

Orinda Horse Association

Board Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025

6:00 - 7:30 pm

These minutes are intended for the exclusive use of OHA members. Please refrain from sharing this document with non-members.

Meeting called to order by Elise at 6:06 pm.

Board members present: Elise Torres (President), Linnea Wren (Vice President), Sylvie Thome (Treasurer), Kusia Hreshchyshyn (Communications), Mark Tompkins (Secretary)

Members present: Tanya

Announcements: Members should review task list and work on their tasks, particularly as we are approaching the last quarter of the fiscal year. Members should feel free to email the Board on unanswered emails if they have not received a Board response. It is always fine to ask the Board again if there hasn't been a reply.

REMINDER TO MEMBERS: Please pull more teasel, fiddleneck, coyote brush, and scotch broom. Also pull yellow star thistle at top of plateau near path to Sea View. Also, if you identify an issue with water supply please contact the pasture manager of the pasture with the problem to lead the repair. Thank you!

1. Adoption of Agenda - Elise added discussion of potential to make videos of repairs. This was added ahead of planning grid items as new item 7. Elise moved to adopt agenda with one amendment. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes - July 8, 2025. Elise motioned to adopt previous meeting minutes. Linnea seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. Consent Calendar - No items.
4. Appreciation - Thank you to Tanya for work on doors and thank you to hay purchase committee. Thank you to all who came to remove teasel and to work party organizers!
5. Member Comment - Tanya asked who will count tarps. The board got feedback from work party organizers that there were enough people signed up for the Aug 16th work party that one member could be dedicated to help Tanya count tarps.

6. 2024 - 2025 Projects

- a. AGP Meeting Report - EBMUD staff included Jackie, Joe, Alberto, Bruno, and Tiffany. OHA members included Erica, Elise, and Linnea. Linnea summarized the meeting. The biggest point of discussion was how many AUMs we get credit for from EBMUD. Our current lease is at 398 AUM which is proportional to amount of land grazed. Jackie said EBMUD would be updating their map of acreage that we are grazing. Their initial map shows a large increase from the 398 AUM we are currently being charged for, but EBMUD will walk fencelines with OHA representatives and update their acreage estimate to accurately reflect what we can actually graze. EBMUD likes what we are doing with weeding. EBMUD approved replacing cross-fence between Upper Pear and Lower Pear and approved repairing the Beer Can structure as AGP projects. Therefore the Beer Can structure repair needs to happen ASAP - there is a work party this Saturday to advance the Beer Can structure repairs. EBMUD also noted that they are in the middle of updating their RMA (Restoration Management Agreement) with California Department of Fish and Wildlife so they can't do water projects until the RMA is completed.

7. Taking videos of repair tasks. This topic was raised because of members having challenges with water supply float repairs and other repairs. Kusia noted that there are lots of YouTube videos available for this fix so the board recommendation for people who identify a problem with a water supply float valve is to contact the pasture team lead to expedite repair by consulting YouTube videos or member expertise and potentially adding a metal cage around the valve if possible.

8. Planning Grid (https://orindahorsemen.org/?page_id=14063)

- a. July – *follow-up - no significant follow ups.*
- b. August – *current*
 - i. Review Pasture Calendar upcoming herd moves
 1. 8/18 or 19 (Sunday or Monday) - to upper Sullivan
 - ii. Set annual meeting date - the survey is out and will have to be closed soon so that we can satisfy notification requirements - the survey will be closed at the end of the day on Saturday August 16. The board will also work on the agenda for the annual meeting in August.
 - iii. Feeding schedule. Need to determine sign up dates. Erica confirmed that there is not much forage in the Forest Meadow and therefore she recommends starting feeding a bit earlier (September 10). Kusia supports this earlier start schedule. The board agreed that we should start feeding on September 10.

Board discussed how to manage availability of truck feedings and address complaints that the sign up process is unfair for less tech savvy folks. The board decided this year to try breaking the feeding sign-up into two different sign-up periods, as follows:

- The first "priority" feeding sign-up will be for all members, but limited to sign-ups for two feedings per horse space and will include all of the feeding slots, either truck or cart feedings.
- Then there will be a second sign-up period a few weeks later to fill remaining spots.
- Truck feeders will be limited to 4 truck feedings per horse space.

This protocol is the board's attempt to address a number of concerns that were raised to us, including: truck feeders take all of the pond feedings, the need to spread around the truck feeding slots, and an attempt to ensure everyone gets a chance to get at least a couple of their preferred feedings. Pond pasture feedings will be designated as either truck or cart and Middle Meadow and Plateau pasture feedings will be designated as truck only.

- iv. Pull yellow star thistle. There is some near the top of the plateau. It could be removed in a few hours by a team of members.
- v. Make sure hay carts and whips are at the correct locations for feedings. First feeding will require carts at Forest Meadow. Pasture lead for Forest Meadow should confirm who will do this ASAP.
- vi. Hay order - REMINDER TO MEMBERS TO HAVE PASTURE TEAMS PREP HAY STORAGE UNITS IN JULY OR EARLY AUGUST.
- vii. Renew auto liability - this is in process.
- c. *September - look ahead. Annual meeting will be held at date selected to meet availability of as many members as possible.*

9. Membership Agreement Status - We will have copies ready for signature at the annual meeting.

10. Rules Revision:

- a. Horse Health Care (add BCS requirement). BCS will be required by board during fall clinics; Board has not set a mandatory BCS until the rules revision is complete.
- b. Use of Stalls, Paddocks and Ring Pasture - no update from June.
- c. Work Hours Rules and Procedures - Heather M sent the draft for member feedback.
- d. Vehicles & Trailers - Heather A is preparing to collect member feedback.
- e. Membership - no update from June.
- f. Arena - Elise sent draft for member feedback.
- g. Herd Feeding - no update from June.
- h. Dispute Resolution - sent out for final 30 day review.
- i. Email protocol - Board is finalizing its review.

11. Committee Updates

- a. Treasurer - no report.
- b. Legal Committee - no report.
- c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee - no report.
- d. Board Liaison Report - no report.

- e. EBMUD Liaison Report - no report.
- f. Communications Report - no report.
- g. Pasture Reports / Herd Feeding - no report.

12. New Business: No new business.

13. Notifications:

- a. Please see all weeding requests in reminders at top of minutes.
- b. [OHA Tasks 2024-25](#), Pasture Teams. There have been some changes to both, with membership changes. Please take time to review your task assignment, and connect with your pasture team lead. As always, if members have any questions or concerns regarding task assignments and pasture team assignments, please reach out to the Board.
- c. Release and Waiver of Liability- [Link to Waiver](#) with a reiteration of our procedures for filing the waiver with the Board Secretary, which then gets stored on the shared drive and recorded in a spreadsheet. (board and members will consider if a Google Form where waivers can be uploaded, which will automatically create a tracking spreadsheet, would be a worthwhile improvement to our current system.)
- d. There are still a few [Membership Agreements](#) that have not been submitted. Carla will be reaching out to those individuals to collect signed agreements.
- e. Although the Board strives to respond to emails promptly, if there are outstanding questions you have brought to the Board but have not received an email response and still need one, please feel free to reach out to us again. If a topic might benefit from a longer discussion, time can be set aside during the Board meeting to give it more attention.

14. Next Meeting

- a. Agenda - items deferred from this meeting will go on to the next meeting's agenda.
- b. Date - September 2, 6-7pm

Regular meeting adjourned at 722pm.

15. Executive Session - Board discussion of member issues. Executive session adjourned at 750pm.