

**WAHSET District 3
Minutes – February 1st, 2015
Submitted by Susan Holcroft**

Present: Michelle Skillingstad - North Thurston, Cherie Quist – Camas, Gabriele Smith – Camas, Carrie Quist – Camas, Katelynn Daniel – Camas, Angela Colley – Snohomish, Linda Wirth – Hockinson (District Treasurer), Susan Holcroft – Washougal (District Secretary), Grace Holcroft – Washougal, Chanin Holdt (District Chair), Rebecca Cantrell (District Vice-Chair), Katie Surritt – Battle Ground, Kari Espinosa – Snohomish (via Skype), Susan Potter – Castle Rock, Kadena Riggs – Toledo, Chuck Cram – Castle Rock, Cindy Hedge – Castle Rock, Jessica Statham – Battle Ground, Karlyann Espinosa – Snohomish (via Skype), Susan Jones – Vashon (via Skype), Avery Jones – Vashon (via Skype)

15 voting members present

January Minutes

Motion to approve January minutes. Second. Approved.

Treasurers Report (attached)

Meet expense exceeded income, underscoring importance of carrying over money in general fund. More income is expected from some schools.

District 3 paid state for 136 riders and 4 grooms. There were 5 refunds.

Woodland needs to pay six cow fees.

Thank you to Castle Rock for bringing the tractor to the meet. A lot of extra work for them, but saved the district a lot of money.

Motion to accept treasurer's report. Second. Approved.

Old Business

Bridge: Chanin will ask Adam to make a two piece bridge, which is easier to set up and transport. Trying to support Chyma and Jim rather than ask them to do more.

Logo: Report from Rebecca. There will be a double ring with additional teams added to second ring. She will follow up with the artist, and have a draft for review next month. Battle Ground clarified that their name is two separate words.

Suggested fundraiser for scholarship fund: Kadena suggests window decals with logo, knows an affordable source. Rebecca will ask state board if we can do a state logo on stickers also. This would add an affordable option at state meet for souvenirs.

Yearbook: **Action item: all teams, please sell ads!** Deadline is February 27th. Funds go directly to state and helps defray cost of yearbook, which will be \$20. **Action item: Send in team pictures by March 13th.** Seniors info should have been turned in by now. Missing one from Castle Rock and one from Woodland.

Contest for yearbook cover: Has to say WAHSET and stay with color theme. There will be a prize for the winning design. Deadline March 15th. Details on state website.

Scholarship committee: Patty Surratt has volunteered to help with this, we need one more volunteer from our district to select applications for scholarship. This involves reading and scoring applications from other districts, not your own. There is a set score sheet.

Please encourage all athletes to view state website, as there is a lot of good information.

Meet 1 Report

Meet Packets: Judges evaluation forms are all turned in.

Report on Kaylie: The athlete injured at the gate during cows is healing well.

Rebecca: Chanin did an awesome job at her first meet! Saturday was challenging. Rebecca and Chanin believe they can tighten up the timeline. If they had moved drill up, then it would have thrown off timing for judge and spectators coming to attend. It allowed more time for drill riders to prepare their horses. There were pros and cons, but this won't happen next time. Events will begin as soon as the previous one ends.

The chair is very aware that there will be senior recognition after Saturday events at the third meet, and will schedule to allow time.

Suggestion regarding changing order of go so that riders don't have back to back events. Chanin will consider. Any changes will be emailed.

Gate Safety Concerns/ Volunteers for Events: There is a need for clear gate safety rules, as well as descriptions and instructions for scribes and announcers. Sherri Luster volunteered to help with instructing volunteers. Note: Elma's gate is very different from Clark. There is only one gate that slides open and closed, and it latches. **Action item:** Chanin will be sure there is a chain on both gates at Clark next year.

Action item: Request for volunteer instruction sheets with bullet points and outline for each job, explaining expectations, how to keep things flowing, and safety (especially at gates). Chanin will address this.

Action item: Scribes. For events calling for a scribe, two scribes should be recruited from now on. This will allow one to watch and narrate, and one to write, thereby minimizing mistakes as things move quickly. Sherri Luster will help instruct scribes. State chair will send list of scribe notes.

There will be new walkie talkies at the next meet to assist with announcer/judge communication to help things run more smoothly.

Safety: Students should not be working the gates. Ask other teams for help if your team is short of parents for volunteer roles. District chairs will call out parents if it is noted they are not helping.

*****There is a need for more parental support on a regular basis! We have the biggest district in the state. Usually see the same faces helping out.

Warm Up Arena: There will be clear guidelines for riders in warm up arena adjacent to event arena. This is for riders that are in the next event only. There will also be designated guidelines for the extra warm up arena at Elma. There needs to be structured staging to make it safe and accessible for all riders, just not all at once. There was general concern that this be specially addressed for Working Pairs.

Suggestion: Run showmanship and IHOR in small Elma arena simultaneously as other events in main arena. This may be possible in future, but there are logistics regarding judges and riders who may be in simultaneous events.

Meetings at the Meet: Suggestion to organize judges meetings to receive questions event by event, rather than asking for general questions. It was difficult for some to hear in the judges meeting because of students side chatter in the back. More adults managing this would be helpful.

Suggestion: Hold a meeting for parents with district chair at meet to clarify volunteer roles or ask questions (especially helpful for new parents). And have check in's throughout the meet with parents about what's going on.

Tractor Rakes: Can district afford ATV with rake? May make events run faster than with large tractor. May be able to use at least with barrels, though other events may require full rake. Elma works with us to extend and adjust hours for tractor rake more than Clark. Also ground at Elma is better. Request that rakes are announced beforehand so kids know they will have extra time.

Grand entry: Request to run in other direction. Note: one gate at Elma.

Question: Can there be more than one rider with school flags? No, for safety, one school flag per team, plus district flag group.

Performance: Question regarding pants for working pairs. They have to be jeans, which can be any color, or appropriate English pants. Costuming the rider is not allowed. Jeans can be colored but not decorated.

Some equipment like the brush box, may be new to horses. Suggested to set up equipment in open ride time so that horses can see them before the event. Lope poles would also be helpful.

Chanin says to tell kids they were lucky, this judge missed a lot. Using two hands, bits, etc. Need to tighten things up for Meet 2.

Announcers: When you see the scribe put down the paper, then announce next rider. Wait until they are done writing! There will be walkie talkies to help with this. Please don't have extra people in the announcers booth. Can't have chatting!

Music for pairs and drill: Please get free download "audacity" which will loop music, preventing premature ending. Download track three times if needed for length of performance and it will merge it.

Music for Gaming: Each team asked to send a one hour track of music to Rebecca. Run a playlist that can upload to computer. Be sure to check appropriate content and language.

Gate sheets: Please double check gate sheets so riders are on time. Chanin will send them out again. First meet she was allowing some to slide. This meet, riders will be dropped if they don't show.

If you must scratch at gate, please have rider go in to arena and walk out other gate for clarity.

Concern regarding the need for more help with barrels. North Thurston volunteered to work barrels, Battle Ground will do reigning. Thank you, North Thurston!

Action item: **Everyone help with set up and tear down for sorting. All teams!** Castle rock in charge of timing and announcing. Snohomish is learning. **Everyone else, all hands on deck!**

There was an issue with athlete numbers not visible. Some riders have numbers low on their shirts that are not visible when tucked into pants.

Office: Athletes and parents, please honor the chain of command! Don't go to the office! Go through your coach for questions and concerns. No one should be asking the office when scores will post!!

The Caught Ya's were popular, and Washougal will organize this again for M2.

Goody bags – there were extras, please pick up in the office if any new riders on your team didn't get them (includes freshman riders and older riders who are new to WAHSET this year).

Office help needed: Need 2 people to enter scores into computer! This is a great way to offer support to our district team. Need computer skills. This will really help Chanin to be more available to deal with other things as they arise.

Cows: Pat attended to discuss issues with cows.

At each venue, it is important to school the cows, don't keep the cows where the roping boxes are. Keep the cows where home is. Also, run them down and show them where the outgate is. Run them as a group first, half at a time, then threes or twos. Pat will make changes at the next meet to be sure this is done correctly.

Next year at Clark – we will not be running cows in the direction we did. We will definitely run them the other way.

It took a long time to set up for this meet. Chanin will tighten it up. At the next meet, our cow and gaming chair will be there with a judge to oversee.

¾ line. Concern re safety. Suggest pull up line 40 feet from arena. Many other entities have ¾ line. Maybe can have a safety line, can't call it a no time line. Need to research to be sure we do it correctly. District 6 will have a ¾ line in some capacity. Rebecca says proceed cautiously. There was an issue in the past where riders were disqualified mistakenly because of confusion.

Pat: there is not a rodeo association that doesn't have a gate open for daubing. Animals run through. Rebecca says standards of practice not clearly defined in our rules.

Chanin, checked the $\frac{3}{4}$ line will be used. You will NOT get DQed if you pass it. It is for safety only.

There were questions regarding breakaways zig-zagging. Kids are coming out on right side and not crossing over. They are pushing the calf to the left and crossing behind and pushing back to right. It's not the calves. The calves were all seasoned at rodeo. Don't rope the calves from under the horses neck. Come out and get on left side of cow immediately. In rodeos there is a hazer for daubing that keeps the cow running straight. The rumor going through was that the cows had never been run. This was not true.

That pen of cattle were the tie down calves at pro rodeos and breakaways for junior rodeos. Pat suggests that athletes are not practicing enough. They are not roping correctly. If they show up and don't know what they are doing, they will be called on it.

Chanin will attend district 6 meet in February. She may run things a bit differently after she gets some ideas for cattle and timing system.

Is there a rule that a horse has to face forward? Yes. Most of our riders do well with this.

Suggestion: Make a laminated copy of rules for each event and have them visible at event. Every coach should also have one.

A big thank you to Pat. If you have cow questions, please ask Pat. He is willing to make changes as needed.

Meet 2

Action item: Stalls, camping and event lists are due on February 8th!!!!

Schedule for M2 will be the same as M1. Will add hunt seat on Thursday night after drill practice. Will have to set up cows after. Time will be under discussion, looking at options.

Arrival time at Elma is noon. Camping first come first serve!! OK to bring campers in the night before if willing to pay.

If you have handicapped needs, then let Chanin know.

Bulk shavings will be provided. Stall fees will remain the same to cover the cost.

Some areas may have tack rooms, but won't know until stall requests are in. There will be no room for trailers near the barn.

Other Business

Scholarship Fund: Sierra Breeze Photography donated \$100. Question: put in general fund or scholarship? Motion to put in scholarship fund. Second. Approved.

Question: basket or cash more desirable for Meet 3 fundraiser? This will be at each team's discretion. Noted that the baskets are not raising as much as they are worth. Each time can either provide a basket or donate \$5 per rider.

2016 Venues: Chanin is working on obtaining a later date for Clark County next year. They are bending a little. Checking with other's scheduled to see if the schedule can shift.

Tacoma/Spanaway has new management. Repainted and repaired barns, and new footing. Everything is cleaned up. A lot has changed. Bigger warm up arena, and outdoor arena. Suggested that use of other arenas would have to be written into contract. Length of arena is an issue, but with better footing it is better. It is short for cows and some patterns. Other concern that horses can't see each other in stalls. Rebecca suggests that if we go back there, it not be for the final meet. The benefit would be moving dates back so that meets would be in February, March, April. Most don't want to eliminate Clark. One suggestion would be to have Clark in February if possible, Spanaway in March, Elma in April.

Performance event: Gabi from Camas suggests adding another class, with a lower jumping height as a stepping stone for work toward higher levels. Rebecca and Chanin will work with her to go through channels.

District Size: Rebecca is working with state on a balanced redistricting. There is another potential change for our district next year, due to issues with the increased numbers of riders. Some districts have 102. We have 140. None are under 100 on the west side.

State awards: Ideas for adding awards for state? Now there are medals for high point individual performance and gaming rider,s and high point small, medium, and large teams. Buckles, halters and trophies have been awarded in the past. This year, jackets? More ideas?

Motion to adjourn. Second. Approved.