

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
June/July 2016

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- NETC planning and conference
- Mason Point Trail layout
- American Horse Council Meeting
- Trail Challenge
- Outdoor Cultural Resource Committee Meetings
- Legislative Breakfast and meetings
- Site visit to possible new equestrian trail/destination
- NC Lab Advisory Group Meeting

DISCUSSION:

The North Carolina Horse Council was heavily engaged during the month of June in completing the planning for the National Equestrian Trails Conference. Final marketing materials were developed, sponsorships were completed, conference materials were ordered and the final arrangements for speakers were completed. All contracts were reviewed and amended to reflect the final conference registration numbers. On July 7th, NETC Planning Committee members were welcomed to Raleigh and the registration materials were made ready for the following day. Seventy participants arrived from all across the country to attend. Thanks to the help of the planning committee, NCHC staff and members of the NCHC Board of Directors, the conference went off without a "hitch". The NETC Planning Committee and Board of Directors began planning for the 2017 conference immediately after the close of the 2016 session. The NCHC will remain in an advisory capacity to the NETC Board.

The American Horse Council annual issues forum and the June meeting of the Coalition of State Horse Councils was held in Washington, DC. Jay Hickey announced his retirement at this meeting and the new Executive Director was introduced. The Coalition of State Horse Councils held a brief business meeting and adjourned to attend the many AHC committee meetings that were being held concurrently. Coalition members reassembled to report back on the AHC committee meetings. The Fall Coalition of State Horse Council meeting will be held in Kansas.

Trail issues during these two summer months included an initial site visit to the Mason Point Trail. Early flagging and preparation for continued work has begun. We anticipate a Memorandum of Understanding will be developed and a trail user/maintenance group formed or identified to continue to move the project forward. In addition, our NCHC trail challenge series held a competition at Nifong Acres.

Two Outdoor Cultural Resource Committee meetings were held during this time period. The initial meeting of the Committee included the swearing in of members and comments from the Governor and several other legislators. The Committee is charged with increasing outdoor activities for our youth and improving access to our public lands.

Finally, the NCHC was invited to be part of the new State Laboratory Advisory Committee. This group will be challenged to assist in designing a new laboratory system which combines all state labs. This will be a one of a kind facility in the United States.