

Maine Equine Welfare Coalition

Meeting #4

June 16, 2010

6:30pm at the Farm Bureau Office, Augusta

22 in attendance at Office, no attendees via conference call

Meeting Minutes:

- Michelle Melaragno graciously agreed to chair the fourth meeting of the Coalition. She led introductions around the room and reiterated the basic ground rules of our group. She also addressed the issue of inappropriate comments being made at meetings- and asked that we all be mindful of what we say. Comments, ideas, and suggestions are welcome, but as in any group, people interpret things differently- so let's keep our ideas positive and forward thinking for the horses! Above all, we want to be perceived as a professional and positive group- we will accomplish much more that way.

- The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and accepted by majority vote.

- The attendees then discussed and voted on the formal name for our group. Various names had been suggested and on the most recent survey, the majority of people voted for Maine Equine Welfare Alliance. We had discussion on the words alliance versus coalition, and debated whether or not to include the word "health" in the name. Many noted the need to keep the name short, easy to say and recognize and the importance of the acronym. By unanimous vote, the name **Maine Equine Welfare Alliance or MEWA** was accepted.

- Michelle, Missy and Melanie then presented the recommendations of the Structure Subcommittee. The recommendations are as follows:

- Board of Directors – consist of sub-committee chairs (6) + 3 at large
- Board/membership elected chair & co-chair
- Treasurer & Secretary – volunteers from board
- Board meets quarterly
- Sub-committees meet monthly or bi-monthly
- Entire group – meets twice yearly
- Sub-committee chairs elected by sub com members; must understand board appointment

- Responsible for organizing sub-com meetings, submit mtg notes to board/chair, assistance requests

#### At Large Board Members (3)

- Required to obtain 5 signatures/recommendations from general membership
- Best way to assure regional representation = encourage board & sub-committee participation

#### Term Rotations

- 3 for 3 years
- 3 for 2 years
- 3 at large for 1 year
- Miss three unexcused consecutive board meetings = excused from board

#### Other considerations

\*By laws should be in place prior to Board

\*Code of Ethics addressed by Board

\*Board chair votes only to break tie

#### Five levels of membership

- \$10 Individual
- \$25 Family
- \$50 Bronze Show Walk
- \$100 Silver Place Trot
- \$250 Gold Win Canter

- Discussion and voted was held for each section of the proposed structure. All recommendations with some minor modifications were unanimously accepted by the group and the new structure will be set into a basic bylaw document. Discussion stressed the importance of voting in subcommittee chairs who have the time, energy and passion to put the needed effort in.

- During discussion on membership levels, it was voted unanimously that membership will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. People wishing to become voting members should have their dues in to Jon Olson of the

Maine Farm Bureau by the next meeting. Checks can be made payable to the Maine Equine Welfare alliance.

- The issue of Chair then was discussed and approved- With a term beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup> for 2010, and the initial term will be 15 months. This will bring us to October 2011 for our next terms to begin- to keep us away from summer start terms, which are difficult for many people to participate in. Michelle Melaragno was nominated, seconded and voted in as our first official Chairperson. Congratulations, Michelle! She will work with the Board, as it comes into being, to have a co-chair who can assist with planning and execution of duties.

- Website discussion was held- The Resources subcommittee and public awareness subcommittee will work together on this issue. Remember to include this topic during the July breakout work sessions.

- The next meeting will be July 14<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. July will focus on subcommittee work- so if you want to have a say on a subcommittee- please attend! August meeting has also been set for 8/18/2010 at the Farm Bureau Office at 6:30pm.

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.

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://bit.ly/MaineEquineWelfareAlliance>

- 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/a07e2wlfogag9fntyns/start>