

# Southern Kettle Moraine Horse Trails Association 2026 Annual Meeting

Location: KMSF-Southern Unit DNR Headquarters, Eagle WI

Attendees (22)

Meeting Called to Order by Devan Lewer, President at 10:12am

## Welcome, Introductions and Recognition

### Year in Review Slideshows

Saddle Cleaning Day at Winterhorse Park, Spring Cleanup, Best of America by Horseback, Pack the Park, Fall Fundraiser, Holiday Party at Jennings Holler

### Guest Speaker - DNR Park Manager, Olivia Boeck

- Trail/Vehicle Pass Reminders: passes purchased online will only have a digital copy only; plan to carry your trail pass or have a photo of it on your phone; if cited by a ranger for not having a pass you have 10 days to show proof at a DNR location of your pass or you will be fined
- Park Updates: the KMSF-Southern Unit is getting another, smaller tractor in 2025 for trail upkeep; Mike Davis was introduced as the new Park Ranger for the horse camp and trails, he is our contact for immediate issues at camp, downed trees, etc; Don Dane filled and repaired the trail washouts north of camp approaching the pop stop and plans to check and seed them in spring
- Camp Hosts: the DNR is actively recruiting Camp Hosts for 2026! Shorter stays will be considered, and they are working on getting running water and a septic holding tank installed on the host site
- Ottawa Trailhead hitching posts will be re-mounted, the current height is a temporary fix
- Heads up that if equine transmittable diseases (EHV, etc) become an issue, the DNR will follow health guidelines and close the property to events

Olivia Boeck, KMSF-SU Park Manager - [OliviaJ.Boeck@wisconsin.gov](mailto:OliviaJ.Boeck@wisconsin.gov) (262) 470-7540

Mike Davis, KMSF-SU Park Ranger - [michaela.davis@wisconsin.gov](mailto:michaela.davis@wisconsin.gov) (414) 750-2152

### Minutes of the Previous Meeting (November 2025)

Motion to Accept as written: Gale S

Seconded: Amy M

### Treasurer Report

- The SKMHTA ended 2025 with 55 Memberships!
  - 2025 Financial Report (see detailed breakdown below)
    - Beginning Cash Balance: \$29,477.70
      - Total Income: \$25,811.23
    - Balance Before Expenses: \$55,288.93
      - Total Expenses: \$32,653.68
    - Ending Cash Balance: \$22,635.25
  - We were only billed once this year for porta-potty servicing, Amy M will follow up with vendor
- Motion to Accept: Amy J
- Seconded: Duane D

## 2025 SKMHTA Financial Report

Year 2025

<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>		<b>\$29,477.70</b>	<b>Less Expenses:</b>		
<b>Income:</b>			Midwest Horse Fair	489.79	
Membership Dues	975.00		Annual Insurance	637.51	
Tack Sales	654.70		Website	301.05	
Tshirt Sales	1808.50		WHC/Club Tack Sales	190.00	
Fall Fundraiser	7655.75		WHC/Best of America by Horseback	506.33	
Raffle/Silent Auctions	5302.84		Pack The Park	458.00	
Pack the Park	1133.00		Licenses/Event Fees	151.00	
Interest Earned	112.94		Fall Fundraiser Expense	1956.75	
Cash Back	2.10		Trail Passes-DNR	1728.00	
Donations	330.10		Bank/Postage/Mail	136.70	
Spirit Horse	30.00		Printing	376.75	
Hankie Sales	295.00		Project: Corrals	18446.44	
Pay Pal Deposits-clothing, membership, misc	629.30		Trail Upkeep: Porta Potties	100.00	
Trail Passes-DNR	1882.00		Clothing	3440.25	
Grants	\$5,000.00		Meeting/Clean Up Expenses	255.96	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$25,811.23</b>		Camp Supplies	\$3,479.15	
<b>Balance Before Expenses</b>		<b>\$55,288.93</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$32,653.68</b>	
			<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>		<b>\$22,635.25</b>

### Trail Coordinator Report

- 2025 Year in Review (slideshow)
  - 18 New Corrals installed Spring 2025
  - Pop Stop hitching posts repaired
  - Spring Trail Clean Up Day
  - DNR widened & cleared White Trail
    - We really appreciate the fast response & support of the DNR this year!
  - Placed SKMHTA owned storage container at Horseriders' Camp
  - Fall Campground Cleanup Day
- 2026 Projects Under Consideration
  - Additional Electrical Campsites
    - Would need quotes on materials and services
  - Repair "The Stairs" trail (blue trail just north of camp)
    - Review by Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialists suggested rerouting the trail
    - Stairs require frequent upkeep/repair, hard to access with materials
      - Local high schools need volunteer hours - may be source for volunteers
    - DNR will evaluate the trail and look at repair options
  - Paint the shipping container at camp
  - Hitching Posts at Scuppernong Lot (new lot near Ottawa trailhead)
- Master Trail Certification Class will be held here in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest in 2026!
  - Dates: May 13-16th, Dousman WI
  - For information visit: <https://wisconsinhorsecouncil.org/trails>

### Fundraising Coordinator Report

- Pack the Park - thank you to West 20 Ranch & Saddle Company and Johnson Equine Veterinary for their prize donations for the fun ride! Cowboy Steve Wassam gave a knot tying clinic, there was a burger bar and 50/50 raffle. Over 100 attendees and we raised \$1100!

- 2025 Fall Fundraiser - Always Find Time to Ride - Thank you to everyone who helped make the ride happen, special call outs to Debbie for organizing the dinner, Val & Vanessa for organizing shirts, Trudie for being the Raffle Queen and selling \$5000 worth of raffle tickets and Gale for running the tack sale! Thank you to all of the donors (gold sponsor board on display). Total funds raised over \$7600 plus shirt sales!
- 2026 Fundraising - a committee of people will help keep things running smoothly
  - Pack the Park date: Saturday June 6th, 2026
  - Fall Fundraiser date: Saturday Sept 19th, 2026
    - Theme - survey showed we want to continue a graphic image & slogan
    - Looking for theme ideas and graphics - 2026 is the Year of the Horse

## Old Business

- Obstacle Course: Beth B taking over project from Amy J, will mock up signs and get DNR approval
- Additional Electrical Campsites:
  - need a plan, quotes, materials list to set fundraising goals.
  - Contact DNL about trenching?
- Stairs Trail Repair:
  - Amy J reached out to TrailDesign.com. Initial response is trail should be re-routed.
  - Discussion about stairs need constant maintenance due to washout (fill every few years)
  - DNR will check out the trail and evaluate it for repair, may be able to get emergency funding to address a safety issue. Don Dane (DNR) will review options for repairing and maintaining.
- Bob Michaels Memorial Fund:
  - The SKMHTA sets aside \$1000 each year for trail related education assistance
  - Application Deadline May 1st to begin in 2026.
  - Application available online later this week (Amy M posted on FB, will be shared in email)
- Corral Expansion: 2025 Corral installs & Footings COMPLETE!
  - Wi Horse Council Trail Grant follow up report for corrals is complete
  - Wi Horse Council Trail Grant follow up report for footing grant has been submitted as pending invoice/receipt for footing materials from DNR
- Tables: 10 folding tables purchased, still need to purchase 2 heavy duty
- Host Site Corral: two panels have been purchased (Barb/Mike L), install on hold for now
- Stairs Trail: revisiting - see trail report above
- Ottawa Old Lot: hitching post knocked over - DNR did temporary repair, will return to lower rail
- Activities: revisited having activities, speakers, etc at meetings
  - More social activities are desired, but due to insurance/liability reasons may not be organized by a BOD member it requires additional coverage and expense
  - General members are encouraged to plan and participate in social rides, clinics, etc and the SKMHTA will help share the information
- Trail Passes for 2026: Trail Passes are here! Get them at upcoming SKMHTA events!

## New Business

Board of Directors & Committee Election (moved to end of meeting)

- Open Positions: President & Secretary
  - President - The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and members and shall generally manage the day-to-day matters of the Association.
    - Gale Sohms, Vice President, offered to step into the President role
      - Nominated by Amy M, Seconded by Mike L - Motion Passed
  - Vice President - due to Gale S becoming President, one year left in rotation for this position
    - Beth Blessing-Foat offered to fill the Vice President Role
      - Nominated by Beth (self), Seconded by Debbie D - Motion Passed

- Secretary - The Secretary shall maintain all records of the Association and shall prepare minutes of all meetings of the Board and membership. The secretary shall also distribute meeting announcements and minutes to the membership and the social media manager and SKMHTA webmaster and assure that Association records are maintained.
  - Amy J, Secretary offered to stay on if there was a Media Committee
    - Debbie D (Facebook) and Jill F (website) will be Media Committee
      - Nominated by Debbie D, Seconded by Amy M - Motion Passed
- Do the other current Board of Directors wish to continue in their roles?
  - Barb L, Fundraising Coordinator will continue through Pack the Park but may need to step back for medical reasons; Debbie D volunteered to fill in for Barb as needed. Please reach out to be part of the Fundraising Committee

## **2026 General Meeting Scheduling**

- Survey results show Tuesdays as the most popular day of the week for meetings, with the first or second week of the month having a slight preference.
- Discussion of having less frequent General Membership meetings, with the BOD meeting in between to plan the agenda and check in on progress of current project and club business status - quarterly or every other month for general meetings, can mix in social events or meetings in months with events
- General Meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month, on months with a general meeting
- Next General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd - 6pm at Jennings Holler (KMR), in Eagle, WI
- BOD will meet prior, with intent of presenting more concise, organized general membership meetings

## **Open Discussion**

Create a video of the trails and camp for the MWHF Booth (will need electric for the booth)

## **2026 Upcoming Events**

- ★ Waukesha County 4H Tack Sale - Sunday Feb 8th, Waukesha County Expo Center
- ★ Midwest Horse Fair - April 17-19th, Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI - Booth C43
  - Volunteers needed to staff the booth - day passes available for those covering multiple blocks!
- ★ Pack the Park - Saturday, June 6th at Horseriders' Campground
- ★ 2026 SKMHTA Fall Fundraiser - Saturday, September 19th, at Horseriders' Campground

## **Door Prize Drawings**

## **Meeting Adjournment**

Amy M motioned to adjourn the meeting, Anita O Seconded - Meeting adjourned 11:57am