

C BCH January 11, 2024, 6:30pm, meeting MINUTES

Marti and Chuck Bauer hosted the meeting at their home with a "rice bowl" potluck

Members in attendance: Stephen Schultz, Naomi Wilson, Chuck and Marti Bauer, Mel Hare, Marcy Till, Christoph Schork, Susan Stevens, Mark Thornberry, Terry Galen, Missy Wardle.

1) Mission statement of BCH

Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses and Mules in America's backcountry and Wilderness areas.

Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. Assist the various government and private agencies in their Maintenance and management of said resources.

To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back county resource by horsemen and the General public commensurate with our heritage.

2) Acceptance of last meeting's minutes from November 9th, 2023. (Stephen)

Missy moves to accept the minutes from 11-9-23. Christoph 2nds. All vote in favor, motion carries.

3) Treasures report and membership report. (Naomi) \$1351.23 balance in bank account
Christoph moves to accept Treasurer's report. Marti 2nds. All vote in Favor, motion carries.

PLEASE RENEW your 2024 membership ASAP! There are multiple ways to pay: Venmo, check, cash, to Naomi, and Paypal at the Utah Backcountry Horsemen website.

Individual \$35, Family \$45, Youth \$10, and Patron \$100

The group considered raising the membership rates and decided against it.

Naomi will send out an email with details as to how to renew and keep track of renewals.

IMPORTANT: 2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS need to be submitted to Naomi, or to the BCHUtah.org website. These hours are counted in the state totals which lend credibility and influence to national BCH issues at the federal level.

YOU TOO can record your volunteer hours very easily, note on your calendar or phone, photos of the ride/event. You do not need to be riding or with your horse to count your hours - any time in the backcountry, walking, hiking, biking, where you stop to improve the trail (pick up trash, move rocks, etc.) CAN COUNT. Steve will create a tutorial regarding the importance of this issue, including procedures and record-keeping. Naomi will be presenting a workshop on this issue in March with ways to get more involved. This information is used in Washington DC to inform and influence our illustrious national leaders on various policy decisions.

4) Nomination of chapter officers 2024. Prez, Vice Prez, Treasurer (Stephen)

President - Stephen Schultz

Vice-President - Missy Wardle

Treasurer - Naomi Wilson

Secretary - Marcy Till

Terry moves. Chuck 2nds. All present vote in favor, motion carries

5) USFS draft plan update. Thanks for helping - council appreciated our input. Grand County Council supported proposal B or D, Our suggestion of additional changes to alternative B on

South Mountain ROS was not considered. They are leaning away from supporting more development in the La Sal's. Current situation is 70% motorized and 30% non-motorized trails. They support more designated camping areas vs dispersed camping. Problems - no fees and no oversight by USFS.

8) Trail Mix Update.

Trail Mix is getting a lot of publicity recently, resulting in new members and out of state interests attending meetings - probably due to road closures to motorized vehicles last year.

a) Officers 2024 - Officers will remain the same for trail Mix. Steve will be the Equestrian Trail Representative (correct title?) Again. Marti will be the backup rep if he is unavailable.

b) Facelift event name change - This year it will be renamed by Trail Mix. It will be a Spring date again for trail clean up and maintenance throughout the county. Do we want to suggest our Red Rock Trail? Trail work. Continued access. Improved signage.

c) La Sal Mtn loop road and 2024 closures - see map and anticipated construction impacts
What a nightmare. Wow!

d) Mud Springs construction now delayed to fall 2024.

e) The Moab (Trail) App info...BETA testing. Trying to copy the Park City or Aspen app. But simplified. App will tell your location, identify the trail, and list guidelines, suggestions for that trail.

f) ANY access suggestions for GCNMTMP (Grand County Non-Motorized Master Trail Plan)? Important! Get our ideas to Stephen ASAP. Christoph will work on the idea/route of a trail from Ken's Lake to Pack Creek. Stephen and Christoph will ride-in the Red Rock Trail and conform its GPS accuracy.

9) BLM announced their wild horse gathering intention & information for 2024 - it's an onslaught on wild horses and burros - BLM has mandated 21,000 being removed, including legacy breeds. They estimate that there are 60,000 on the range. Currently there are 60,000 in holding pens. Only 10% BLM lands allow wild horses. However, there are 1.5 million cows are on 60% of BLM land. Wild horse management cost is astronomical. Lots of emotion with varying opinions around this issue by several members of the group. What can we do to support a more reasonable plan and make our opinions known? Stephen and Naomi will give us references to who we can contact to be involved.

10) Chapter meeting schedule for 2024 - every other month, the 2nd Thursday of the month. (January, March, May, July, September, November)

11) BCHU State Meeting is January 20th 2024, in Richfield. Stephen and Naomi will attend. Stephen will be nominated as Vice-Chair for UBCH which he intends to accept.

12) Upcoming events for CBCH 2024, short list:

Spring endurance ride, April

Canyonlands Rodeo, June

Newly named Facelift Event, April? May?

San Juan County - Bluff River Trail

San Juan County - Recapture Trail
Schedule local trail rides

13) ANY Old Business

Marti - CBCH sponsoring a trail and maintaining it with SIGNAGE stating so. Generate some publicity for our group and our good work. She will research. Stephen will send contact info to Marti.

14) ANY New Business or ideas?

Motion to Adjourn

Naomi moves. Marcy 2nds. Motion approved.