

Backcountry Horsemen of Utah State Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2019

Meeting called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chairman Craig Allen. Minutes of last meeting was moved, seconded and passed unanimously. Nineteen members present. Seven chapters were represented; High Uintah, Bridgerland and Canyonlands were excused.

Craig presented the financial report prepared by Treasurer Bev Heffernan, who was excused. Balance as of January 1st is \$13,958.76. The 2018 revenues exceed expenses by \$974.00. Craig's summary is that the BCHU is in good financial shape. Motion to approve financial report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Membership report had been prepared by Bev and was delivered by Craig. In 2018 there were 196 individual membership, 191 family memberships and 2 patron memberships. That gives BCHU a total of 580 members, a decrease of 7 members from 2017.

Craig led a discussion that BCHA's Management Service can contract to manage the membership in each of the states and chapters. Several questions were asked and discussed. This idea needs further research and if developed would be an online membership program. Craig reminded Board that membership dues are delinquent March 1st and asked that the Chapter Presidents appoint one individual as the "Membership Contact" and get that name and contact info into Craig or Bev.

While on the subject of memberships, Craig told chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents that the monthly BCHA president's conference call is on the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Mountain Time. He invited the chapters to listen into these calls to learn what happening at the national level and can spread this word to chapter members at their monthly meetings. Freddy mentioned that BCHA is sending out a letter in near future to all state organizations to forward to the chapters. This letter explains what BCHA has done to meet the organization's Purposes and Vision and why having increasing membership is important. She encouraged the Chapter leadership to forward this letter to members that have lapsed the last two to three years.

Vice Chairman Wayne Ludington discussed the Annual Volunteer Hours Report. Wayne was happy to report that all chapters except one had submitted their annual reports prior to this meeting and the missing the chapter had contacted him and was working on their submission. He thanked chapters several times. With reports coming in on Friday, Wayne couldn't prepare a 2018 summary but stated his initial review was the Value of Volunteer Hours is approximately \$422,000, or nearly \$100,000 more than 2017.

As a part of the Volunteer Hours Report, Wayne and Craig used the BCH websites and showed the new officers where to find the various forms and instructions on completing this task. Several questions were answered. Wayne concluded with "*If you are doing, it probably counts.*" Craig wrapped up by stating estimating and rounding up is the norm and that "*Close is good enough!*" However, he stated but one has to feel good about the submission and let your conscious be your guide. Both think chapters are still underestimating volunteer hours.

Craig continued to use the internet and website to cover the Chairman's report. One noteworthy statistic from USFS surveys shows "Equestrians count for 3% of the trail users but BCH orgs. Counts for 40% of the trail work." Subjects discussed:

- Working with USFS to get sawyer training before fire season and maybe have BCHU members as "train the trainers."
- Encouraged chapters to have *Volunteer of the Year award* and tell chapters to push Trail Forever Donation. Of this donation, 67% of the money goes to the BCHA Grant Committee to award to individual chapters. Chapters can apply from January to March and the awards are announced in April.
- Two persons with a Family membership can now each have their own email address.
- Spent considerable time going through Website's Membership Page. Encouraged all members to develop a profile. Sign in with first&last name – no space. Until password is developed use "BCHA2016. This profile is privacy protected.

Craig invited BCHU Public Lands Coordinator Rod Player to join in on following points:

- UT politicians asking for amendments on USFS Roadless Rule. BCHU is concerned and want to "protect BCH access and use of public lands."
- BCHU responded to NPS request for equestrian information.
- BCHA is against changes to Wilderness Act and mountain bikes in designated wilderness. Not an issue now.
- Rod particularly asked Chapters to track talk on changing trail use and let him know.

Having the National Chair from Utah gives us opportunity for a National Report at BCHU meetings. Freddy discussed:

- 65% of BCHA members are females.
- Be appreciative of public lands, eastern chapters are aggressively fighting for what little public land they have. Encourages members to visit Extreme Trail Riders and Trailmeister websites for examples.
- Lack of youth membership, which is now a BCHA category of membership.
- Check latest BCHA Newsletter for information on horse manure versus dog & human manure.
- Check local/state community foundations for grants. Chapters can use BCHA criteria to accept grants as non-profits.
- USFS & NPS units in Oregon are moving toward establishing required permits for all trail users. Land managers agree with statistics that horses are not the problem. BCHA is fighting along with BCHO that horses should not be required to have permits.

Each Chapter followed up with their report. Craig feels from calls and chapter reports there is an increase in membership and with younger members and activities. He encouraged this direction.

Elections for Chairman and Vice Chairman were held. Nominations were held at last meeting but there was an opportunity to nominate others from the floor. No nominations. Richard Webb was elected Vice Chair by acclamation and Wayne Ludington was also elected by acclamation as the new BCHU Chair. Wayne asked Craig to become the State Secretary and he was so appointed.

The next meeting date/time was set to be 23 March 2019 at 9:00 am at the Richfield Utah Days Inn. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the upcoming National Board Meeting and to instruct Utah Delegates as to the consensus opinions on upcoming NBM resolutions and actions. Meeting Agenda will also cover any other old and new business as it comes before the BCHU State Board.

At approximately 12:30 the meeting was adjourned.

At 1:00 p.m. while people were finishing their lunch the meeting reconvened with the focus shifting to a training session for new chapter officers. There were several new officers from various chapters in attendance.

Post Script: Bev Heffernan has accepted appointment as the BCHU State Treasurer.

Mary F. Poe, Acting BCHU Secretary

Sign In for BCHU Mtg

Mary Poe

High Desert = Secretary

Raymond H. Conner

Julia Sbragia

High Desert

VP

Linda Alvey

High Desert

President

NOEL POE

" "

PAST-PRESIDENT

James Burgess

Hi-Line + Hobbles

V.P.

Brandi Drury

Hi Line + Hobbles

President

Jack Christophersen

Vintah Basin

VP

DALE Wharram

San Rafael

President

Rod Player

San Rafael

Public Lands

KEN SNOOK

" "

VP

TOM SMITH

Mt Ridge

Lisa Caddy

Mt Ridge

2nd VP / Public Lands

Scott Richards

Mt Ridge

State Rep

Doris Richards

Mt Ridge

1st VP / service coordinator

Freddy Dunn

Southwest

Treasurer

Wayne Ludington

SRBCH

Vice Chair BCHU

Craig Allen

Wasatch

Chair BCHU

Julie HEAVILAND

WFBCH

Chapt Prez