



BCHA
Executive Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Members attending: Freddy Dunn, Don Saner, Doug Bechen, Alan Hill, Darrell Wallace, Sherry Copeland, Becki Krueger, Yvette Rollins

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Erica Fearn

Guest: Nicole Sedgwick, BCHW

Actions taken:

- ✓ Motion made to approve the consent agenda. APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to receive and file the financial reports. APPROVED.

Action item:

Review the sponsor package for the NETC event and make your recommendation to Freddy for BCHA's financial commitment.

Topic	Accountable	Topic & Discussion
Welcome	Freddy Dunn	Additions to the Agenda Grant updates, National Symposium, NBM Agenda, TrailMeister Plan, EC calls to gather information
	Freddy Dunn	Consent agenda: Minutes of the January meeting Leadership Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Lands & Recreation • Headquarters Report • TrailMeister Report
Finance	Sherry Copeland	Financial report as of end of January.
Strategic Agenda	Darrell Wallace	BCHW Pilot Program Membership Report: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1luSYjEFfc9N88HL8Ecl2BeAUnzSgs_5K4_PUuit4cn0/edit?usp=sharing Committee Action Plans https://drive.google.com/open?id=1zdAVSEa1C5thQKIL5SWWcZbM_JPLHN ↓
Public Lands	Randy Rasmussen	

<p>National Board Meeting</p>	<p>Freddy Dunn</p>	<p>National Board Meeting Agenda – add Pete Duncan, USFS Saw Program Manager as one of our few outside speakers.</p> <p>National Equestrian Trails Conference (NETC) – November 2-4, Phoenix, AZ. BCHA was listed as a sponsor for the 2016 conference but apparently did not contribute despite marquee billing in website, posters, brochure/ agenda. Recommend BCHA sponsor the 2017 NETC at a significant level.</p> <p>Grants – National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance – two granting opportunities. 1. Wilderness Stewardship Performance Grants (\$200,000), 2. National Forest System Trail Stewardship Act Grants (\$400,000) to be announced tomorrow. Deadline for applications for both is April 15th. Matching grants, need support from agency. Critical that BCH chapters and states combine proposals for bigger impact/higher scoring of grants. http://www.wildernessalliance.org/</p> <p>Forest Service Trails Budget: Will be submitting FY 2019 request of \$100 million for forest service trails (CMTL) to Congressional Appropriations committee members; need to coordinate also with BCH officers in MO, ID, KY, MT, TN, ND, CA, UT, WA.</p> <p>Committee and volunteer growth this year. We would like to get a jump on the national board meeting by making calls introducing us as executive committee members and asking questions for the member survey. Each EC member to make 5-8 calls.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>		<p>Next meeting date March 27, 2018.</p>

Public Lands & Recreation Update

HR 1349, Bikes in Wilderness bill

Led Hike the Hill (HTH) partner briefing on HR 1349 and made opposition to the bill among the top “asks” of all HTH participants in meetings with their members of Congress (HTH partners include American Hiking Society and each of the 40 national scenic and historic trail partner organizations). Met key members of Congress and minority and majority staff of House Natural Resources (NR) Committee leadership to discuss BCHA opposition to HR 1349 and its prospects for a floor vote in the House of Representatives.

Learned that three factors had a chilling effect on House leadership’s desire to move the bill forward: 1) the high level of public controversy and opposition expressed by horsemen and others 2) Montana Rep. Gianforte’s recent withdrawal of support for HR 1349 (thanks to BCH MT’s Mack Long and others!), plus 3) the position of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), which opposes the bill. The House NR Committee chairman currently has other public lands/ recreation legislative priorities, which include HR 3400 (Recreation Not Red-Tape Act), HR 289 (Guides-Outfitters “GO” Act) and HR 2987 (21st Century Conservation Service Corps). Likely that the

first two, if not all three, of these bills will be combined into a single recreation-related bill, whereas HR 1349 appears to be a poison pill and unlikely to be added to such legislation. HTH partner organizations reported to Randy hearing from staff of several congressional offices that the voice of BCHA had already been heard loud and clear on HR 1349, in their meetings with reps from California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Missouri, Washington, and Wyoming.

US Forest Service Blasting Program

In a meeting with the Chief of the US Forest Service, the concerns of BCHA and the Pacific Crest Trail Association were expressed regarding the current review of the agency's blasting program. Spurred by post-9/11 national security concerns regarding the storage and inventory of dynamite and explosives, The US Office of Inspector General recently issued a report that recommends the Forest Service's program be outsourced to either a contractor or the National Guard. Chief Tony Tooke stated he's heard from many concerned parties, both internal and external, and has assigned an internal working group to develop recommendations on the future of the agency's blasting program.

US Forest Service NEPA Regulations

With expert advice and concepts provided by Black Hills BCH South Dakota member Alice Allen, submitted BCHA public comment letter to the US Forest Service regarding updates to the Forest Service's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and handbook. Comments emphasized the need to streamline NEPA review for recreation-related projects on national forests, including routine trail maintenance, the replacement of trail-related culverts and bridges, and the maintenance/ replacement of horse campsite-related facilities.

Headquarters report:

- Over the course of the month I have liaised with the following committee chairmen: Fundraising, Public Liaison and Advocacy Partners, Education, Marketing and the treasurer.
- BCH California introduced the members only website at their state meeting. One of the hitches is the number of people (new members) that were not in the database (new members not submitted to BCHA) or usernames that are formal vs informal.
The new website is being used more by members (it seems), more members are requesting usernames and passwords and joining groups.
- Equisure Insurance – sales have outpaced 2017. 2017 sales were 54 members, 2018 are 52.
- Equisure is designing a chapter liability policy for BCH states and chapters.
- Kuhl order was placed for national board member sales.
- Designed and uploaded to chapter resources BCHA Display.
- Time spent with BCHA members is averaging 1.25 hours per day (phone calls, emails.) I will be working with committee chairs to review and/or create auto responder text for common questions.
- Time spent on prepping and uploading state membership reports to the database has been 15-20 hours per month.

TrailMeister- Mark Himmel

Deirdre Perot Lightsey (North Carolina) is the subcommittee manager for TrailMeister. Deirdre connects with Robert at least once a week on communication and boosting.

The giveaway items (BCHA logo refrigerator magnets) available to Robert shortly. The giveaway items are distributed to attendees at TrailMeister events.

Robert emailed me yesterday that the event in Tennessee this past weekend went well, Robert mentioned that he was glad to have the BCH members from Tennessee there.

We have been sharing TrailMeister events on BCHA Facebook, looking into how we can best present TrailMeister on Website.

