

LAST CHANCE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

August 7, 2019 7:00 P.M.

Montana Wild, Helena, MT

Members present:

Katy Donnelly, Howard Reid, Dennis and Debbie Milburn, Sherri Lionberger, Meryln Huso, Bud Criner, Gary and Lynda Wiles, Dave Poole, Lyndsay and Tony Smith, Jim and Leslie Darfler, Neil and Darlene Horne, Rick Yearry, Clif Caughron, Russ Wattnem, Sherri McQuire

Katy opened the meeting.

Tony introduced his guest. Mike Lane moved here from Idaho and is a member of Eagle Rock BCH in Blackfoot. Welcome Mike!

The group recognized Joe and Theresa Meek who are leaving for Seattle.

Motion by Sherri to provide \$100 funds for the Youth Scholarship packer program in Joe's name. Howard seconded.

Unanimously passed.

Joe recognized how much fun and rewarding it has been as a member of LCBCH. It has been a great experience and good exercise (😊). Joe encourages anyone who wants to do something meaningful to join. The club is a great place to meet people and to work on a cause we all care about. Joe and Theresa will be missed by all of us!!!!

Business meeting:

June Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Sherri and seconded by Clif .
The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report.

Jim Darfler

Checking: \$16527.65

Savings: \$1688.52

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

CD: \$10,208.66 matures 11/11/20

Bills:

\$102.26 for the picnic expenses to Sue.

Tony dinner at York bar for work on the Gates for \$18.

Motion to approve Darlene , Rick second. Unanimously approved.

Jim expressed his concerns getting bills paid during the busy time of the year especially when a meeting gets missed. Jim wants to avoid having club members pay for bills and have to wait sometimes for months to get reimbursed.

The officers are all over the valley and Jim has to chase all over to get a second signature.

Jim says the bylaws allow the Treasurer to issue a check without prior approval by the members of \$100 or less.

Jim proposes to leave the bylaws as is. If Jim can get one check signed by an officer so that he can make out a check and sign it himself, it would be a great time saver.

Sherri suggests that we have two checks signed instead of just one.

Dennis suggests that Jim contact the other signator by phone when he is using one of the signed checks.

If the check is over \$100, Jim can send an email to all the officers notifying them of the expense in compliance with the by-laws.

Motion by Sherri to provide two pre-signed checks and to notify the signator when a check is being issued and if the check exceeds \$100, all officers must be notified per the bylaws. Neil seconded. Unanimous approval.

Status of projects:

Tony: shared a map of the status of the Gates project. Started in June at Hunters Gulch and Refrigerator. Others have been in doing a little at a time. Tony and Lyndsay went into Refrigerator and Hunters Gulch trying to get to Bear Prairie. Need to do what is rest. There are a couple miles left to do at the top and members need to keep working on it. Be In Compliance if you are going: wear helmets, etc. Let Marcus know so we have compliance.

Any saw work being done on trails in Forest Service must wear helmets including riding helmets. Sue and Howard will try to go up in September and camp out at Kennedy Springs. Will send out an email to see if anyone else wants to come along.

Elkhorns: Neil.

Two guys went out for 2 days and did one half mile.

Seven went out, five sawyers and three swampers and did ½ mile.

Marcus sent out two Forest Service crews. They were out 4 days and did 3 miles.

Neil said he isn't going back until the trail is cleared. Marcus said they will let us know if they get it cleared so we can get the sight posts in.

Darlene said that chain saws at this point will be a fire hazard too given how dry everything is.

Dennis: Kading

We participated with a no. of other groups and got the corridor done along the Kading grade ready for tread work and excavating. Sawyers were there for 5 or 6 days and did a lot of saw work. It looks good and will be a good trail.

Our contribution amounted to \$3000 of work.

Dennis announced a new development by Helena National Forest.

In last Farm Bill, Forest Restoration program was reauthorized meaning there are grants to be made available to do good things in the forest.

It is possible to apply for up to \$40M to do work in the forest.

The Helena District is putting a proposal together to try to get as much of these funds as possible. They asked us to be their collaborative partner for the entirety of the Helena and Townsend Ranger district. They plan to bring in other partners. Proposal due in Missoula August 23. Dennis asks if our group will sign onto this proposal as a supporter. Looking for letters of support to support Forest Service effort for their proposal.

Examples of what we would do: road maintenance, trails, trailhead facilities, watershed restoration activities, weeds, wildlife habitat. Any kind of resource management activity would count toward the scope of the project.

Neil says it is a great deal. Neil moves to support Dennis' suggestion; Sherri second. All approve.

Dennis: all the cost share we do already contributes to what the Forest Service is doing.

Forest Service will be proposing two landscape NEPA (National Environmental Project Act) projects in the Big Belts this fall: one Avalanche North and one Avalanche South.

Forest Service has asked our High Divide group to come up with trails proposal for non motorized activity.

Next meeting Sept 4 at Montana Wild. Katy will ask Chuck Wittmer, the vet, to come.

Motion to adjourn.

Sherri; Dennis second.