

Minutes

23 Mar 2019

Call to Order – Wayne Ludington

Acceptance of Agenda (Adds, deletes etc) – Wayne Ludington

Minutes of last meeting: Craig Allen M-S-P

Financial report Bev Heffernan M-S-P

Volunteer Hours report Wayne Ludington

BCHU reported \$427,332.62 for 2018. For 2017 we reported \$337,081.33. Thus an increase of over \$90,000

Chairman's Report

Excused Absences: Rod Player, Canyonlands Chapter, High Desert Chapter

Unexcused - Bridgerland Chapter

Wayne thanked Craig Allen for Past Service. Wayne stated that he would be relying on participation by all the State Board members and Committee chairs.

Old Business:

Committee Reports

Membership Report - Bev Heffernan (see attached)

Public Lands – Wayne Ludington vice Rod Player. Gave Description of Emory County Bill just passed and status of Utah Proposed Roadless Rule.

Communications – Craig Allen – Organizing Chapter Secretaries and Facebook Managers. Announced that Mr James Hurt has volunteered to become BCHU Webmaster.

New Business:

New Central Utah Chapter Application (vote required for approval) Action Tabled until next meeting to allow for Officer roster completion and Bylaws review.

Need an Education Chairman: Wayne will be following up with direct calls.

Saw Program Status: Jeff Nichols: Setting up C certification chainsaw classes for 2nd week in May for up to 6 BCHU sawyers. After successful completion BCHU will be able to cert A class Bucking and Limbing sawyers for work on the US Forests

Horse council request: All Horse and Hitch Parade" on May 4th in Brigham City. – Wayne will be contacting Bridgerland Chapter

Dirt Crew Presentation - Wayne will be contacting Terry Morrison

Utah state organization's charitable solicitations permit renewal – In work by Bev Heffernan. Use and requirement explained to board

National Business:

Officer Training posted

YM training posted

Facebook training posted

Seeking Utah Rep to Public Lands Region Subcommittee – Volunteers sought

NBM Resolutions for consideration and advisement of State Delegates

Be it Therefore Resolved, that the Back Country Horsemen of America immediately begin its constitutional process to amend its Constitution so that each state is entitled to one voting director at the BCHA National Board Meeting

https://bcha.site-ym.com/resource/collection/5893A31B-CE5D-4F69-A52B-133BFC86F71B/BCHW_resolution_on_BCHA_Constitution.pdf

Utah State Board consensus was to oppose this resolution

Therefore, let it be resolved that BCHA requests of the US Forest Service that within two years of the following catastrophic events that render a trail unusable by pack and saddle stock (when such use has been identified as appropriate in previously established Trail Management Objectives), a Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) process be initiated to restore the affected trails to an acceptable Design Parameter as established in the Forest Service Directives System.

- a. A wildland fire has closed portions of a wilderness trail.
- b. A wind event has closed portions of a wilderness trail.
- c. Any natural event has occurred and closed portions of a wilderness trail.

Further let it be resolved that BCHA requests that a similar process be initiated if a wilderness trail has not been maintained for a period of two years and is effectively closed to pack and saddle stock use.

And also let it be finally resolved that BCHA strongly suggests that the US Forest Service Washington DC Office consider all reasonable actions to remove cultural barriers that interfere with the timely and efficient analysis of all legally acceptable methods of maintaining and reconstructing wilderness trails, complying with the mandate of “administering [wilderness] for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness” (P.L. 88-577), and “narrowing the gap between program needs and resources” as recommended by the General Accountability Office Report (GAO-13-618).

<https://bcha.site-ym.com/resource/collection/5893A31B-CE5D-4F69-A52B-133BFC86F71B/BCHO & BCHW Joint MRA Resolution.pdf>

Brief Explanation of the BCHO & BCHW Joint MRA Resolution

The MRA process is part of the original Wilderness Act as it was approved by the United States Congress in 1964. The MRA process is a tool in the wilderness managers tool box that allows the use of modern tools to be used in extraordinary circumstances in the care and maintenance of our wildernesses. The current culture that exists within much of the leadership of the Forest Service has prevented consideration of MRA’s in most cases, and has approved very few. In the last decade we have seen many catastrophic events such as wildfires and wind storms that have rendered many of our wilderness trails unusable for pack and saddle stock. We are losing more miles of wilderness trail every year due to lack of maintenance.

The resolution only asks that the Forest Service use the MRA process as a tool that will allow us to get our wilderness trails open, especially those trails not usable by stock for more than two years. The resolution does not in any way change the Wilderness Act that Congress approved and expected the Forest Service to obey. The resolution does not in any way ask for unrestricted chainsaw

use in the wilderness. The only Wilderness trails that need chainsaws to clear them are those not passable to stock.

Utah State Board consensus was to support this resolution

Fundraising

Motion made to form an Adhoc committee to research the creation of a BCHU Vanity Automobile License plate for the purpose of fundraising at State level for further disbursement thru the budget process. M-S-P

Ken Snook, Jerod Hensen and Wayne Ludington will report at next meeting

Freddy Dunn will research Marketing items such as License plate holders etc.

Set time and place for next meeting: Virtual Meeting using FreeConferencecall.com at 7 pm on 23April.

Adjourn