UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Minnesota State 4-H Horse PDC Meeting Minutes

Regional Extension Office, St. Cloud, MN
February 14, 2026

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Youth Chair Clara Thompson at 11:11 a.m. on February 14, 2026.
   Committee Members present:
   NW: Michelle Brendemuhl (Adult), Jodi McKibben (Adult), Jacqueline Brendemuhl, Lydia Raguse
   NE: Meg Sax (Adult), Genny Reynolds (Adult),Nicole Thoeny (Youth), Michelle Reynolds (Youth)
   SW: Stacy Posthuma (Adult), Caleb Johnson (Adult), Sophia Goblish (Youth),
   SE: Alena Skinner (Youth), Clara Thompson (Youth), Jolene Brandenburg (Adult), Jenny Eilerman (Adult),
   Central: Melanie Aucapina (Adult), Frances Geurts (Youth), Audrey Frenchick (Youth)
   Committee Members absent: Bob Sansevere (Adult), Aralia Ruby (Youth)
   Extension staff present: Renee Kostick
   Guests: Patty Floden, Laurie Nelson, Libby Mckeum, Madeline Brendemuhl, Michael Goblish, Abigail Goblish, Kathy Johnson
2. **Secretary's Report:** Meg Sax stated that the minutes were emailed out to the PDC members. Stacey Posthuma made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Nicole Thoeny seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
3. **Financial Report:** Renee Kostick reviewed the financial reports. There were 2 financial reports because of our fiscal year: one for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, and the other July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Renee stated that the work on the Tabulation software has been completed and tested. That expense was included in the 2024 -2025 financial report instead of the 2025-2026 Budget. Caleb Johnson made the motion to approve the financial report as presented, seconded by Nicole Thoeny, and the motion carried. The Quasi Endowment funds as of February 3, 2026, are now in the financial report. Meg Sax asked about the Demand Fund – State Show Awards. Renee stated that this is the account for the Class sponsorships that we have for the State 4-H Horse Show. Renee explained the Quasi-Endowment funds and positive and negative account funds.
4. **Old Business:**
   a. Win A Horse Program – Renee Kostick that there was a concern about the budget for this program. Patty Floden was present and explained the Win A Paint Horse program. Until three years ago the horse was a donation from a breeder, it had become difficult to get donations of horses and it became necessary to purchase a quality colt. Approximately 20 youth apply for the horse each year that are then narrowed to 10 youth who are interviewed by the breeder donating the colt. The program is tied to the Horse Training Program. Stacy Posthuma said this was an educational and training experience for the 4-H youth. Michelle Brendemuhl stated that she had been on the committee that has reviewed the applications in the past and it was worthwhile. Caleb Johnson and Meg Sax stated that this is one way to grow the 4-H Horse project. Clara Thompson shared that responsibilities were good for this project. Stacy Posthuma asked the committee

members if there were any objections to the program. Michelle Brendemuhl made a motion to keep the Win A Horse program, Jodi McKibben seconded and the motion carried.

b. Shirt sales: Alena Skinner reported that the committee members met on Thursday and are finalizing the shirt design. Alena described the design for the committee and is looking to complete this at their next meeting.

c. EWD Expansion – Alena Skinner and Clara Thompson reviewed the updates for the Equestrians with Disabilities (EWD) program handouts. The Accommodation form has been developed and they are waiting for the University of MN Minnesota 4-H Equestrian Permanent Disability legal department to approve. The proposed program was updated by adding Showmanship classes with appropriate names. Clara Thompson shared that at our last meeting there were cross-entering concerns between EWD and regular horse show classes. The committee discussed this and are recommending that no cross-entering not be allowed. Stacy Posthuma made a motion to change the names of the classes to the recommended class names from the committee, Jacqui Brendemuhl seconded and the motion carried. Clara requested that the special needs wording be removed and updated to the new EWD wording, Caleb Johnson made a motion to remove the special needs wording and update the wording. Nicole Thoeny seconded and the motion carried. Michelle Brendemuhl made a motion to add the Minnesota 4-H Equestrian Permanent Disability Accommodation form, Nicole Thoeny seconded and the motion carried. Jacqui Brendemuhl made a motion to approve implementing the EWD program to the traditional classes, Nicole Thoeny seconded and the motion carried. Stacy Posthuma made a motion to add showmanship classes with walk and removing the quarters system for showing and trotting, Lydia Raguse seconded and the motion carried. Michelle Brendemuhl made a motion to change the EWD program as approved, Lydia Raguse seconded and the motion carried. Jolene Brandenburg stated that Clara Thompson and Alena Skinner had done a fantastic job in developing this program. Stacy Posthuma made a motion to add a website page for the EWD program, Jodi McKibben seconded and the motion carried. Caleb Johnson had a question about using the EWD program at the county level. Alena Skinner explained that the Accommodation form will be given to the judges prior to classes. These will be a qualifying class at the county level. Kathy Johnson suggested making a video about the program. Alena and Clara have a slide show regarding the EWD program. Other suggestions include developing an implementation guide for extension staff and counties offering training or zoom sessions. Alena and Clara will meet with Renee Kostick to develop a plan. Renee Kostick shared the challenges with the 4-H Horse Project website and making updates.

d. Regional Meetings – This will be covered in the State 4-H Horse PDC Bylaws Proposed Changes.

e. Bylaws Review - The issue surrounding allowing 8th graders will be examined by the Bylaws Committee. Meg Sax reported that the Bylaws Committee had communicated via emails on proposed updates to the PDC Bylaws since there was only 1 response about proposed changes. Meg Sax asked the group to follow along with the bylaws regarding the recommended changes. There are not many proposed changes. There was a discussion on the PDC Application. The eligibility was changed at the November 2025 PDC meeting, but it was recommended that the deadline date on the application be changed to October Regional meeting.

    i. Article III-The first request was if the location listed in Article III needed to be updated. Renee Kostick checked on that during the meeting and stated that it did not need to be changed.

ii. Article IV, Section 1 – In the regions, The Extension Regions need to be updated to move Chisago and Isanti counties to the Northeast Region from the Central Region as the State Extension regions had been changed and the bylaws need to reflect those changes. Genny Reynolds made a motion to move Chisago and Isanti Counties to the Northeast Region, Michelle Brendemuhl seconded the motion carried.

iii. Article IV, Section 3 – Election and term of office. Meg Sax shared that the adult representatives can serve 3 consecutive two-year terms for a possible length of 6 years, however currently the youth can serve a maximum of 3 one-year terms for a possible length of 3 years and we should reevaluate this difference. After discussion, Caleb Johnson made a motion that the bylaws be changed to Region youth representatives shall be allowed to stand for election for a maximum of 4 one (1) year terms with the caveat that if there is no youth or adult as a PDC candidate that the current youth or adult can have an extension of a one year term. Sophia Goblish seconded and the motion carried.

iv. Article IV, Section 3 – Election and terms of office. The Bylaws state the Region representatives shall be elected at the October Region meeting. The Regional elections must happen prior to the Annual November PDC meeting. The Region election meetings will be held on the second Saturday of October with a snow date of the third Saturday of October. Discussion was held on options for other regional meetings that have been held previously (January and April). Those meetings have had very limited attendance in the last few years. Alena Skinner stated that a virtual option could be offered to increase attendance. Renee Kostick shared that there needs to be a reason to attend. In the past that has been Rulebook changes but maybe adding leader training with a youth track. It was also recommended that the meeting be publicized better and at an earlier timeframe so individuals can add them to their schedules. Renee Kostick suggested the name of the Regional Meeting be changed to Regional Training. Caleb Johnson made a motion to have regions designated a representative from their region to serve on this committee to determine if and when additional meeting would be needed, Sophia Goblish seconded and the motion carried. The committee members will be Jody McKibben from NW Region, Meg Sax from the NE Region, Caleb Johnson from the SW Region, Melanie Aucapina from Central Region and Jenny Eilerman from the SE Region. Caleb Johnson will chair the committee. Therefore, there was no change regarding the Regional Meetings. Caleb Johnson asked about starting a dialogue on State Leadership Training. Renee Kostick responded that this could go through this committee and then communicate back to Renee on possible training.

v. Article IV, Section 7 – Annual Meeting. The question had been brought up about the dates of Annual Meeting being specified in the Bylaws, but in reading the Bylaws a date is not specified just that it be held in November. Discussion was held on setting this date early in the year to prevent having to change the date at the last minute due to conflicts. Therefore, there was no change regarding the Annual Meeting.

f. Level 4 – 6 Training Miniature Horse Proposal – Clara Thompson stated that no report as the committee members had not responded but they needed to do a follow-up meeting on this.

g. Ranch Breakout Adjustment for State 4-H Horse Show – Renee Kostick stated that the breakout would be 6th and 7th grades, 8th and 9th grades, 10 and 11th grades, and 12th

and 13th grades. Caleb Johnson asked about the Western Pleasure classes. Renee Kostick stated that the State 4-H Horse Show Committee were going to wait one more year before making changes.

5. **New Business**
    a. Budget Approval: Renee Kostick reviewed the PDC Budget handout with PDC members. She stated that the budget was based on the 2024 actuals and project adjustments because of projected costs, etc. The committee felt these were a better basis for the budget. Stacy Posthuma made a motion to keep the $20 fee for Livestreaming the State 4-H Horse Show, Jodi McKibben seconded and the motion carried. Stacy Posthuma made a motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 State 4-H Horse PDC Budget minus the Drill team funds, Nicole Thoeny seconded and the motion carried.
    b. State 4-H Horse Show Schedule Changes – Renee Kostick shared that the State 4-H Horse Show Committee had discussed show schedule changes at the meeting held earlier. Three options were presented to the State 4-H Horse Show Committee. The State 4-H Horse Show Committee is recommending discussion on the 3 options including moving Hippology and Horse Judging to Thursday, with those individuals being able to move in early. This is dependent on the State Fair approval for this. Key Race will be split over 2 days, Awards will happen on Friday evening, Ranch classes may happen in the outside arena, and Training on Monday. Drill Team proposed moving off from the State 4-H Horse Show and having a separate event which may be a 2-day event and the Top 2 teams in each category would come to the State 4-H Horse Show for a championship class. Miniature Horse will also be having a separate show not at the State 4-H Horse Show. Renee would like to have the schedule finished in March based on State Fair approval of move-in dates. Clara Thompson expressed concern about horses standing on concrete at Compeer and having clear PA announcements there. Caleb Johnson asked if PDC needed to approve. Renee stated she didn't think that PDC needed to approve. Renee Kostick stated that she would send information to the PDC before it is published.
    c. State 4-H Horse Show Webinars – Renee Kostick explained that those webinars would continue this year starting in March (last Wednesday) and the consensus of the PDC was to occur every other month. The new family webinar will be in August. The State 4-H Horse Show dates are September 17 – 21, 2026.
    d. Camping Committee – Renee Kostick is working on job descriptions for this committee and expectations. This was a great committee at the State 4-H Horse Show in Cannon Falls last year and she would like to see this continue.
    e. Statewide Leaders Training – Renee Kostick shared the idea of a Statewide Leaders Training to cover items previously discussed at the meeting such as PDC and Committee structures, Rulebook Changes, State Show, etc.
    f. Livestream – Renee shared that options are Justin who did the Cannon Falls Show last year or Walton who has done it previously at State Fair.
6. **Committee and Regional Meeting Reports:** There were no reports at this time.
7. **Announcements**
    a. State 4-H Horse Show Steward – Renee informed the PDC that Josh Tjosaas will be stepping down as show steward. He is helping Renee write a job description and it may be divided into 2 positions.
    b. State 4-H Horse Show Chair – Renee Kostick informed the PDC that Randy Dokken is stepping down as State 4-H Horse Show Chair due to health issues. They are working on a job description for this position.
    c. Dan Patch resume and portfolio are due April 8th.

d. Regional Project Bowls are coming up starting March 7th.

8. **Next State 4-H Horse PDC Meeting** – November 14, 2026.
    a. The committee to meet to decide if additional meetings are necessary will be as follows:
    Northeast – Meg Sax
    Northwest – Jodi McKibben
    Central – Melanie Aucapina
    Southeast – Jenny and Eila Eilerman
    Southwest – Caleb Johnson
9. Caleb Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jenny Eilerman seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Meg Sax, Adult Secretary