State 4-H Horse PDC
November 21st, 2015

PDC members present-Allison Peterson, Lindsey Peterson, Shelly Peterson, Julianne Quant, Randy Dokken, Gretchen Sankovitz, Meg Sax, Mark Storm, Kristin Gabrielson, Josh Johnson, Danielle Jibben, Dan Dolan.

PDC members absent-Abby Sankovitz, RaeAnn Bartz, Jackie Thayer, Lauren Olson, Peggy Hildebrandt, Paige Gabrielson, Morgan Kastner.

Renee Kostick present with Extension.

Guest's include-Malinda Dexter, Jeremy Blazek, Carrie Letourneau, Bailey Letourneau, Ella Blazek, Terri Hurley, Bobbi Knutson.

The State 4-H Horse PDC meeting was called to order by Adult Chair Meg Sax at 11:50 am on Saturday November 21st, 2015 at Charlie's Café in Freeport MN. A PDC meeting attendance sheet was passed around.

Secretary's Minutes

The secretary’s minutes from the April 26th, 2015 are published on the Horse Project web site. One correction was addressed. Julianne Quant stated that she was omitted from the members absent list from the meeting. Correction was noted. No other corrections or additions we made. Randy Dokken moved to approve the minutes. Kristin Gabrielson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial report of 2015-2016 MN 4-H State Horse PDC budget was presented by Renee Kostick. Renee went over some of the adjustments in regards to the budget. The library is listed in the budget with a profit, but the funds are actually held in another 4-H account and it will not show in the final balance. Overall, at this time the budget shows a profit, but there are expenses that still need to be paid from the State Horse Show. When those bills are paid, the State 4-H horse PDC will be in the red. Items that still need to be paid include $25,857.00 to the State Fair and $4,468.00 in refunds to the drill teams from the canceled show. When those figures are included, it will show about a $15,000.00 balance in the red. Overall the line item budget does balance. Renee also gave an explanation about the line in the budget called Foundation Transfer Account Clean Up. What this means is that the University of Minnesota keeps all of the 4-H monies in one big account, we as a PDC keep our own budget, but ultimately the University of Minnesota pays our expenses. Therefore, if at the end of the fiscal year there are budgeted funds in an account left over from a line item, they use the positives, or overages in the budget, to offset our expense balance, and plug that budgeted money back in to offset our expenses. The money doesn’t disappear; it just helps keep a more accurate account of what the expenses are. When we do that we won’t have to draw as much money from the 4-H Foundation to cover our expenses and pay our negative bill with them.
We will show an increase in camping income, based on the raised fees. We did have to turn down about 45 applicants for hook-up sites as we ran out of available spots. Renee then suggested the possibility of renting the campground up by the tower. Renee believes that camping will increase, based on the prices of hotels, so we have potential to increase the income for the camping account. The State Fair charges $500.00 to rent that space, so Gretchen Sankovitz mentioned the possibility of renting only the South half of the Tower Campground to lower our expense. It would also require more volunteers to oversee the campground, but will be looked at during a later State 4-H Horse Show board meeting.

There was an issue with the shavings this year at the State Horse Show. The State Fair submitted a bill for all of the shavings used at the State 4-H horse Show. When that was compared to the amount collected for shavings, it appeared that we had shavings that were unaccounted for. Randy Dokken inquired about the possibility of the missing shavings were used for the 4-H’ers that chose to move their horses into different stalls because of the potentially sick horse. The State Horse Show Committee will be working out another method for shavings sales at next year’s show in order to prevent any more loss.

Dan Nolan asked the question about judges’ fees and whether or not we needed them for 4 days. Mark Storm reported that the judges are also asked to help with the judging contest and therefore we did need them for the 4 days that are listed.

**PDC Committee Reports**

**Educational Materials**-Rulebook Committee, The Minnesota 4-H Horse Project Rulebook was updated with approved rulebook changes and published January 9th, 2015. The inclusion of the Drill Team and Miniature Horse rules was completed on March 5th, 2015. An email to PDC members, email list serve and via 4HOnline was sent on August 18th requesting submission of proposed changes for the MN 4-H Horse Project Rulebook. The deadline for the proposed change forms was October 1st. All the proposed rulebook changes were organized and then sent to the State 4-H Horse Project PDC members to discuss at the Regional Meetings in October. Rulebook changes will be voted on at the State4-H Horse PDC meeting in November. There were a total of 12 proposed changes to the rulebook. One of these proposed changes is not a rulebook change but a policy change and was referred to Renee Kostick. The Western Heritage rules and Challenged Riders rules will be added to the rulebook along with the approved changes from the November PDC meeting in December for publication in January 2016.

**Volunteer Training and Recognition**-Winter Round-Up, there was a conference call on November 18, 2015. The committee received and reviewed their 2016 budget and they have made the deposit on the camp. They have discussed the registration fees and they will stay the same as last year. They reviewed the evaluations from last year, and made some adjustments. Educational topics/speakers were discussed and there will be a follow up conference call will happen after Thanksgiving to determine those topics for Round-Up. Dates are the 22nd-24th of January. Information will be posted on the State 4-H Horse Project web site.

**Youth Education**-There was nothing to report.

**Communications**-There was nothing to report.
State Horse Show-The committee met at 9 am today prior to the State 4-H Horse PDC meeting. Randy Dokken reported on the meeting. He stated that there was nothing to report from Horseless Horse or the Horse Related areas. A suggestion was made to have the pole weaving contestants that participate in Hippology run their pattern right away at 7 am in the morning. Their times would be figured in each of their grade results. We are in the process of looking for a new photographer for next year based on feedback from exhibitors. Lastly, there may be some schedule changes to next year’s show.

Team and Individual Contests-

Horse Bowl, regional horse bowls were held in March of 2015 and the state bowl was held in April of 2015. There were 27 senior teams and 32 junior teams that participated in 2015. There was an increase of 4 teams over last year. 12 Senior and 12 junior teams participated at the State Horse Project Bowl. Dates for 2016 contests were announced and are posted on the state horse PDC website. Horse bowl teams that received trips had a meeting in May to discuss and explain the details to their national trips. The Quarter Horse Congress contest was held in October and Chippewa County placed 10th. Sherburne County placed 15th. There were some rule changes to the Quarter Horse Congress contest that our teams were not aware of. The change included the elimination of a bonus question in the first 5 rounds of the contest. The equipment was also a bit different than what our participants are used to using. At the Eastern National contest, Cass county placed 3rd, which was extremely well considering they substituted for another team that ended up declining the trip and they only had 2 months to prepare.

Hippology- There was 52 intermediate participants and 85 senior participants, for a total of 137 participants in 2015. There were many mixed senior teams this year so the eligibility lists were shorter for the national trips. They added an impromptu question which was well received. There was some confusion in regards to how and when the pole weaving participants would participate in the Hippology contests. There were issues getting the teams to the Hippology events on time due to riding class conflicts. But overall problems were addressed and everyone was able to complete both events. There was a suggestion to run all of those pole weaving participants first which was discussed earlier in the meeting. They would be moving the time for judging card hand out to 5 pm instead of 4 pm.

Judging Contest- Started later than expected because of the impromptu mandatory meeting, but overall it went well and finished on time. Lost a few judging kids, because they wanted to go to bed instead of competing.

Speech and Demo-overall we had 1 senior demonstration team, 7 speeches and 10 individual demonstrations given. One big change was to move the contest to Friday afternoon which was well received and may explain the increase in the number of participants. The committee may have to reevaluate this time slot if the numbers continue to increase. One issue was with participants not bringing a computer or proper equipment for their presentation. This is something that may need to be included in the information for the Speech and Demo contest. Also some of the speech kids did not understand that you can’t have visual aids during the speech so this needs to be better explained in the contest description.
Drill Team-19 counties had registered to participate at the State Horse Show. It was an increase from 15 last year. They had 26 teams entered. The show was postponed due to the questionable condition of the sick horse on the fairgrounds. There was a rescheduled day planned and 8 counties-10 teams participated at the back up date. The arena was very accommodating, and easy to work with. The judges did a fantastic job. It is thought that the decline in participants was due to scheduling conflicts and other activities going on. It was noted that there are still some ribbons that need to be mailed out to teams and otherwise things went as planned. A new compulsory routine has been chosen and will be implemented for next year. Looking for other avenues to find judges and a larger list has been made. They are planning to do a presentation at Winter Round-up. The committee will send a letter to all counties with more information and a copy of the new compulsory routine. They want to hold a regional qualifying event in 2016 for the State Horse Show. There would be one in the north central part of the state and one in the southcentral as well. This contest would be a freestyle one with 10 trips awarded for each size group, large and small for the State Horse Show. They will work around county fairs as much as possible. There will also be some more discussion about the costs to put on these events and a meeting with Renee will help determine this.

Western Heritage-They had 110 4-H’ers attend the safety clinics in 2015. There were 75 that participated at regional events and 53 4-H’ers participated at the state contest with 15 counties represented at the state competition. They think their numbers are down because of the date change for the state contest from the 3rd weekend in August to the 4th weekend in August. They have two new certified judges. One is from Stearns County and another one is from Isanti County. If anyone is interested in becoming certified to judge, please contact Daryl or Becky so spring dates can be made 60 days in advance. Their next meeting is January 3rd at RJ stables in Sauk Rapids at noon, for the directors meeting and the general meeting will be held at 1:30 with a snow date of January 10th. Researching location for state events in 2016, they are looking at three locations and will discuss them at the January meeting.

National Trips-Selection took place on Sunday during the State Horse Show. All the judging and hippology trips were filled as well as all of the speech and demonstration trips. The contestants going Congress trip winners need to check the rules before they go to contest based on changes from last year. The Quarter Horse Congress was held October 13th-14th, Eastern Nationals was held November 7th, the Arabian Nationals October 29th-31st. The Black Hills Stock Show will be in January, and the Paint and Appaloosa World will be held June.

Program Development and Promotion-Nothing to report.

Judges Certification/Education-The Date for the Judges Certification in 2016 will be April 2nd in Fergus Falls at the Red Horse Arena. LeAnn Scruby from Florida State will be the instructor for the event. Melinda Dexter asked a question in regards to how individuals can get their judges card when they have no experience with horses, 4-H, showing or riding a horse. Mark Storm explained that ultimately the 4-H rulebook test and live judging has to be passed as well and they have to be a guest/apprentice judge also before a certificate/card is issued. Meg Sax asked for the judges committee to compile a rule protocol in order to receive a judge's card. Mark Storm agreed to work on the protocol rules. It was also asked if the training project portion of 4-H also be
included in the judges training event. Citing the importance of the forms and how it should be judged. Meg Sax asked that maybe someone from the training project committee attend the event to help with that portion. It was brought up that there was some concern with potential judges not paying attention during the games portion of the certification training. That some are leaving during that time. It was asked that we be more firm about attendance. Mark Storm questioned that comment as all of the potential judges must stay at the training event until the end in order to receive their certificate/card. Mark Storm agreed to look into the matter. He also stated that he watches for those things and works to ensure that that doesn’t happen.

**Horse Training Program** - The contest went very well. We have compiled some rule adjustments and changes for the rule book. Kristin Gabrielson questioned whether or not there is a way to trace horses that have been a part of the training project. There are cases of horses being reentered into the training project at a later time with another 4-H’er. There are counties that do not understand the purpose of the training project and are requiring that all new riders and new horses ride for the judge before the show in the training project classes in order to participate at their county fair. It was determined by Renee that it is an educational issue with county coordinators. Teri Hurley stated that it’s very clear in the rulebook on eligibility. Bobbie Knutson clarified the rules and stated that whoever signs the training project book should know the rules. Meg Sax deferred the conversation to a meeting with committee members and Renee about this issue in regard to clarifying the purpose and rules of the training project including the paperwork.

**Marketing and Research development** - There was nothing to report.

**Regional Meeting Reports**

**Northwest** - There was a lot of discussion about the State Horse Show. There is a large amount of interest in the Western Heritage Riding Program. The rule changes were gone over and input was noted. Discussion about allowing more classes for the cloverbuds was again asked about.

**Northeast** - There was 6-7 people in attendance. They discussed the State Horse show and felt like the committee handled the issue with the sick horse very well. The training project was mentioned and some counties felt that there needs to be more education put out to the leaders on how to run the program in their counties as there were horses in the wrong classes and horses that should not even be in the training project based on rules of eligibility. There was some discussion about gate running during games and how judges typically handle that when it happens. A comment was made about wetting the arena at the State Horse show during games to make it less slippery. Parents were asking for a better job description to the State Horse show job assignments as new parents are unclear as to what their requirements are and what the job entails. They then covered the rulebook change requests which will be mentioned later. There was a question about saddle seat and that they wished there were more participating. They finished their meeting by promoting the Minnesota Horse Expo and talked about all of the upcoming state activities that are available. They did a presentation on Challenged Riders also and wanted to increase participation.

**Central** - There were 7 in attendance. There were favorable comments about the State Horse show. They thought the information meeting on the sick horse could have been done a little better. The group talked about herdsmanship and wondered about a better job on scoring. They went over the rulebook changes and had a great discussion.
Southwest—They thought that overall the State Horse Show was handled well, but mentioned that maybe there could have been better communication about the horse that was sick. There was also a question in regards to the Dan Patch Program. Danielle Jibben mentioned that she found kids taking pictures of her portfolio and that they could potentially copy her book, and reminding the committee that it is a competition. Could there be a more organized information time for anyone that would like help or to answer questions.

Southeast—There was a small group of about 6-7 people at the Southeast regional meeting. There was a long discussion about the State Horse show with an overall opinion that it was a great event. The rule book changes were gone over and suggestions were made to bring to the State Horse PDC meeting. Networking included county fair and how it is done in other counties. There was a presentation on preparing your horse for winter and how to battle the cold.

Final Comments-

Meg Sax made some additional comments about poor attendance. We discussed e-mails and if they are being sent. Renee stated that yes the meeting information did go out to all members enrolled. Enrollment issues may be to blame for the October meeting because if you aren’t enrolled, you won’t receive the e-mail blast. Gretchen Sankovitz asked if there was a way to get a list of the regional PDC members to help promote the regional meetings. Renee explained that it can be hard because of email data and how emails can get sent to spam so it may not be as effective as we would like.

Meg Sax recommended sending out e-mails to previous meeting attendees because she has a data list of all of the attendees at her regional meetings. She has found it to be somewhat helpful.

Bottom line we as representatives should take more time to contact our counties.

Melinda Dexter asked Renee if there was anywhere where members could find out what a PDC is and how it works. Meg Sax reported that if you go onto the state 4-H horse website and click on the PDC link and all of the information is there.

Gretchen Sankovitz asked for clarification about regional meetings. They are informative only, minutes are to be taken but this is not a meeting with motions and voting, or officers.

Mark Storm asked if we should reevaluate the PDC and should we ask each county to mandate a representative to the regional meetings to help with communication. He wondered how that might be implemented and whether or not it was even reasonable to do. Meg Sax stated that a survey was made to see what members wanted and that there is a group looking into how to better run, attend and facilitate meetings. The idea for the survey was made at the June special session and Annie Thayer volunteered to oversee that survey. She will be working on a plan.

Old Business

Committee work—A special session executive committee meeting was held in June to lay out a clear description of each of the State 4-H Horse committees and their functions. It lists the job responsibilities and descriptions of each of the committees. The report also then lists the descriptions of the subcommittees and their responsibilities. Gretchen Sankovitz and Meg Sax worked to put together the outline for the committees based on input from the PDC
representatives. The special session executive committee will meet again at Winter Round-Up to review it again and approve the report. The purpose it to clarify and help all of the State 4-H Horse Project members understand what the committee structure is like and how it works.

Renee stated that in the past communication was a problem. Members would volunteer for a certain committee and then we wouldn't know how to contact them to get them involved. Now if members are interested in helping with a committee, they can inquire and know what their job would look like for the committee that they are interested in. This work is intended to improve volunteerism within the State 4-H horse project.

**State Horse Show Review**-Everything was covered in other areas of the meeting.

**Drill Team**-The event was rescheduled from the State Horse Show. Otherwise refer to the earlier information in the show committee area.

**Refund Discussion**-Due to the possibility of the potential spread of EVH1, the State Horse Show Committee made the decision to cancel the Drill Team contest at the State 4-H Horse show. The decision was later made that if a team was entered and could not attend the rescheduled drill team contest, they were offered a refund of their entry fees. In regard to the other entrants that chose to leave the State Horse Show and asked for refunds, the decision was made to not grant the refunds. That decision was made because the show was not cancelled, and the exhibitors chose to leave on their own accord, so therefore they did not receive a refund. If the participant arrived and then stated that a staff or committee member told them not to unload, refunds were given. Outside of the drill team contestants 4 refunds were granted.

**Regional Meeting Survey**-Annie Thayer compiled a survey at the state horse show and for our regional meeting attendees. The objective of this survey to improve participation, provide more consistent delivery of information throughout the state, share knowledge, provide quality educational opportunities, and to leverage technology in order to improve access and ability for individuals to participate both physically and virtually.

She had 47 responses.

Questions: Have you ever attended a regional meeting? 14 said they weren’t aware that they were happened, 7 said they were not interested in attending, 4 said they were aware but day and time were not convenient, 2 were aware but location was not convenient, 4 said they go to all of them, 5 said they go to half, and 19 said they occasionally go.

How have you found the meeting content? 2 said they don’t see a need to change the format, 6 said they would like to see more education, 11 said they would like to learn more about state activities, 9 said they would like to learn about other horse project programs, 6 said that they would like more facilitated discussions, 10 said they would like more fun activities and more networking activities.

The following would help improve participation: 17 said the ability to attend a virtual meeting, 13 said recorded sessions, 7 said more consistent agendas across the state, 15 more promotion of the meetings and what they offer, 4 said more learning so I can bring it back to my county. 10 said more webinars.
Comments: A waste of my time, need to be able to give the more PDC more direction, not good use of time, not helpful, offer lunch or a potluck, have not found meetings helpful, not very planned, need more food, county needs to relay all information to all 4-H’ers and that’s not shared, found meetings not very valuable, need more facilitated meetings, e-mail notifications, need more planning of the agenda, e-mail notifications, not very planned, not useful, need more food, need more facilitated meetings.

Overall findings: many members are not aware that the regional meetings occur, members don’t find the meetings very valuable, want virtual options for meetings, improve promotion of the meetings, make the sessions something people don’t want to miss, many commented that don’t find the meetings very valuable.

Recommendations: clearly define the purpose objectives of the meetings, plan agendas so they meet a purpose, is there a budget for the regional meetings or educational activities, use different way to promote the meetings, better prepare new representatives about the responsibilities for meetings, have meetings available virtually work with county leaders to work with Facebook to get the meeting information out there, create an event on Facebook to invite people to meetings, send out postcards to county coordinators, have meetings available virtually and recorded so they can watch them later, plan an agenda with a business section and a regular section so folks know when to log in to the virtual meeting.

Next steps: host virtual regional planning session, identify topics for upcoming regional meetings, and develop resources to accommodate an agenda, develop and plan to develop a shared agenda, consider hosting a regional fair to promote horse activities, promote the whole program, share information on how to get information so there are opportunities to get that information, work with the university to determine how we could host virtual regional meetings.

Questions: have a session at Winter Round-up about regional meetings, work collectively at that session to plan a future approach to meetings, develop an action plan to improve regional participation, and Jackie and Annie Thayer would help to facilitate the meeting at winter round-up.

Meg Sax recognized Bobbi Knutson-Do program coordinators have the opportunities to attend meetings? Renee stated that no because they can’t affect their paid responsibilities. They are paid hourly and if they attended it would mean that they would have to take days off during the week.

Renee asked the question about having three meetings during the year and they are all day events with seminars and it could be more hands on. They could have a more training based meeting.

Discussion ended.

Meg Sax noted that we need to be more aware of the other things on the 4-H calendar as there was another major 4-H leadership event on the same date as the October meeting.

Dan Dolan commented that he received the message that there are so many meetings, that although they were sure the information was good, they weren't interested in another meeting.
Mark Storm commented that although most of our counties are well informed, there are many other counties that are not very well informed or educated on the 4-H horse program and they don't know what's available.

Meg Sax concurred with Mark in regard to the fact that the North East region is very spread out and that they don't seem to be receiving the information. Hopefully Annie and Jackie's work and survey will help to relieve this problem.

**Jumping and Dressage**

Cindy Larson and her daughter are interested in taking over the Dressage project, as Annette and Annise Montplaisir are stepping down. She has developed a survey to see what interest is out there to know if it is something worth pursuing. Renee has the survey and will send it out to all of the counties. She wanted to be at the meeting today, because she wanted to let the PDC know that she would like input to find out what the process would be to move forward with the Dressage program. Meg Sax asked Renee to share the 4-H Dressage guidelines with Cindy and give her the USEF guidelines. Meg also mentioned that most of the interest will come from a cross over with Pony Club. Meg asked Renee to have that information for the February meeting so we can approve the committee chairperson appointment.

**Rulebook Changes**

Rulebook page #47: Current rule reads Barrels should be white or painted white; if possible, they should be plastic, rubber or have a tire or foam rubber cylinder on top for safety. Proposed change-Barrels should be 55 gallon size and white or painted white. If possible they should be plastic, rubber, or metal. Metal barrels should have a tire or foam rubber cylinder on top for safety.

1. Meg Sax asked for discussion. Dan Dolan amended the rule change to read no metal barrels. It was seconded by Randy Dokken to accept the amendment. Dan Dolan then asked to amend his amendment to read Barrels should be white or painted white and are required to be plastic or rubber no metal.

Meg Sax asked for a vote to approve the amendment and approve the rulebook change.

Motion passed

2. Rulebook Page #48 No current rule defines the type of barrel required. Proposed change – barrels should be 55 gallon in size and white or painted white. If possible they should be plastic, rubber or metal. Metal barrels should have a tire or foam rubber cylinder on top for safety. Meg Sax asked for discussion. Randy Dokken made a motion to amend the rule to remove metal barrels from the proposed change. Kristine Gabrielson seconded the motion.

Meg Sax called for a vote.

Motion passed

3. Rulebook Page #46 Rule 2 Game classes. Current rule states Spurs with moveable rowels are permissible if used behind the cinch; not to be used in excess. Proposed change: Delete
the words with moveable rowels so it would read; spurs are permissible if used behind the cinch; not to be used in excess.

Dan Nolan moved to approve the change.

Kristin Gabrielson 2nd

Meg Sax asked for discussion. Gretchen Sankovitz mentioned the idea of a fixed rowel being in excess. Mark Storm clarified that sometimes a taped spur is fixed.

Meg Sax called for the vote.

Motion passed

4. Rulebook Page #46 proposed addition to the rule. 14) Intentionally dropping of the reins during a timed event constitutes disqualifications. To be enforced from the time the contestant enters the ring until he/she leaves the ring.

Meg Sax asked for discussion. Julianne Quant stated that dropping the reins gives the que to the horse that the run is over and they can relax. Gretchen Sankovitz stated that it could be a cause for a bit of policing and where the line of the disqualification is. Mark Storm commented that usually you drop your reins in relief that the run is over.

Dan Dolan is concerned that different judges will rule differently as to when the reins were dropped. There could be too many versions and interpretations of the rule.

Meg Sax asked for a vote.

Motion Failed

5. Rulebook Page #46 Game classes - Attire, Rule 1. Current rule: Must wear western boots, properly working ASTM/SEI approved headgear, western pants or jeans, belt, dress or western long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled down and fastened. Proposed change: Must wear western boots, ASTM/SEI approved headgear properly worn and fastened, western pants or jeans, belt, dress or western shirt with long sleeves, with the sleeves rolled down and fastened, and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, ect.)

Meg Sax asked for discussion.

Dan Dolan asked about removing the belt and allowing for short sleeves from the rule change because of the danger. The motion dies.

Julianne Quandt amended the motion to just remove the belt. Dan seconded.

Josh Johnson asked why would you want to remove the belt? Julianne stated that this was for only games classes. Josh stated that we can't even make this kind of large amendment without sending this amendment back to the general membership.

Meg Sax asked for a vote.

Motion failed.

Meg Sax asks for a vote on the rule change as it was originally written.
Motion passes.

6. Rulebook Page #33 Western Performance, rule 1. Current rule: Must wear western boots, protective headgear properly worn and fastened, dress or western long sleeved shirt, western pants or jeans, belt. Failure to do so results in disqualification. Proposed change: Must wear western boots, ASTM/SEI approved headgear properly worn and fastened, western pants or jeans, belt, dress or western shirt with long sleeves, with the sleeves rolled down and fastened, and collar (band, standup, tuxedo, ect.). Failure to do so results in disqualification.

Julianne Quant moves to approve change.

Randy Dokken 2nd the motion.

Meg Sax asked for discussion.

Hearing none Meg asks for the vote

Motion passes.

7. Proposed deletion: Delete the Pony Horsemanship Class. This is not a rulebook change. This is a State Horse Show Committee request and the change should be directed to the State Horse Show Committee. No vote was required.

8. Proposed Addition: Add the Pony English Pleasure Class. This is not a rulebook change. This is a State Horse Show Committee request and the change should be directed to the State Horse Show Committee. No vote was required.

9. Rulebook Page 10 Drill Team Activity-General rules. Proposed Clarification: Either you allow a late ID horse or you don’t. Make it clear which way and stick with it. Discussion: Renee stated that this is not a rulebook change. This is a State 4-H policy change request. The State 4-H Horse PDC does not have the authority to make changes on this type of policy. No vote was required.

10. Rulebook change- Proposed change: Could you address the unexpected death of an animal? It should apply to all species. Discussion: Renee stated that this is not a rulebook change. This is a State 4-H policy change request. The State 4-H Horse PDC does not have the authority to make changes on this type of policy. No vote was required.

11. Rulebook page 10-Drill Team Activity-General Rules. Current: 12. A mandatory coaches/team adult representative meeting will be scheduled the morning of the competition. Proposed Change: This is out of place here. Maybe move it to Page 9 as a coach’s note. Discussion: Renee stated that this is not a rulebook change. This is a State Horse Show Committee request and the change should be directed to the State Horse Show Committee. No vote was required.

12. Cloverbud Policy- Cloverbud rule limiting participant to one class. Proposed Change: Cloverbuds in the horse program should be allowed to participate in all events that they wish. Discussion: Renee stated that this is not a rulebook Change. This is a State 4-H policy
change request. The State 4-H Horse Project PDC does not have the authority to make changes on this type of policy. No vote was required.

13. Training Project Rule change: The training book must be signed by the county project leader. If it is incomplete or not signed, they can show and get a score, but are ineligible for placing at the county level only blue, red, or white. Not eligible for Purple, Champion, Reserve Champion, or State Fair trip advancement.

Kristin Gabrielson moved to approve the rule change.

Josh Johnson 2nd.

Discussion: Renee explained that to pass this rule would make it more in line with other livestock deadline and paperwork policies. Meg Sax asked Renee to include this information in her upcoming webinar.

Meg Sax called for the vote.

Motion passes.

After the rule book changes were concluded. There was some discussion to clarify whether or not the State Horse PDC had the ability to amend or change the proposed rule slightly in an attempt to make the rule change clearer, or in the best interest of the entire program. In the past the State PDC Committee was able to make those changes. However, would the best idea be to automatically vote down the change if it's not unanimous and send it back to the general membership with a recommendation to amend for next year?

Mark Storm motioned to automatically send rule change requests back to the general membership to possibly re submit a new change to the proposed rule based on the State Horse PDC recommendations.

Randy Dokken 2nd.

Meg Sax called for a vote.

Motion passed

Facebook Page –

Renee is working on getting the MN State 4-H Horse Project page up and running soon. She clarified that it has to be a page, not a group. The reason it must be a page is because groups are closed and they have to be available to everyone.

April PDC Meeting Date-

Based on the past problems with trying to have a meeting during the MN Horse Expo primarily because most of the PDC is working and volunteering at the Expo, we have decided to move the meeting to May 1st, 2016 at 1 pm at Charlies Café in Freeport MN.

Overview of EHV1 at the State Show and Procedure-
Renee reported some of the statistics from the result of the horse that potentially had EHV1. There were 39 4-H’ers that scratched from the State Horse Show. We refunded $4,600.00 in entries and that included drill team.

**Saddle Seat-**

Renee presented a letter that was sent to her from 4-H parents in regard to allowing the saddle seat horses and riders enter more classes. The request is to allow for the horse and rider combo to be able to also enter into the hunt seat classes. Based on the theory that they are already at the State 4-H Horse Show can they participate in all of the classes they receive a blue in? There was discussion also about how low the numbers of participants has been and that the program has not shown much growth over the past few years. Mark Storm explained the history behind Saddle Seat. It was hard for Saddle Seat horses to receive a trip. So they made an exception to allow them to come if they received a blue in the Saddle Seat classes. Dan Dolan stated that it was also opened up that kids could bring both a regular pleasure or game horse and a saddle seat horse in an attempt to increase numbers. The question was raised that maybe this is a failed program. It was initiated as a trial program, and because it doesn’t seem to grow, should the Saddle Seat program continue?

Meg Sax suggested that more research should be done before any decisions are made at this time. Numbers should be looked at and possibly inquire with the general membership. Meg Sax will also work with Renee to get some solid numbers.

**Coggins Paperwork-**

It was brought to our attention that Coggins paperwork is not being submitted on time and before the county fair shows. Renee explained that it’s hard because Coggins expire at many different times, so they can be good at the May 15th paperwork deadline but expired by their county fair date. It is a training issue with project leaders and county coordinators. Renee will add that to her webinar.

**Quotas-**

Animal Science department would like us to look at our Bonus Trips Program. Should we look at the idea of possibly dividing our trips into two groups: Quality Programming and Quality Performances: 10 for each group. This idea is similar to what is used in the livestock area of 4-H.

Meg Sax asked Renee and Gretchen to work on the bonus trip program and present it at the February meeting.

**Next Meeting Date-**

February 20th, 2016 at Charlies Café in Freeport MN at 11 am.

Meg Sax asked to adjourn the meeting
Josh Johnson moved to adjourn
Danielle Jibben 2nd
Motion passed, meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Sankovitz, Adult Secretary
Danielle Jibbin, Youth Secretary