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| C:\Users\Karen Harry\Dropbox\Laptop\BCH Stuff\BCHNV LOGO.png | **BCHNV BRISTLECONE CHAPTER**Minutes of Membership Meeting*March 25, 2017* |

**Board Members Present**: Mark Fowle (President), Patti Kern (Vice-President), Karen Harry (Secretary), Mark Fowle (Director), James Sage (Director), Sherry Jensen (Director)

**Board Members Absent**: Elaine McPherson (Treasurer), Leslie Johnstone (Director), and Diana Kelley (Director)

**Members Present**: John Allen, Ann Bersi, Marsha and Don Davis, Karen Donnahie, Philip Hatzenpillar, Terry and Lolly Jones, Tim Julius, Lora Kennedy, Gary Kennedy, Jim and Georgie Sage, Bob Shelton, Genie Tesch, Wendy Timmel

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Karen Donnahie made a motion to approve the January 14, 2017 membership minutes; the motion was seconded by Patti Kern and unanimously approved.

President’s Report: President Mark Fowle welcomed new members John Allen, and Lora and Gary Kennedy; and introduced guest speaker Brian Dodd. Mark also reported that the Friends of Nevada Wilderness had presented our chapter with an award of recognition, and showed the award to the members present.

Officer Reports: Vice President Patti Kern reported that she would like to have our trailer at various related events around the country to advertise our chapter, including the Boulder City Horsemen’s Association (BCHA). Karen Donnahie reported that there will be an obstacle event at BCHA on May 6th, and suggested that we might hold our next meeting there to coincide with that event. Members and board directors tentatively agreed upon that date and venue for our next meeting.

Guest Speaker Brian Dodd: gave a slide show presentation on a proposed multi-use trail that would connect the entrance and exit of Red Rock Canyon, and run adjacent to SR 159. A trail along this route was previously approved by BLM, but funding for its construction has never been approved. Brian is now trying to complete a similar, though simpler (and thus cheaper) trail along the previously approved route. He would like BCHN members to contact BLM to express support of this project and, if it is approved, help him to construct the trail (primarily by riding the route, to establish the trail). He suggested we might want to draft a resolution in support of the trail, but stressed that we do not need to contact BLM at this time or approve a resolution at this time; his goal at this time is to simply give us a heads up on the issue.

Guest Speaker Ashley Lee: Ashley is the Outdoor Programs and Outreach Marketing Coordinator for REI. She reported that REI has grants available for outdoor education, that groups such as ours can apply for. These grants generally are in the amount of $1500-$5000.

New Business: Mark Fowle reported that the Board of Directors have proposed that our chapter conduct an external audit of our finances to ensure we are in compliance with our 503(c)(3) status, and that we institute an annual internal audit to be conduct annually in the future. This audit would be conducted by the Treasurer and one other Board Members; Karen Donnahie suggested that if we have any members who are accountants we might also ask if they would participate in the audit. Mark also reported that the Board of Directors have recommended that we amend our bylaws to require that members of the Executive Committee attend at least four of the six scheduled Executive Board meetings per year. All members approved this recommendation, and it was agreed that the bylaw amended proposal would be presented to the members and be voted upon by e-mail (in accordance with our bylaws) after at least 30 days had elapsed from this notification.

Mark also reported on the Board Members’ discussion regarding the importance of maintaining clear and transparent financial records to ensure we remain in compliance with our 501(c)(3) status. He reported that the Board had approved a motion to (a) hire a professional account to conduct an audit of our chapter’s finances within the next 60 days, and (b) has proposed that an amendment be added to our bylaws to require that an internal audit be conducted annually in the future. The annual internal audit would be carried out and signed off on by the Treasurer and one other Board Member, and be completed no later than February 28th of each year. This proposed amendment will be placed in front of the general membership for a general vote.

Terry Jones has submitted a grant proposal for $26,000 to continue work on the extension of Bristlecone Trail.

Our chapter is in the process of scheduling a sawyer certification class, tentatively to be held on June 3-4 on Mt. Charleston. Anyone interested in taking this class should contact Mark Fowle at fowlemh@aol.com for additional information, or see the information posted at <http://www.bchw.org/Tech%20tips/SawCertification/BCHW%20Saw%20Cert.htm>. Enrollment in the class is free, but space is limited and individuals committed to assisting with Bristlecone Chapter trail clearing projects will be given priority.

Mark reported that Jan Koval of BCHNV is conducting a survey for the Western States Public Lands Sub-Committee. She is asking all members to complete this survey (see attached) and return to her at jankoval@charter.net.

Mark stated that in his report to National BCHA he indicated our chapter had conducted volunteer hours worth an in-kind value of $142,000. However, he noted that we have had trouble getting members to submit those volunteer hours, and recommended that we assign a project manager in charge of each scheduled project, who will be in charge of collecting the documentation at the time of the project. All Board Members concurred with this suggestion.

The need for the chapter to have a satellite messenger device, for emergency situations, was discussed. Sherry Jensen noted that the inReach was a better choice than the SPOT device because it allows to you to obtain interactive help (send and receive messages). Jim Sage motioned to approve up to $500 for the purchase of an inReach device; this motion was seconded by Pete Jensen and unanimously approved.

Mark asked Tim Julius if he would be willing to serve as the chapters “trailer monitor,” which would entail taking the trailer to various events. Tim agreed to take on this task.

Mark reported on several possible upcoming projects, including (a) a packing trip this Spring to McFarland Canyon, to haul fencing materials for a Forest Service project; (b) trail assistance with a project, being spearheaded by Danny Riddle of the High Desert Chapter , in the Clover Mountains; (c) assistance with a tower removal project on top of South Loop; and (d) assistance with a Friends of Nevada Wilderness Project on Griffith Trail. Additional information on these projects, should they be approved, will be forthcoming.

Finally, Mark reported that Samantha Szesciorka, who conducts long distance rides across the western United States, has expressed an interest in joining our Chapter. Additional information about Samantha’s rides can be found at <http://www.nevadadiscoveryride.com/> and info@nevadadiscoveryride.com.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

# Backcountry Horsemen of Nevada -- Public Lands Survey

The Western States Public Lands Sub-Committee is asking for your input on the following Public Lands Issues that impact Nevada BCH members. Please take a few moments to rate each statement. Please send your survey as an attachment to Jan Koval, BCH-Carson Chapter at jankoval@charter.net.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Statement | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| I keep up with Public Lands issues on BCHA’s website |  |  |  |  |  |
| #1 National Parks |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have ridden or packed/camped with my horse(s) in Nevada and California National Parks (i.e. Yosemite, Great Basin) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall, access to trails for day or overnight use is easy in national parks |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is adequate number of trailheads in national parks. |  |  |  |  |  |
| #2 National Forests  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have ridden or packed/camped with my horse(s) in Nevada and California national forests |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall, access to trail heads for day or overnight use is easy in national forests |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is adequate number of trailheads to national forest trails |  |  |  |  |  |
| #3 Bureau of Land Management Lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have ridden or packed/camped with my horse(s) on Nevada BLM lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall, access to trail heads for day or overnight use is easy on BLM land |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is adequate number of trailheads to BLM lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| #4 Nevada State Lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| I have ridden or packed/camped with my horse(s) on Nevada state lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall, access to trail heads for day or overnight use is easy on state lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| There is adequate number of trailheads to state lands |  |  |  |  |  |
| #5 Public Lands Transfers |  |  |  |  |  |
| I support the sale of public lands to *private* interests and development  |  |  |  |  |  |
| I support the transfer of public lands to *state* ownership and control |  |  |  |  |  |
| #6 Multi-Use |  |  |  |  |  |
| In general, other trail users like bike riders, hikers and ATVs are courteous to horse and stock users. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall, other trail users understand right-of-way rules for horses and act accordingly. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Most trail users are open to instruction as to how to approach horses on the trail. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statement | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| **#7 Keeping Informed** |  |  |  |  |  |
| I keep up to date with Public Lands issues on the BCHA website |  |  |  |  |  |
| The BCHA website contains information on all the public lands issues that are important to me. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional Comments: |

Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_