

Maine Equine Welfare Coalition

Meeting #3

May 19, 2010

6:30pm at the Farm Bureau Office, Augusta

22 in attendance at Office, approximately 3 attendees via conference call

Meeting Minutes:

- Michelle Melaragno graciously agreed to chair the third meeting of the Coalition. She led introductions around the room and conference call attendees and reiterated the basic ground rules of our group.
- The minutes from the April meeting were discussed, with one change made. On the mission statement discussion, the words "and other equids" were included to fully represent our discussion on using the word Equine in the mission statement to be as inclusive as possible. Minutes were then accepted by majority vote.
- Michelle Reported out that the Group Structure Subcommittee has not yet had the opportunity to meet. The group plans to meet as soon as possible and will present their ideas and proposals to the full Coalition at the June 16th meeting. The subgroup will also focus on getting a treasurer into place as quickly as possible.
- The group held a brief discussion on an interim chair person, to fill the role until annual meetings have been established and we hold our first one, with election of new officers. Potential names suggested were Janelle Tirrell, Michelle Melaragno and Missy Libby. Since attendance was lower at this meeting, it was agreed that we use a new survey to gather more nominees from other interested individuals, with further discussion and voting at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- We next had a discussion on the formal name of our group. Many agreed that the current working name has a lot of recognition already. Others had suggestions for how to tweak that name to make it representative of our work and as inclusive as possible. The group decided to give one more opportunity for feedback on this issue as well, so name can be suggested in the survey and we will have further discussion at the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Most of the meeting was spent in a brainstorming session for subcommittee tasks. The survey also has space for additional subcommittee task suggestions, which will all be reviewed, tweaked and prioritized starting at the June meeting. The brainstormed tasks were as follows:

<p><u>Public Awareness and Education</u></p> <p>Review currently available info and identify voids</p> <p>Provide access to currently available info</p> <p>Explore media options- public access channel, events, fairs, trainings</p> <p>Work on publications- website, brochure</p> <p>Obtain advertising space- Blue Seal stores, Tractor Supply Company, shelters, etc...</p> <p>Create educational courses and host trainings</p> <p>Outreach to parents- 4-H clubs, Pony Clubs, girl scouts, etc...</p> <p>Outreach to kids camps with educational material</p> <p>Educate non-horse people, neighbors, friends</p> <p>Collaborate with shelters and learn about their experiences</p> <p>Create and maintain a speakers bureau</p> <p>Create and spread the word with sign-up sheets to get involved</p>	<p><u>Political Action and Legal Issues</u></p> <p>Work on liability issues as encountered in subcommittees' work</p> <p>Work with all other subcommittees to resolve any legal issues</p> <p>Work with other agencies/organizations to influence state-wide policy</p> <p>Provide assistance in appropriate manner on "incorrigibles" who do not accept education</p> <p>Monitor and influence legislative bills and actions</p> <p>Prepare and present appropriate bill testimony</p> <p>Identify designated spokesperson for group as a whole- Public Information Officer</p> <p>Develop standards of record-keeping</p> <p>Document the work of the Coalition</p>
<p><u>Veterinary and Farrier Assistance</u></p> <p>Create and maintain statewide list of equine vets and farriers</p> <p>Include practice specialties on listing- i.e mules, lameness, hoof care etc...</p> <p>Present Coalition plans/activities to Maine Veterinary Medical Association and increase collaboration</p> <p>Establish guidelines and implement various low-cost clinics – i.e. gelding, vaccines etc...</p>	<p><u>Resources</u></p> <p>Create and maintain list of transportation resources- i.e. available trailers and drivers</p> <p>Discuss liability issues with Legal subcommittee</p> <p>Create network based on geographical issues, willingness to travel etc...</p> <p>Trailer Driving 101 class- work with Public Education subcommittee</p> <p>Create and maintain a general resource guide with</p>

<p>Compile list of carcass disposal options</p>	<p>info from multiple subcommittees</p> <p>Create standards for volunteer transporters, clinic volunteers etc...</p>
<p><u>Hay and Feed Assistance</u></p> <p>Communicate with hay/feed distributors</p> <p>Host hay drives or work with kids club to do drives for us</p> <p>Research hay voucher program to avoid long term storage needs</p> <p>Work with Resources subcommittee to identify hay transport resources</p> <p>Establish protocols and guidelines for who can receive assistance and to make sure the hay goes to horses in need</p> <p>Work with grain distributors to establish discounts</p> <p>Set parameters for providing assistance- how much, how long, etc...</p> <p>MOUs with feed distributors, work with County Animal Response Teams?</p> <p>Work with Cooperative Extension and other existing hay bank resources</p>	<p><u>Temporary Rescue and Foster Care</u></p> <p>Locate and maintain list of available stalls and foster homes</p> <p>Creation of foster home application</p> <p>Creation of screening criteria for accepted foster homes- using state required minimums</p> <p>Crossover with other subcommittees for supplies</p> <p>Identify and create network of qualified assessors who can assess horse and situation to determine needs</p> <p>Create training for potential foster homes</p> <p>Establish protocols for post foster home options, permanent placement, long term foster, etc...</p> <p>Work with Legal subcommittee on ownership issues, transfer, liability</p> <p>Create foster contract forms</p> <p>Discussion of how much done internally- ie taking ownership of horses- or do we simply provide resources and people have to do the legwork on their own</p>

- We then briefly discussed the issue of creating a website. The UMaine Cooperative Extension is currently maintaining a page for us- thank you, Donna! Please brainstorm any equine loving people you know who may be able to donate time/resources to create and maintain a website.

- The idea to have an available contact info roster was put forward. I will create the roster after checking in with every to see if there is any info that should not be made public.

- The last issue discussed was meeting time/location. Donna has included questions about this in our new survey- please fill it out and indicate which days/times/locations work well for you. We want the meetings to be as accessible as possible. The microphone/conference call option seemed to work well. Other possibilities are online Skype or utilizing remote locations such as high schools with video conferencing capabilities.
- The next meeting will be June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Farm Bureau Office. Please help spread the word about the group. We need robust attendance in order to accomplish the tasks we have identified.
- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lisnik

- **Donna Coffin, with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension has created an interim webpage where we can post minutes, contact info etc. It is available at**

**<http://extension.umaine.edu/livestock/equine/mhwc/>**

- **There is also a short online survey there. Please answer the few questions about subcommittees and how you prefer to be active in regards to meetings.**

**<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2wlfogyag9fntyns/start>**