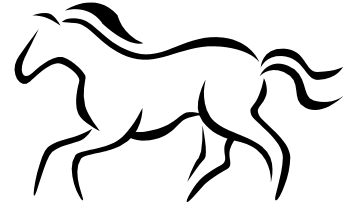




St. Joseph County, MI
4-H HORSE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes



August 4, 2026

Attendance: Kayla Mitchell, Racheal Hartman, Andrea Littlefield, Teresa Howk, Joy Bond, Tereasa Huffstedler, Katlyn McCollough, Katelin Forebush, Aubree Hartman, Shirel Hart

Zoom: Connie Miracle

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Kayla Mitchell

Pledges

Introduction of Visitors:

Diane Zinsmaster Board of Directors for SJCF/Open Horse Show. Rodeo will be Thursday night. TK Pro Rodeo would like to open the night with the National Anthem sung by a 4-H member/former 4-H member. If they are interested, talk to Diane Z. Also, potentially allow last year's HWMH Top 10 to participate in National Anthem/Opening Ceremony. Shirel indicated that 7 of the 10 have already responded that they would like to participate. This can also be opened to the Pleasure kids. It is for riders, not in hand. Leaders should review available riders. This will require a try-out with Diane Z. We could open it up to working toward more collaboration between fair and Livestock/Youth/4H.

Arena Update:

All the clay has been brought in. Rains packed the clay, and the clay company is being asked to bring a disc in to begin to soften the dirt. Continuing to pull rocks from the dirt. Rains will help to soften the footing so the mixing can continue.

A well is being put in near the arenas and an irrigation system is being installed. This includes the driving arena. The show office for the driving arena is also being upgraded. The new arena's show office had exposed particle board that had rotted – that is also being replaced. Diane is also looking to upgrade the microphones/communication systems.

Another idea is to bring in a larger outbuilding/shed for groups to offer prepackaged foods and cold drinks as there is no drink/food service at the arenas. Until that comes to fruition, Diane plans to get a refrigerator at the show office for cold drinks.

Motion to approve agenda by Joy and 2nd by Racheal . Motion passed.

Motion to approve minutes by Joy and 2nd by Racheal . Motion passed.

Treasurers report given by Joy and agreed to be put on file. Motion to approve treasurers report by Shirel and 2nd by Racheal . Motion passed. Specialty group designated funds discussed. \$100 will move from HWMH to the trophy area as Bud Holt donated directly for the Grand Champion Pony Gymkhana Trophy.

Horse Haul In & Horse Change:

Was discussed hauling in Indy for Maddison Pratt/Gordon Hermann. Horse change for Alanna Goodman to use Bubba. Both forms approved. Will discuss additional haul in forms, and any other horse change forms at next August HC meeting.

Vice President Election:

Katelin and Racheal discussed their intent to be Vice President. Tereasa Huffstedler motioned to close the vote and was 2nd Shirel. Katelin McCollough is the HC Vice President.

Committee Updates:

Judge Hiring - Joy to talk to Regina Shinker for costume class. Gina Leister/Beth Bond reading the narratives. Carts were discussed – for 2026 we will only have costume in hand or ridden, no carts. We will evaluate for a 2027 costume cart class.

State Horse Show – If kids want to be reimbursed, they need to submit a from to Youth Council. State Horse show participants will have a webinar August 11th.

New Business:

Fair sign-up open until August 15th. September 1st & 2nd they will be spraying the barns – do not plan to be in the barns around that time. September 12th Margie Tien Arena to be set up. Fair volunteer list to be sent out by Rebecca. Ridden Dressage needs help setting up arena on September 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting August 25th @ 6:30pm at MSU extension office

Respectfully submitted: Mindy Stuart