

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
January, 2016

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Legislative Appointments and meetings
- NETC Planning
- Wildlife Resource Master Plan for additional equine trails
- Health and Welfare Committee Meeting
- Marketing Committee Meeting
- Retirement celebration for Mickey Gregory
- Fundraiser for Senator Brent Jackson
- Presentation to the Girl Scouts of America and Certified Horsemen Instructors
- Trail Judges Training
- Ms. Rodeo North Carolina
- Hunt Horse Complex meet and discuss off show date usage of the facility
- Lumberton Stall Project

DISCUSSION:

The New Year began with some wonderful legislative appointments to committees impacting our equine community. Governor Pat Mc Crory appointed the NCHC Executive Director to a three year term on the Outdoor Cultural Resource Board. This group will be looking at youth involvement in outdoor activities and increasing the public's access to recreational land. Both of these issues are strong concerns of the North Carolina Horse Council. In addition, Speaker of the House, Tim Moore, appointed the NCHC Executive Director to a one year term on the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Committee. This group looks at policy and regulations which impact these two industries and helps direct legislation which will positively impact them. Once again, this is of special interest to the NCHC as we work to grow our relationship within the Agriculture and Forestry Industry. The Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Committee held its first meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>. As a result of these appointments, the NCHC Executive Director was asked to sit on the master planning committee for the Wildlife Resource Commission. This group will be working on a newly acquired piece of property in the eastern part of our state. For the first time, the NCHC will be at the table from the beginning and not just asked to review the plan after it has been submitted. This is progress! In the legislative arena, the NCHC was represented at a fundraiser for Senator Brent Jackson. Senator Jackson continues to be a good friend the equine community.

Planning for the National Equestrian Trails Conference is in full swing. The hotel contract has been signed and a web design and social media expert has been contracted with to provide conference services. The logo and save the date information should be available by the first of February. In addition, one major grant has been submitted to the National Highway Safety Fund and a second grant for RTP funding is in the final stages of completion. A conference

theme and program have been approved and several speakers have been contacted to present. The conference theme is: Equestrian Trails; Investing in our future...working together...stronger than ever! This is shaping up to be a great event.

The Marketing and Health and Welfare Committees have both held meetings during this month. The Health and Welfare Committee will be working towards improving health information available to the equine community, highlighting our equine veterinarians and beginning the process of establishing a state-wide hay bank. The Marketing Committee will continue to work on the Youth of the Month Program as well as increasing our visibility via our social media presence.

Representatives from the NCHC attended a retirement party for Mickey Gregory of the Lumberton Office of Travel and Tourism. Mickey has been extremely supportive of the equine industry providing multiple travel and tourism grants to support the development of stalls at the Southeastern Agriculture Event Center. She will be missed. Regarding the Lumberton Stalls, the project is moving forward with several vendors bidding on their construction. There is a short fall of money to build the stalls and this is currently being addressed.

Several meetings and presentations were held at the end of the month. The Judges Training Clinic was held in Lumberton in conjunction with the Ms. Rodeo of North Carolina Contest. Jim Thomas provided the training and multiple riders participated to give our new judges a chance to practice.

The NCHC was asked to make a presentation at a Certified Horsemen's Continuing Education Clinic. This event was attended by over 65 riding instructors, therapeutic riding centers and Girl Scout leaders, informing them about what the Horse Council does and enlisting them to work with us as we grow stronger.

Finally, the NCDA&CS held a discussion at the Hunt Horse Complex regarding opening up the facility for daily rentals when not rented to a show or other vendor. This would be similar to what is already occurring at the other Agricultural Centers.