

Executive Director's Report  
August, 2016

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- North Carolina Farm Bureau's Policy Review Day
- NC Lab Study
- Trail Challenge Series
- Watershed meeting and Pasture Point Review Structure
- Marketing video for the NCHC
- State Fair Planning
- Trail Horse Challenge

DISCUSSION:

Summer is heating up! The North Carolina Horse Council wrapped up the National Equestrian Trails Conference and moved rapidly into planning for the NC State Fair. This years' Fair will only include the Alley of Breeds and the Five Minute Lessons. Work is underway to encourage our major breed associations to participate either with a horse, representatives to occupy their breed booth or supply materials for the event. Multiple trainers have been identified to provide the Five Minute Lessons. In addition, we are working on marketing the "back stage" tours to youth groups across the state. The Hunt for the Red Horse Shoe will once again be conducted and a daily prize awarded. We are looking for Board volunteers to come help out and enjoy our NC State Fair.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture has taken on their largest building project in history. All five state laboratories will be brought to a single campus. Dr. Meckes, the NC State Veterinarian, invited the NCHC to sit on the advisory committee for the planning of the veterinary division lab. The NCHC will take the lead in pulling together veterinarians from across the state to identify what tests are needed and if there is a special "niche" testing idea that might be possible to set North Carolina up as a leader in the country.

The Watershed Oversight Committees (WOC) from Jordan and Falls Lakes met to discuss the new accounting system for pasture points. This was the official meeting of the Falls Lake WOC and they voted to approve the new accounting system. The Jordan WOC will meet in October to vote on the new system.

Cushing Media filmed several short video's promoting the NCHC. These videos will be used during the NC State Fair. Several breed video's will also be produced.

Additionally, the NCHC worked on our beginning agenda for the 2017 Legislative Session. Meetings with John Cooper and Jackson Stancil were held to discuss our industry needs. Senator Brent Jackson has also inquired as to our needs. Several items have been identified, including changes to the Flora Faunta Bill to include horseback riding, improving equine farms access to liability insurance and improved cooperation and access to public lands.

Other work areas during the month included beginning development of the referendum materials, annual membership meeting materials and working to complete our new website. Finally, another successful trail challenge was held at ValHalla Stables in Lumber Bridge. The group that sponsored the event did an excellent job of creating a challenging course for participants.