



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

132A South Ludington Street, Columbus, WI 53925-1516

Tel: 920-623-0393 · Fax: 920-623-0583

Email: info@wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org

Website: <http://www.wisconsinstatehorsecouncil.org>

April 16, 2004

WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL TRAIL COMMITTEE'S LIAISON PROGRAM

The WSHC is dedicated to preserving areas open to equestrians, and protecting the rights of horse owners throughout the state. Thus the Trail Committee (TC) of the WSHC has developed a liaison program to support this effort. But, in order to do this, we need the assistance of "locals" like yourself to help with issues directly impacting equestrian use and ownership in your area. The TC is leading this effort by providing guidance and a communication network of individuals and groups working together towards common goals.

About the WSHC Trail Committee

The TC meets at the WSHC office on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. This is a general meeting in which members of sub-committees (ie Trail Guide, Grants, Booth at Midwest Horse Fair, etc.) report their progress, resolve important issues, and make plans for future programs. The TC also tracks trail developments, improvements, and maintenance as it comes to our attention. However, this is where we need help. Assistance is needed to identify issues throughout the state so we can help prevent trail closures, participate in the planning process on the development of new horse trails, or voice our opinion on local zoning issues adversely impacting horse owners.

The following is a general overview of the liaison program. Since we are just getting started, this program may be modified as the program progresses depending upon the issues.

Program Guidelines

1. Open to all parties interested in protecting areas for equestrian use and the rights of horse owners. Liaisons do not have to be members of the WSHC. (Although membership with the WSHC entitles members to additional services such as lobbyist referrals, trail grants, etc.)
2. Liaisons are not obligated to attend Trail Committee meetings, as travel distances will likely be an issue. However, liaisons are always welcome at these meetings whenever it is convenient and/or conducive for them.

Liaison Responsibilities:

1. **Provide a level of assistance you are comfortable with. While this list includes a variety of items that could be assumed by a liaison, we understand the personal demands on your time and ask only of you what you are able to commit to. No judgements will be made regarding your time commitment or choice of activities.**
2. Assist in gaining support in your part of the state, working to protect all areas open to equestrians, while working to develop additional areas including sharing areas with other trail users. This support can be solicited from all interested parties including individuals, existing saddle, driving, horse, mule, 4-H, trail clubs, snowmobile clubs, etc.
3. Assist in gaining support in your area to protect the rights of horse owners. Attend, or recruit others to attend, town or county meetings whenever possible as a representative of equestrians, and update the TC and/or members of the liaison program as needed.
4. Communicate with individuals, associations, and/or other user groups by appropriate method (ie email, phone calls, presentations at meetings, snail mail, newsletter or newspaper articles). Or, provide the information to a TC member so they can make contact on your behalf.
5. Send and/or respond to “calls to action” for troubled areas within the state, joining forces with others to create a large representation of equestrian views.

WSHC Trail Committee Responsibilities

1. Communicate with liaisons on a regular basis, identifying issues, sending out calls to action, providing guidance and helpful hints in dealing with political issues, and/or working with town or county boards, other user groups, and land managers, etc.
2. Develop and communicate the network contact information and geographic areas of liaison committee members so liaisons can contact them regarding issues as they happen in their home area.
3. Publish statewide articles and communicate with horse club members promoting the liaison program aimed at recruiting volunteers and informing the general public of our program’s successes.
4. Develop a start up guide to assist in the formation of local trail advocacy groups to include contact info for liability insurance, tax status, how to obtain a federal tax id number, examples of bylaws, etc.
5. Visit statewide areas to meet with the ”locals” and help guide them in their efforts.

Don’t know where to go from here?

Here are some tips:

- Find out the issues regarding zoning restrictions for horses in your town or county. Contact horse property owners, or members of your local town or county board, and personnel with the DNR or County Parks Departments.

- Do you know who your state representatives are? You may need to contact them in the future via email or mail or telephone when responding to calls of action. Not sure how to find out who they are? You can search on-line by accessing one of the following websites:
<http://www.house.gov/>
<http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/government.html>
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/waml/>
or by calling Washington DC at (202)224-3121.
- Interested in writing an article for local newspapers? Check for publication listings on-line at <http://www.statehousegirls.net/wi/newspapers/>, or check the yellow pages in your local telephone book.
- Interested in writing articles for statewide publication regarding your local issue or trails in your area? Contact Joann Schill or Tommy Thompson for more information. Their contact info is listed below.
- Interested in helping staff the Trail Committee booth at the Caroline Colorama Organized Trail Ride in October? Contact Tommy Thompson for more information.

We look forward to working with you in the near future on protecting our rights as horse owners throughout Wisconsin, for now and for generations to come!

Sincerely,
Wisconsin State Horse Council Trails Committee

Trail Committee Contact	County	Telephone #	Email	Mailing Address
Marsha Cooper, Trail Committee Chair	Dane	608-835-5697	coopm@chorus.net	571 Union Road Brooklyn 53521
Tommy Thompson, Liaison Program Leader	Outagamie	920-733-6697	tthompson6@new.rr.com	N3341 Hwy C Appleton 54913-8979
Mike & Joann Schill Liaison Prgm Coordinators	Fond du Lac	920-477-5782	schill@dotnet.com	W4249 Hwy F Campbellsport 53010
Ken Carpenter	Jefferson	608-576-4104	nails21@charter.net	W9426 Hwy 12 Cambridge 53523
Dave Dewey	Dane	608-877-4798	ddewey_1@msn.com	4046 Vic Anderson Rd Oregon 53575
Mary Foster	Dane	608-655-3485	horsecorner@jvl.net.com	5532 Ridge Road Marshall 53559
Maury Mertz	LaCrosse	608-781-3005	buddysrider@aol.com	N5445 Aspen Road Onalaska, 54650