

LAST CHANCE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

June 5, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Montana Wild, Helena, MT

Members present:

Nicole Anderson, Warren Armstrong, Fred Benson, JoAnn Chambers, Bud Criner, Ed Darfler, Lindsay Darfler, Matthew Darfler, Jim Darfler, Neil and Darlene Horne, Linda and Merlyn Huso, Sherri Lionberger, Dennis Milburn, Howard Reid, Tom Weiss, Rick Yearry, Katy Donnelly, Sue Mohr, Tony and Lyndsay Smith

Katy opened the meeting.

There were no guests or new members.

Business meeting:

April and May Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Fred and seconded by Merlyn. The motion passed unanimously.

Videoconference with LifeFlight:

Katy started the videoconference with Lifeflight: Amber Hanes-Miller.

Lifeflight operates in MT, Oregon and Washington. They have 26 bases with 3 bases in MT: Bozeman, Butte and Missoula and will service MT from Rexburg base (Darby, Yellowstone) and will fly into Libby and Troy and Eureka from Sandpoint base.

Fixed wing aircraft from Butte.

Fly with flight nurse, paramedic, and pilot. All staff are very well qualified for their respective jobs. Fly with human blood. Do high level care: more like a flying emergency room rather than a flying ambulance.

Membership: have 220,000 member households. Membership is for emergencies only.

If you are flown, no out of pocket costs. Each membership comprises of whoever is in the household.

BCH receives discount rate of \$50 per year instead of \$65 per year.

They bill insurance and accept whatever they get: you don't have to have insurance to be covered by Lifeflight.

Flight costs: average flight cost is \$35,000. Even a short flight runs \$18,000.

Mt Legislature passed a bill that prevents air ambulance programs from offering memberships to Montanans. In the past two months, they have resumed memberships to Montanans as it has been determined that the state law is preempted by federal law.

The need for this service is growing!

What is covered? Accident to hospital and hospital to hospital. They do two types: home or wherever the accident occurs (scene calls) and the other is between facilities: from a lower level center to a higher level center.

The only level one trauma center in this region is in Seattle; Salt Lake City is another option.

The doctor decides where the patient goes usually with the patient or the patient's family. Only 10 to 15% of patients are unconscious.

They do not reciprocate with any other services in Montana.

A patient has the right to request any air ambulance and you can tell them you are a Lifeflight member. You can never know if you will be transported by Lifeflight, because it depends on how coverage goes and who the emergency people call when you are injured. If you are injured in the backcountry, it is possible that the sheriff or the Forest Service will call another service.

It would be good to look into other options too. Sherri said that DeLorean provides a yearly fee of \$17.95 for coverage. Or look into other air ambulance coverages.

Rick Yearry: in Montana, there are issues with not enough helicopters for all the accidents. If you call in an emergency, you might request LifeFlight but you may not get them.

Treasurer's Report.

Jim Darfler

Checking: \$16823.47

Savings: \$1688.11

New CD: \$10,000 matures 8/20/2020.

CD: \$10,000 matures 6/9/2019

Plan to get another one: Jim is checking rates.

Bills: Sherri: Mileage to state director's meeting: \$31.50 plus supplies for Gates project: 18.37. Total 49.87.

Porta potty rental for freeze branding: \$75.

Motion to approve Clif , Matt second. Unanimously approved.

Director's Meeting: Sherri

Looking for Mountain Manners booklets. Can we bring a box to September board meeting? Darlene thinks we have a box to give to the board.

Mark Himmel is now Treasurer of National BCH.

Two resolutions:

1. One director per state. Failed.
2. Use of chainsaws in wilderness: minimum analysis requirement. Tabled on Day One. Park Service then told them that they use chainsaws all the time and it got voted in.

Lots of people not there for board meeting.

Regional Forester's ride is being held N Fork of the Blackfoot: we need at least 50 people. Pot luck with sides. No one has responded. June 17, 5 ish. Eat at 5:30. Desserts needed. Bring chairs.

We are responsible for a newsletter article for the next newsletter in September.

Kading Project: Dennis

Project is coming along well. Almost done with chainsaw work: Joe Meek and Mike Cannon have been helping Dennis. Just a mile left to do. Last weekend of June when the big project is scheduled will be a Pulaski swinging project instead of chainsaw. So people can decide if they want to go or not. Let Dennis know if you want to go. It will be a good team effort. Come in and camp Friday night and get up and go work Saturday morning.

Status of Gates and Elkhorn Projects: Neil and Sherri

Sherri: June 1 on National Trails Day: great crews working hard.

One stretch (Devil's Elbow) had a large downfall of trees, somewhere around 70 to 100 trees: it all got cleaned up. The team made it to Moore's mountain.

Another group cleared on the Refrigerator Canyon side up to Moore's Mountain. Another crew went up Hunter's Gulch. There were not as many downfalls as on the lower end. The group made it close to Bear Prairie.

Great job EVERYONE. It was a great day. We still need to do the piece from Bear Prairie to Moore's Mountain. We need to figure out a plan and get the dates to Marcus to add to the volunteer agreement. See Neil about this.

Elkhorn Project: thanks to Sherri and Bob Tomaskie and Bill Neihoff to help out early. The Elkhorns are a huge mess: Bob and Bill took all day and 6 tanks of gas to do ½ mile. They made it to Longfellow. We can't decide to put our resources into the Gates or into Elkhorns. We won't be doing a big get together into the Elkhorns at all.

None of the weekends specified have enough interest.

Neil: the folks who volunteered for the weekend of June 15 can come for that one day and see how much they can do.

Gary Wiles will do the Gates this coming weekend.

Site posts are part of our grant; Gates work is also part of our grant.

We could do the site posts in the fall.

We should do the Gates as a priority.

Remember! If you decide to go in and do work, let Neil know as he will contact Marcus to ensure we are covered during that work.

BMWFW WCC #2 6/27 to 7/4

Jeff and Neil and Darlene are taking that project on.

Thanks guys for taking this on: if anyone else wants to do it instead, Neil would be happy to switch off on it.

Additional Business

Nicole: her boss is looking for a mule to guard his sheep up Stickney creek. Would be nice if the mule can pack too.

Merlyn: has a rubber bumper for a horse trailer that doesn't fit so will donate it to the club.

Send pictures to Darlene for newsletter.

Sherri moved to adjourn; Dennis second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Mohr, Secretary.