

Merced Horseman's Association  
Board of Directors Meeting & General Meeting  
Thursday, November 17, 2011 FINAL approved Thursday, December 8, 2011

**Call to Order:** by President, J.A. Thomas at approximately 6:10 pm

**Also in attendance:** Vice President: Tony Aragon; Secretary: Carol Suggs; Treasurer: Bill Suggs; Directors: Karen Camp (came later), Michael Conley, Karen Kiil, Lisa Krogh and Jennifer McCulloch. Caretaker: Dennis Friesen. Director: Brett Weaver, absent. Members in attendance: Dawn Rinehart, Sierra Rinehart.

**Adoption of Minutes of October 13, 2011.** Under caretakers report delete: *since they were not being taken care of* Conley made the motion to approve the minutes as amended, McCulloch seconds, Motion accepted and Moved with Krogh abstaining.

**Caretaker Report:** Friesen reported that the Pepsi Machine is gone, but another company is to pick up the CO2 tanks. The floor in front of the refrigerators was in bad shape and when the machine was removed it got worse. Friesen had replacement tiles so he installed them. D. Rinehart stated that she was looking at a refurbished soda vending machine for L. Krogh and wanted to know if she could get info for us. Discussion about looking into this as it would be good to have a machine on the outside of the clubhouse. Friesen is preparing the facility for winter. Thomas is also helping to prepare the arena for better drain off. S. Rinehart reported that Randy Thomas is building a new announcers stand since ours is pretty shaky.

**Correspondence:** C. Suggs: Letter from Hub Insurance, Invoice from Parsons for cattle, thank you letter from Savanna Savage (suggested that this be put in the newsletter), check reorder form.

**Insurance Report:** Conley: nothing to report at this time.

**Financial Report:** B. Suggs went over the financial reports from October stating that again we have a rough balance of now of approximately \$3000, we have a \$300 deposit for sponsorships and have several bills to be paid, including a \$1500 cattle bill, \$800 to the state, approximately \$600 for insurance. Questions regarding no sorting deposit for October. B. Suggs stated that we had borrowed \$2800 from savings earlier this year and have yet to pay that back and we need to really plan on how we are going to get money in here for next year. The board concluded that we report in the minutes the basic financial report of the association in this and future minutes so that the members can be fully aware of our financial situation.

Checking Account: 9/30/11 Beginning Balance: \$3,461.42 Deposits: \$ 3,710.30 Checks Written: \$ 2,807.91 ending balance as of 10/31/11: \$4,363.81. As of 10/31/11: Savings Account: \$1,611.94 & Scholarship Fund: \$1,209.34.

Kiil asked about the SHARE cards from Savemart and if we have seen any money from them. B. Suggs stated no income has come in from Savemart. Discussion of putting this in the newsletter so more people are aware that we can get money back with people using these cards. Camp stated that Back Country Horsemen's charge for their holiday party and that we should consider that in the future.

### **Committee Chair Reports:**

**Membership:** Amos not here to report. C. Suggs stated that they took in one membership at the playday and wasn't sure what we are doing about the membership dues for 2012. Discussion about the pitfalls of lowering dues. Conley stated that he recently joined another organization that doesn't have a facility and it was \$100 for a family membership. Several ideas were considered. Conley makes motion and Camp seconds to reduce the 2012 family, couple and adult memberships by \$10 and junior memberships by \$5 payable postmarked by December 31, 2011. Notice to be put in the newsletter. Discussed that we need to push the work days to have members reduce their dues and to create incentives.

**Scholarship:** Discussion about holiday party and the silent auction/dessert auction funds to be used for scholarship. Krogh added that historically only the dessert auction has been used for scholarship fund and in good years they have allowed the silent auction funds to be used for scholarship.

**Gymkhana:** McCulloch ordered awards from KO Trading because when she called Skyline they were booked up and couldn't accommodate our order. Conley was able to get \$100 sponsorship from AgriCom, Maria Moore has \$150 coming in later this week and there was a \$200 anonymous donor. C. Suggs asked for

AgriCom business card for newsletter and is to send Conley Moore's card to see if he can fix it for the newsletter. Thomas gave McCulloch some Pat Richardson books that Pat donated for high point. THANKS PAT!

**Sorting:** Weaver not here to report. Thomas called him. Communication was that we had cattle here for the October sorting, but no sorters and why there was no deposit. Thomas to contact Parsons and discuss with him a possible reduction of our bill since cattle were not used. Discussion about the sorting. B. Suggs stated the overall income and expenses of the open sortings and the sanctioned ranch sorting that we had this year. Barely breaking even. Discussion of sorting markets being saturated and we need to perhaps only have a few next year, make them different. Krogh stated that she spoke with Don Clark at the SBF and he mentioned that he would do a penning/sorting clinic. That might be something different to have to draw people in.

**Kitchen:** Camp reports that right now the kitchen is sparse but no reason except the holiday party to stock it as we do not have any events right now.

**Versatile Ranch:** C. Suggs stated that she is in discussions with Kathy Gould about taking over this show and will report in January the specifics.

**At Risk Kids Day: Oct 22.** Thomas stated that it went great, kids had a good time.

**Stock Horse/Reining Show:** Discussion about lack of communication with manager and cattle issue at last show. Thomas stated that we must have these shows prior to the SBF. Discussion of approaching Tereasa would like to do a straight reining instead of cowhorse show. Maybe have one organization do cowhorse show and have Tereasa do reining the next day? Thomas stated that the reiners thought our ground too wet and sticky and if we had a day that was dedicated just for them, we could get the ground they way they like it.

**Club Challenge:** C.Suggs reported that it was fun, had a great turn out and made some money. She stated that she took in a couple of memberships for MMR but only one for MHA. B.Suggs stated that the event brought in \$490 (\$50 was a membership). May want to do another event in the spring.

**Holiday Party and Awards:** Kiil and McCulloch to handle the set up and decorations. Camp to get Santa Suit. Discussion and assignment of cooking turkeys and discussion of menu. Discussion of portable sound system. McCulloch went over the set up. Discussion of toys for Santa gifts. S. Rinehart offered for Randy Thomas to cook all turkeys in a barrel, but it was decided to have Krogh, Conley and Kazensky cook the turkeys.

## **Old Business**

**Solar Field:** Copies of a Site Lease agreement were available for board to review. Conley stated that if we are to do something that we have 2 weeks to send a letter of intent or the company will move on. The reason for the quick action is that the solar company needs to put projects in place so they can start the installation phase in Spring of 2012. Krogh stated that there are government incentives and rebates for solar installations and this could be why the company needs a response quickly. Conley stated that payback would be \$12 per AC Kilowatt and we could expect 800-1000 kilowatts which would equate to approximately \$9-10K per year. Questions if we are required to purchase this energy and if we are required to insure that the company can sell a certain amount of energy, Conley stated, no. Although all agreed that the income would be nice, there was discussion back and forth, items in this agreement are open ended and several board members expressed concern over the possible severity of signing a 20 year agreement with such a short time to review. McCulloch made motion which was seconded by Kiil that Thomas would speak to Buzz Madocks for advice on this issue and perhaps have Buzz draft a letter of intent (not a lease) to see if we can get the ball rolling.

## **New Business**

Member Arena Use at night. McCulloch discussed about what to charge for light usage as she has been approached by several members. B. Suggs mentioned that our lights are not fully functioning. Krogh concerned about using the area when the conditions are poor and possibly creating a worse arena situation in the winter. Conley suggested that we look at prior PG & E bill and have members pay the difference. Discussion on how to collect the month, S. Rinehart suggested a "on your honor" sign in sheet to be posted

at the light box. After discussion it was decided that the area is closed for now after day light for the winter due to not all lights functioning and to preserve the grounds when the conditions are bad and Conley suggested that we bring this up at the General Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and get input from the members.

Website. \$127 +/- per year. Bill will be due soon. Jan will continue but also is willing to let it go if another wants to take it over.

Elections Committee: Thomas assigned duties to McCulloch and Camp as they are not on the ballot. Duties are to tabulate the votes and certify the votes. Discussion about voting deadline, if ballots will be in newsletter, with extra copies at the December 3 event. C. Suggs will bring extra ballots and ballot box.

### **Sharing and Open Discussion:**

Cowboy Mounted Shooting was not reported on. Thomas said this was a rented out event. We got the insurance, contract and money. The only remark he heard was that they thought that we would have the kitchen open and that was not something that we had agreed on. Thomas to contact the organizer of the event to clarify for future events.

McCulloch suggested that we consider giving the Mariposa club a discount on our memberships and if that was something we could look into. D. Rinehart asked about CSHA, C.Suggs explained how being an affiliate club works with CSHA.

Conley inquired about jumping equipment and if the facility had any as he had several people who might join if we had equipment here for them to use. Thomas stated that the equipment is relatively inexpensive to make and he was considering making some for cowboy race. Discussion about various english facilities that may want to use our facility for practice or show venue. Discussion about possibly using the field left of the parking area for pony driving events or practices.

There being no further business Thomas adjourned the meeting at approximate 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Suggs  
Secretary