

The Central Utah BCH meeting was called to order by Corby Briggs at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 31st, 2021, with refreshments and social time from 6:30-7. We had 8 members in attendance with 7 possible new members attending from Holden, Utah, 1 rejoining member and 2 possible new members from the Mt. Pleasant area (a total of 18 people).

1.EDUCATIONAL: Joyce gave a 15 minute demo on teaching your horse to “pick you up” from any raised surface.

2.MEMBERSHIP: Those wanting to join were advised to wait until Oct. 1st so they can be members for 2022 as well as the remainder of 2021.

3.SERVICE PROJECTS:

- White Hills: Diane Cote and Corby gave some background on the State’s involvement. The land was purchased for a wildlife winter habitat. The State has been concerned about bike use and has used dedicated hunters to place debris over the existing trail along the face of White Hills. Parallel trails are being created to the original trail by hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Julie Heavirland led a discussion on some talking points to approach Mark Farmer, DWR, about our group partnering with them. These talking points included:
 - Clarifying what the management plan is for the area.
 - Back Country Horsemen support and practice the ethic of “leave no trace”.
 - Help maintain winter habitat for wildlife by restoring sustainable trails people will use.
 - Growth needs planning. There will be more use of this area with increased population and with a \$279,000 grant given to Mt. Pleasant City to improve equestrian opportunity in Sanpete County, \$30,000 of which our club will use to improve trails. (See attachment.)
 - We would like to meet before January when all factions with an interest in using the land will attend a meeting initiated by DWR.
 - Partner with the State to improve, restore, and maintain 12 miles of existing, sustainable trails.
 - Partner with the State to create signage.
 - Partner with the State to improve parking behind the SE large gate.
 - Partner with the State to replace gates if needed.
 - Get a written agreement with the State on what we will do.
 - A motion was made to go ahead with these ideas being presented to Mr. Farmer by Corby, which was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - NOTE: Corby was able to talk subsequently with Mark Farmer who was positively receptive to all this, and wants to come this fall with some other State people to look at White Hills with us. Mr. Farmer in fact wanted us to begin replacing the gate on the SE end this fall. Corby convinced him the digging would be easier in the spring. Mr. Farmer asked for gps files on the trailforks app of the 12 miles of trails we’re proposing repairing. Diane and Steve Cote agreed to get this. Mr. Farmer said dedicated hunters can also assist.

- Canal Canyon: Lee Bennion initiated a discussion of the erosion on the trails which are steep and were not originally designed with sustainability in mind. Joyce had previously talked with Kevin Christensen of Sanpete Tourism and Economic Development who advised us to ask the Forest Service to do an environment assessment (EA) to determine the best sustainable route, then offer to contribute money and manpower to reroute the trails. Cameron had previously suggested we ask the FS to improve blockage for motorized vehicles in the canyon which is designated motorless. Julie suggested we need to meet with the District Ranger, Trail Manager, and Bill Broadbent from Ephraim FS to find out what their 5 year management plan is for this area. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to proceed with this plan.

4. RIDE in SEPT: We have planned to meet ready to ride in Canal Canyon September 13th at 6:00 pm at the trailhead.

SIGNED: Joyce N. Smith, Secretary