

Horsemen's Council April 2009 Minutes

Present ~ Marj Harper, Ginny Schuler, DeeDee Gianchetta, Smoke Elser, Lindi Vishoot, Nancy Hinman, Sue Mathewson, Mike Hartkorn, Cheryl Meidinger (Russel Riders)

Treasurer's Report ~ DeeDee reported \$15,731 @ MFCU & \$3375 @ Sterling Bank. The tractor has been paid off . We have received the \$4000 grant that Sue Mathewson set up for the tractor! The bill for the fence and half of the water system upgrade has been paid. DeeDee has changed our web hosting services which will cost \$85/year vs \$300/year with our old service.

Sue Mathewson is organizing an effort to have an osprey nest site @ the park. The osprey's nest is currently on light posts @ the ballpark which is a bit hazardous. She's working with NW Energy & the Stewardship committee. The cost to the Horsemen's Council would be \$750 and 100% would be reimbursed through the County or MT Power. She would like to get it in place before they arrive to nest. We may be late for that this year.

Sue also discussed the Weed Grant. We have 8 more years of weed management. The 2009 Weed Proposal is \$3130. The majority of which will be reimbursed by the grant. We decided the best time to apply the sheet compost is in the fall.

Smoke Elser discussed the May 16th Equine Skills Expo. The Back Country Horsemen in conjunction with the Horsemen's Council is really putting together a great event. Horse safety demo, horse-packing demo, Miss Rodeo, food & tack vendors. Marj Harper is pulling together riders to showcase there skills. Lindi and Cat Constantin will 'man' a table with hats, t-shirts, and membership/donation info.

Lindi and Cat from Stitches put together a proposal for getting more hats embroidered and some t-shirts silk screened in time for the Expo. The Council approved \$1100 which will enable us to get 100 hats and 72 t-shirts.

The new dressage arena still needs more sand removed. Marj and Lindi will schedule time to extract. I can't wait until this is finally in good condition!!!

Lindi has been researching getting our website refurbished. She has received several estimates ranging from \$2000 to \$1300. These estimates came from research via the internet and tips from Drue, Rachael, Laura Bakker and Ginny Sculer . The Council approved \$1500 to upgrade the site by a professional. Hilary Wood @ Small Dog Solutions (www.smalldogsolutions.org) has built some real nice sites: Five Valleys Land Trust, Flathead Land Trust, and Montana Audubon. She does quite a bit of work with non-profits and is local. Her estimate was \$1250 which also includes training for Lindi to update the site. Lindi would like to go with her. We need a bit more discussion before a final decision is made.

Speed Events Arena ~ Ginny flagged out an approximate location west of the stalls. The size will probably be 175' x 300'. She will be getting some bids on footing. This will most likely entail 2 feet of excavation, a layer of large drain material, landscape fabric, then the base material and then the final footing on top. Ginny will also look into any possible problems with being so close to the transmission lines.

Cheryl, with the Russell Riders is going to use the main arena for practice each Monday night from 6-9pm. All riders will be members which should cover things for insurance purposes.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:30

Minutes submitted by Lindi Vishoot