of the calls Linda receives is about problems at boarding facilities.

I. Membership – Desi Phillips reported. Report emailed to board members. Membership has continued to decline. It was suggested that a contact should be made to members that do not renew or even going back a few years and contact past members.

J. Newsletter – Judy Cole reported. Report emailed to board members. Information for the next newsletter is needed by the end of August. The next newsletter will be printed in the *Pennsylvania Equestrian*.

K. Nominations – Bud Wills reported. Report emailed to board members. Four board members are up for reelection. The elections will take place at the Annual Meeting.

L. PennAg Liaison – Skip Seifert reported. Penn Ag thought that a trail ride like the one done for the Legislators was a good idea.

M. Policies and Procedures – Bud Wills reported. We will need someone to review and update the Policies and Procedures. Suggest someone good with using a computer.

N. Scholarship – Rick Shiffler reported. There was only one entry for the scholarship award. It is Kayleigh Anderson. Kayleigh was one of the winners last year. She will receive the award again.

O. Signs – Skip Seifert reported. Report emailed to board members. 2,000 of the signs were ordered. Edith has sent a check and delivery will be arranged.

P. Sponsorship – Skip Seifert and Mike Kraft. No report.

Q. State Director Chair – Charlie Van Auken reported. Six County Directors have not renewed their membership. Indiana County Chapter has asked permission to print t-shirts. Shawnda Felton is the new director for Indiana County.

R. Trails – Bud Wills reported. Report emailed to board members. The 3- Day Trail Stewardship Workshop in July was canceled.

11. Additional Business

A. No or Low Cost Euthanasia- Skip Seifert reported. Dr. Holt a veterinarian from New Bolton Center is looking at the possibility of this program being started in Pennsylvania. His interest is in setting up sites across the state. May be looking for funding but no mention was made directly to the PEC. New Bolton is against euthanasia by gun shot. The BLM needs sixty million dollars to save the wild horses.

B. KILE – Skip Seifert reported. We were not asked to contribute this year.

12. Meeting Dates

- (1) November 3- Annual Meeting– Super 8 Hotel, State College
- (2) November 4- Issues Forum - Super 8 Hotel, State College

12. Meeting Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Aleta Seifert, seconded by Guy Seifert. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail R. Eichelberger

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Recording Secretary