

Northwest Region Lifeskills and Other Animals
Committee Meeting
November 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Judy Van Hecke at 12:53. Everyone introduced themselves. Those in attendance: Judy Van Hecke, Lorna Punko, Sarah Jackson, Travis Punko, Caren Badry, Melanie Giroux, Steven de Groot, Monique Webb, Linda Huedepohl, Helen Andrews, Karen Schneberger, Sally Hill, Colten, Menzok, Jayleana Baron, Darma Litke, Julianna Russell, Donna Baron, Alice Litke, Kevin David, Karen Marin, Kim Rochette.

Monique Webb moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Linda Huedepohl. Carried. Lorna Punko read the minutes from the March 16, 2019 meeting. Lorna adopted the minutes as presented. Seconded by Colten Menzok. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NW Region Fair – in Mayerthorpe this past Spring was well attended and many fabulous sessions for the members to do. The organizers found it really difficult to organize it during calving season. Which was one of the reasons for returning the Fair back to November this year. The November Fair will be more of a Christmas theme. It was thought by many that this would be better as different sessions can be offered from those happening during Focus in the summer. Everyone expressed their appreciation for Lac Ste. Anne to organize another Fair so quickly after the last one. Thank you so much. We look forward to next weekend!!

Comments regarding this year's registration – people weren't sure if they needed to send in the extra money as you didn't know which classes your child would actually have. It wasn't clear on the registration form. One suggestion was to have everyone just pay the basic fee upon registration and then collect the extra fees on the day. This extra fee could possibly be collected at the session room or at a separate table during registration check in. Maybe remind people on the form that they should bring extra cash if one of their top 3 required it.

Focus on 4-H 2019 - Lorna Punko reported on Focus. We had a great weekend at Focus this past summer, though numbers were down again. There were 133 kids registered for all programs. Our Life Skills had 33 people registered for sessions. Lorna advised that many of these kids are beef/horse kids or siblings and actually very few strictly life skills kids. The question was put forward – What can we do to bring our life skills kids to Focus? Ideas for sessions?

1. Skills Competition – have the kids show what they have learned in a friendly competition such as Cooking (Master Chef), woodworking Challenge. This would involve more interaction. Maybe would encourage Seniors to come.
2. Consumer Decision Making workshop
3. Reuse/Recycle Project – use a collection of items to make something for a theme with a story attached (like our junk wars of past years)
4. Photo competition, photo scavenger hunt,

Other suggestions for Life skills

1. Project Displays for Unique projects to give clubs ideas for projects.
2. Record Book Displays so people can see what is involved.
3. We need to get information out about Focus a lot earlier. It needs to be promoted more heavily. Teaser notice to get people excited about Focus. We need to create a buzz! Reasons why you should go to Focus. Info sheet for Rookies with the basics.

Monique Webb of the RQB Rancheros has a poultry project and it appears that there are a few other clubs as well. They would love to have a Poultry Show at Focus next year.

We had lots of new people at our meeting with lots of great ideas!! Thank you so much! This is really helpful for the Focus Committee. Lorna will make sure it is passed on to the Focus Committee.

Focus on 4-H 2020 – Focus is being reduced by one day for the next year. July 3-5 is the tentative date pending confirmation of facilities. Move in on Friday afternoon/night with sessions Sat/Sun.

REGIONAL RECORD BOOKS

Leslie Majeau advised that there would be a new Provincial Record book starting in the 2020-21 year. Basically, all projects would have a common portion about the member and club with inserts for their project information. There would be just one Record Book per member with inserts for each of the projects they are involved in. This is an effort to make the books more comparable to mark. We know all about that in Life Skills! Lol

Each program area has been asked to form a Record Book Committee to help come up with this new Book. This would involve conference calls and at least one in person meeting. They would like to come up with a basic Record Book and less of a scrapbook. If members want to make a scrapbook of their year they are most welcome, it just wouldn't be part of the main record book. That is the direction they are planning to go. The following people put their name forward for the committee: Kathy Keiser, Dorothy Carlson, Melanie Giroux (I think I am missing a 4th person)

TREASURER REPORT

Judy van Hecke presented Leona Petherbridge's reports. Financial Summary from the Record Book Marking Party showed a cost of \$306.73. The Annual Treasurer's Report showed a balance as of November 16, 2019 of \$2080.56. Judy van Hecke adopted the reports as presented. Seconded by Melanie Giroux. Carried.

There was no correspondence.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Record Book Marking Party – October 26 – Judy thanked all those who came to mark even with the crazy weather challenges. It is always a great learning day and an opportunity for leaders to chat with each other. There are still some clubs that are not seeing the Record Book Checklists and guidelines. We will ask Stacy to send them out to all the clubs.

Animal Workshops – Monique Webb advised that the Poultry and Vet Science kids were going to try to organize a Workshop next year.

Regional Representative on Provincial Committees –

1. Provincial SALT (Science, Art, Lifeskills, Technology and Trade) – Karen Schneberger – This is a new advisory committee for our projects (never had one before. Yay!) Yvonne Yaremco is heading the Committee. Some events coming up:
 - a. Archery Project – Mail in Archery Targets is being organized. More info will be emailed.
 - b. Science Day – hoping to plan a 4-H day at both Telus World of Science in Edmonton and Telus Spark in Calgary
 - c. In Jan/Feb a committee will be meeting to go over the inserts for the Lifeskills Record Books.
 - d. There is going to be a pause on Consumer Decision making for this year
 - e. Waiting on “Terms of Reference” coming down from 4-H Canada, 4-H Alberta. This is to help make sure everyone is on the same page .
 - f. If you would like to do up an article about a unique project that you are doing, please send it to Karen. Her email is: karensch762@gmail.com We would like to showcase all the cool things we are doing.
2. Provincial Sheep – Contact is Faith (sorry, don't have a last name)
3. Provincial Other Animals – we need a Provincial committee for these projects too.

Next meeting is March 14, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm.

NOTES REGARDING FOCUS ON 4-H

We had lots of great ideas for our Life Skills sessions for Focus. WE URGENTLY NEED PEOPLE willing to run a session for the kids. Please contact Leona Petherbridge at stitchersbag@hotmail.com or Lorna Punko at lorna.punko@gmail.com ASAP if you can help out. We need to have our sessions planned by mid January 2020.

RECORD BOOK MARKING

**Just some clarification on Record Book Marking Rules that came up in our discussions:

You can only mark books at one level of competition – club, district, region

At club level, you should find a community member, 4-H alumni, leader from another club to mark your books. Obviously, you cannot mark your child's book.

At regional level it is imperative that you do not mark your own child, or members of your club. If you are unsure, be sure to check in with the organizer.