

**Virginia Horse Council
Trails Development and Maintenance Report**

Committee: VHC Trails Committee
Report by: Sally Aungier, Chair
Date Submitted: 2/26/2009

Committee Members:

Sally Aungier, Chair	Nancy Watson
Karen Corl	Sue Wakefield
Anne Wohlleben	Deborah Sensabaugh
Amanda Bourne	Melody Scalley

Committee Charge:

- To act as an advisory group for trail issues throughout the state and provide input into the state and community planning processes.
- To serve as liaisons between the equestrian community and land managers to educate users, stimulate volunteerism, and improve trail access.

Objectives:

- Maintain a Trails Committee comprised of representatives for geographical areas of the state that will work to ensure trails access for horses is improved and developed in our public facilities.
- The Committee works with the public facilities, equestrian clubs and individuals to promote trail development.
- The Committee endeavors to foster a spirit of volunteerism by encouraging its peers to support their local trails both physically and financially.
- Committee members become familiar with regional plans in Virginia that may impact trails development and other equestrian resources.

Summary of Issues and Activities:

- VHC Equestrian Trails Tourism Survey. Sally Aungier is continuing to assist Carol Kline with analyzing the results of the survey, which was conducted for the VHC to gather information and impressions on the state of trail rides within the state of Virginia. A summary of the information that Sally will present at the VHC on March 7 was developed and is attached. Dr. Kline valued her services at \$15,000. Her donation of this valuable assistance is much appreciated. Additionally, Jennifer Wampler of DCR assisted with a graphic that we had thought we would have to outsource at a cost. There was no charge for this assistance.
- Legislative Issue – Legislation was introduced, SB 1473, which would allow the Virginia State Forest to charge \$15 annually for a recreational user permit. There were some concerns with the Bill initially that were resolved.
- Progress Report on Equestrian Projects included in the 2002 State Parks Bond Referendum: A progress report will be given by Joe Elton during the VHC conference. Sally submitted all of the outstanding State Parks equestrian projects to the www.stimulus.virginia.gov website.
 - Lake Anna Equestrian Parking Area - \$50,000 (#4244)
 - Pocahontas bleachers and lights for Equestrian Center - \$400,000 (#4246)
 - Fairy Stone Equestrian Campground - \$750,000 (#4248)
 - Occoneechee Equestrian Area Expansion, including modern bathhouse - \$1,000,000 (#4249)
 - New River Trail Jackson Ferry Equestrian Campground and improvements to the Equestrian Center - \$1,200,000 (#4251)
 - Statewide Equestrian Trail Improvements - \$1,000,000 (#4252)

- Sally prepared two VHIB grant applications
 - \$13,500 for Virginia's Public Access Equestrian Trails Directory – Promotional Materials.
 - \$3,015 to Assist with sending the Va Representatives to SETC.
- Sally assisted with program development for SETC 2009 including a conference call on 2/23.
- Deb will be speaking on Leave No Trace during the Youth track of the conference.

- **Planned Activities:**
- Record Rick Potts presentation on 3/7 for possible Podcasts.
- Continue work on the trails directory

Issues for Consideration:

None