4-H Horse Advisory Committee Minutes

Feb. 21st 2015

Meeting Called to order at 10:00am

Approval of prior minuets-
- Minuets of June 3rd and Nov. 18 meetings approved

Service Description-
- Service descriptions forms should be filled out if you have not done so in 2 years.

Announcements/ Event Reviews-
- Animal Science bonanza was good.
- Quiz bowl went smoothly. Team #s were about the same. Good novice groups, potential as they move up. “whatsits” table was greatly enjoyed. Bring books and magazines for the book swap. Novice may need to have more preparation about “working as a team”- i.e. always sitting in the same seat, possible designated team captain. Suggestion made to have possible first year novice section- time wise, this would work, but we would need a few more volunteers. Years ago, we had a “beginner” division- any age beginner- plus a younger member (younger than 12) who was ready potentially could do junior; many still like this but state policy would have to be changed.

Upcoming Events-
- Baskin Curly. Judy Forsyth will be official judge. Kate Burns is running Hippology
- Sign-up sheet for judging, Hippology, state show will be passed around.
- Actual judging teams for judging and Hippology have been formed in several counties. Food has been arranged- 4-H cattle or goat club.
- 4-H judges school, April 11/12 in Concord. (Pembroke Academy and Townsends)
- UNH Equine Education Day, Apr. 17th. Flyer will be available soon.
- State show July 17-19 at Deerfield.
- American Youth Horse Council Trip, 2016, Lexington KY. 2 youth and adult chaperone to be funded by a grant. (Others can attend at own cost). Application, resume, and interviews.
- ESE, Sept. (Probably week of Sept. 20th)

2015-2016 4-H Foundation of NH Grants Funded-
- List of 4-H foundation-funded grants was given (requested and actually granted) Kentucky/Horse Round-up did not have full 16 member group, so less funding given.
Decisions by 4-H Animal Science Committee:

- Approval form has been replaced by “intent to show” form. It is on the website.
- In 2016, Apr. 9-10 will be the location for a combined quiz, Hippology, judging, and communications. Hope is to schedule without conflict. Communications members will do both this and state activity day. Question about over-pressuring members—do they must have already qualified at county level. Some counties also have practices which rotate activities so kids can be exposed to all. One comment was that a single weekend would be more difficult for parents. Also, that this w/e is apparently the same w/e as SATs. Suggested to survey members, so they can report their opinions. Cost of staying overnight could affect some kids. Mass. Uses this arrangement—set up so if someone is doing only one competition they need not stay over. Competitor which share aspects (such as judging and Hippology) could still be on the same day. Part of reason for April date choice was so all counties would have and time to complete their activities day.
- State team selection: 2016 on, all teams except communications will be top 4= tentative team; 5th-8th alternates. Final selection still depends on participation, attitude, county staff, state staff, and coach input.

Discussion of Coach and Team Selection Process:

- Coaches will be required to attend training (positive youth development and defensive driving)—due to state car rental.
- Must be nominated by state or county office staff.
- Application process informal but required.
- Bio to be provided by perspective coaches and forwarded to team members, whose input on coach selection will be considered.
- Coach of top team at state competition is given the first chance at the position.

Election of Officers—2 yr term

- Chair: Rebecca Kennedy
- Vice Chair: Judy Forsyth
- Sec.: Rhonda Watts-Hettinger

Dates for remaining 2015 Meetings

- June 2nd or 3rd (depending on availability of a room) 7:00pm
- Nov. 10th, Tuesday, Probably a conference call.
- State show conference call probably in June.

State Office Situation

- Position has not yet been advertised, or decided as full- or part time. Budget process must be completed first. For now, it’s still Mary Davis—Probably through the summer at least.
State Show Fundraising-

- Ad booklet- 15 years ago it was “a telephone book” which funded the entire house program. Over time it has dwindled down. Grounds cost is largest expense (No matter how many kids) for state show. Since ads are down, suggested that we put more emphasis on supporters who simply make a donation. Businesses can take “supporter” as a charitable contribution (as opposed to ads being a business expense). All forms are on website as well as available today. Supporters at home level may have banner, logos, etc. on display.
- Need to push the kids by promoting the incentives (show entry, shirts, director’s chair). Suggested to use Cheshire’s idea of a prize/ incentive for under-12 members who sell but can’t use the free show entry.

PROPOSALS-

Horse Quiz Bowl-

- Comment made that at Kentucky, the buzzers are set up so you must hold the button. If you let go someone else can slip in “under” and get the question.
  a. Protesting by coach is allowed in KY, but consensus is that it is important for members to learn how to protest. It is a skill that should be encouraged during early practice (In county or club) as well.
- Quiz Bowl Proposals as discussed + noted in proposal packet (pg2-3) were APPROVED.
- Participation quiz bowl and judging, awards Pg.5- Proposals APPROVED

Cheshire Proposals-

- Bullet 2 (Violating code of conduct). Code of conduct was available. There are “grey” areas open to interpretation. State office generally in agreement but felt that such problems should be handled on a case-by-case basis (has been done the past 2 years). Coaches have also gotten together after the KY trip. One suggestion is to let the kids know, up front with their code on conduct which they sign, that this consequence is a possibility. Also noted that this should be across all project areas, not just horse. Another consequence is that if a member must be removed, they (and/or parents) must reimburse any trip costs paid by the state, as well as cost of transport if member is sent home early. Moved to recommend this proposal (or suitable procedure) to animal science committee for discussion and implementation; APPROVED
- Bullet 3. P.1- Parents may come to watch the competition but may not involve themselves with team activities to insure that the kids learn to operate as a team.-Two members gave specific examples, pointing out that part of the trip is “team bonding”. Mary also pointed out that KY spectators can’t really watch their kids compete (except final round); also that altogether the other team activities were at public places (thus parents/ families can’t be “kept out”) families are discouraged from intruding on the team. Leaders/ coaches need to point this out to parents- take a step back, let the child grow by being responsible, doing team time, making their own mistakes. Barbara also noted that they need to be told to leave boyfriends at home (as at state show and ESE!) Can be scheduled as “team time” and “free time with family”. This discussion can be included in positive youth development information. Can be included I the briefing session with parents before team events.
State Show-

- Proposal 1 (Cheshire) pg.1 2nd fit and show judge must be ex 4-H-ers at least 22 years of age or older, professionally attired, act in a professional manner. Discussion re. “Ex- 4-Her” – perhaps “4-H Carded Judge, or 4-H alumnus/a at least 4-years removed from NH Program. The four year removal would minimize the judge being too close to the competitors
- Amended: preferred to be 4-H alumnus/a at least 4 years out of 4-H, or a 4-H carded Judge. Judging contract can specify “professionally attired” and professional manner.

Judges for state show- Main Ring  1) Ray Hackett- MA

State show proposals pg.4-

- 1) Saturday afternoon/ evening (as time allows) add fun “skill based” game classes-  
  a. Barnyard Olympics- much enjoyed  
  b. Entry fee would require cash or open check entry (no “pay later” entries)  
  c. Human Jumping  
  d. TABLED FOR NOW
- 2) Allow additional choice in classes for each participant- They would still have to designate their point classes- The additional one is for no score. On, adding an additional point class would put slightly more weight on the riding/ performance aspect. TABLED
- 3) Allow walk trot riders over the age of 12- Since several counties have “beginner canter” divisions WTC kids could (if we so decide) do WT at state; each county would make their own decision on this. WT would state “Has not mastered canter”, so WT Beg. C thus would be eligible for WT at state. 10W- if they are not ready for junior/ senior level at state, they would show WT at state.
  a. Several commented that state show really is more for those showing at a higher level- is WT or WT/C then appropriate for state? It would fill the numbers for state (often less than 100 possible). Inclusion of WT at state NOT PASSED. (no votes for it)
- Return to #2) p.4 –Additional classes- Command is already in driving and in-hand. In-hand can add one driving; can also do a pattern class. Command added for all riding divisions, worth 50 as for other performance classes.
  a. Add 3rd choice for 50-point performance classes i.e., each entry will pick 3 pointed choice classes after F+S, judging, quiz, equitation. Each division will have a performance class added- command for all riding divisions, suitable additional choice for in-hand and driving. PASSED
- Senior Horse Award- Change form “oldest Horse” to horse over a certain age with highest points in performance classes.
  a. Age verified via registration papers, or vet verification.
  b. Points totaled from performance classes only (no eq. and no F+S) PASSED
- 4) Entry fee raised from $65-$75: PASSED
- Return to #1) p.4 Sat. P.M. Activities
  a. Barnyard Olympics: PASSED unanimously
  b. Sugg. Raise total entry fee to $80 and make games free. Quiz/ judging/Hippology teams will sell ice cream as fundraiser. PASSED – there will be various divisions, including adults, etc.
- State 4-H Horse Show Proposal- New Class- Pair Handiness- TABLED form last year. NOT VOTED since no rules were submitted
  a. Single Handiness- rule book did not get updated, but we had voted to use only the specified 2 ESE patterns. (Rhonda noted that for freestyle pattern or handiness, she is still willing to come to clubs to teach how to write pattern for judge)
- Horse Replacement p.6- Policy written out. Strongly suggested that members make up intent to show form for all horses (within reason) that they or family own; up to 2 fore leased horse. If a member get a new horse after May 1st, county may allow showing at that level but not eligible for state or ESE.
- Gymkhana- we have not had any participation in the past 2 years. Several members have indicated that the reason they don’t participate is that they can’t do other classes and can’t got to ESE. Noted that if we delete the division, then it has to go through the whole start-up process to put it back if there is interest in the future. Moved to keep the division even if inactive- PASSED
- Points for this year’s state show: Conrad suggested giving out various trophies first, then announce ESE delegates.

Mtg. adjourned at 2:40 PM
Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda C. Watts Hettinger