

High Desert Backcountry Horsemen Minutes
January 9, 2025
Approved at February 13 2025 Meeting

1. Members Present: Megan McConnell, Dorene Mudrow, Mary Poe, Noel Poe, Cindy Beem, Becky Tietze, Julie Alexander, Gina Tullie (Teams), Don Clark.

Meeting started at 6:39 PM. Megan and Dorene introduced themselves as the new officers, then everyone introduced themselves.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We will continue to use the call tree to remind members about the meetings - we all have very busy lives and it is really easy for events to be missed.

2. Approve Minutes from November and December Meetings: Mary moved to approve them, Dorene seconded, approved unanimously.
3. Reports:
 - a. Treasury Update: Cindy provided a written report - \$2,315.13 in the checking account, \$24 in Savings.
 - b. Membership Update: Cindy suggested that we need to ask all members to provide contact information, and she reminded us that we all have to fill out the waiver form annually.
 - c. Mary provided a summary of the December State meeting. It was apparently somewhat loud and contentious. Noted that the Forest Service will have no seasonal rangers. Next State meeting is 1/25 in Richfield - Megan, Mary and Noel will attend.
 - d. Briefly discussed the need to obtain signed waivers from any non-members who go on Chapter-sponsored rides, and all waivers should be turned in to the Secretary.
4. Celebrations: We were going to celebrate the service of Maria Vanhart and Barbara Maxwell, but neither was in attendance (Maria caught up in work, and Barbara on her way to Arizona).
5. Old Business: Trail Course at Kaneplex and Shinarump trail: Leigh Beem was not in attendance, so there was no status update. Megan did observe that, while a campground might fit the BCH guidelines (what is the purpose of a BCH Chapter), a stand-alone trail course did not. If it was done in conjunction with a campground, as we had thought about for the Kaneplex, then it might be appropriate but would require a significant funding effort. Megan will ask Leigh to report on the various discussions with BLM at the February meeting.

- b. New Business:
 - a. Service Hours: Megan provided a handout and presented on the importance of volunteer time and how to report it. Her primary point is that volunteer time equates to dollars, and the more volunteer time we record the greater the perceived contribution to BLM, USFS, etc. Megan has a spreadsheet that she uses to track her time before entering in on-line, and offered to record the hours for members. Her goal for 2025 is to establish HDBCH as one of the top four chapters in the state. This will likely be reviewed at the next meeting, but in the meantime here is a very simple example: If you are walking your dog on a trail, and you pick up trash, or clear a fallen branch, or fix a trail marking, then your time is a contribution and should be recorded.
 - b. January Ride: This won't actually be a ride, but will be a cleanup day on the Cottonwood Trail, Saturday, 1/25 @ 10 AM. Also, we need some other ideas, suggestions, etc. for appropriate service projects.
 - c. February Ride: Shinarump Trail, doing trail marking, with a possible potluck after the 7-mile ride.
 - d. March Ride: Need some ideas. The Honeymoon Trail was suggested, which runs from Moccasin to St George. It would probably be an overnight trip, so best deferred to sometime in the Spring.
 - e. Social Media/Communications Representative: Gina was nominated for this role, but unfortunately the on-line meeting had failed and Gina was not "in attendance" when this topic was discussed.
- 6. Ideas for Future:
 - a. At some time in the past, the Chapter made a quilt that represented the High Desert Chapter, and apparently it was originally used as a fund raiser. It was recently donated to Dr Tara to help with her fund raiser for the Kanab Animal Assistance Program. Don Clark won it, and has donated it back to the Chapter. We discussed using it in a future fund raiser.
 - b. Mary described that a friend of hers makes items (e.g. key chains) from horse hair, and is requesting any tail and mane hair that anyone wants to donate. If you have some, please contact Mary directly.
- 7. Adjourn: Becky moved to adjourn at approximately 7:40, seconded by Cindy.