

**LAST CHANCE BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**  
**September 4, 2019 7:00 P.M.**  
**Montana Wild, Helena, MT**

**Members present:**

Nicole Anderson, Kerry Bartlett, Fred Benson, Mike Cannon, Russ Cargo, Bud Criner, Katy Donnelly, Neil and Darlene Horne, Merlyn Huso, Mike Layng, Sherri Lionberger, Dennis and Debbie Milburn, Sue Mohr, Howard Reid, Lyndsay and Tony Smith, Tom Weiss

Katy opened the meeting.

Guests: Don Kristenson, Terry Hutton

Business meeting:

**August Minutes**

Correction to minutes spelling Mike's name. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Kerry and seconded by Debbie. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.**

**Darlene made the report.**

Checking:   \$16407.39  
Savings:     \$1688.52  
New CD:     \$10,000 matures 8/28/2020.  
CD:          \$10,208.66 matures 11/11/20

As we are at the end of our working season, do we need to maintain a large balance in checking or should we put \$10,000 of it in a CD to get a higher rate of return?

Group suggests they authorize Jim to get another CD.

Dennis has a bill for our share of Kading project: \$100.

Motion to approve CD purchase of \$10,000 by Neil, Tony second. Unanimous approval.

Motion to approve bill pay: Fred, Sherri second. Unanimously approved.

Motion to approve Treasurers report: Fred, Sherri second. Unanimous approval.

### **Status of projects:**

Sherri: Gates of the Mountains. Merlyn, Warren and Sherri worked on the project. They did not make a lot of progress. Tony and Lyndsay went up the week before and made it to Moore's creek. It is clear to the big meadow below Moore's Mountain. We have chunks of trail left between Bear Prairie and Kennedy Springs.

Sherri encourages anyone to head up to the trail if they have time and desire.

Dennis asks Sherri about whether we have satisfied the RTP grant requirements. He noted that we've done extra work on the Moore's Mountain trail plus doing trail clearing in the Elkhorns. Dennis notes that we are expanding our trail activities beyond the RTP grant and said that we should have enough time in to qualify for the funding. Sherri agreed.

### **Forest Service CFLRP, NEPA projects in the Big Belts**

#### **Collaborative Forest Land Restoration Program authorized under the Farm Bill.**

Dennis reports that this is a two phase project. We will know on Friday whether we passed the first phase: \$34M over ten years, front- end loaded in early years due to many projects being shovel ready. Could be a boon to the Forest to get a lot of project work done outside of the normal funding project.

Dennis feels confident of this proposal since we have a lot of projects ready.

Our role will be to do the normal work we always do which will be incorporated into the cost share. Every dollar we contribute to trail work counts as a match for the project.

The funds will be given to contractors to complete the project.

Recently there was an open house for the vegetation project in the Big Belts. Another project is the Boulder/Baldy project. There is a lot of work being done here too. We will be able to comment when the public participation portion begins.

Forest Service has asked our High Divide group to come up with a trails proposal for non-motorized activity in Middleman area (Big Belts Beartrap-Middleman-Hedges). The group has developed a proposal.

Upper Missouri River system will be looking for proposals for a RAC grant by December.

We should propose whatever we want to do this time. Last time we proposed Elkhorns and Gates and were awarded \$30K. What do we want to do this time? We need to keep our RTP grant separate from RAC grant. We have one more year of the RTP grant.

RAC grants are easier to deal with, paperwork-wise, than RTP grants. Sherri is on the RAC committee so she can't be involved in the grant work by our club.

Funds will be allocated by January, early winter.

### **Challenge at Challenge: Sue**

This event was sponsored by the Flathead BCH. It was a great experience and lots of good discussion about sustainability of BCH in general and also how to support smaller chapters. Tony talked about the collaboration between Chapters and a way to invite people to projects being done by other chapters. There was an idea proposed of the state BCH developing a calendar where groups could submit big projects onto the calendar allowing members from any club to volunteer to help out. Dan Marsh was talking about working on that.

Gallatin Valley is doing a BBQ near Spanish Peak in a couple weeks. RSVP needed. The invitation went to presidents and directors. People may want to come.

### **MCC Equine Education Request: Katy**

Sarah Rankin from Montana Conservation Corps called. Sarah would like us to provide equine training for 15 to 30 adults. Sherri suggested we ask Sarah about their insurance. Katy said that they would have insurance for anything we did. Discussion around doing a half day: defensive horsemanship, how to behave on the trail with equines, how to work with horses and mules.

Fred volunteered to use his place; Katy, Kerry, Merlyn, Tony, Bud, and Lyndsay would help. Training would include general horse handling, behaving around horses on the trails, riding or mounting and dismounting, how to put packs on. Fred will be in touch with the others on this. He is planning to do the event for the end of September.

MCC has free dates: Sept 26 to 30, October 10 to 14.

### **Web Page: Lyndsay**

Lyndsay is focusing on recruitment and retention. For example, we have a new member, Geraldo, whose email is not working. Katy will look for updated contact info. Are we, as club members, making new members feel welcome and fitting in on projects? Can we mentor new members in a better way? We need to follow up. Can we invite folks on a ride and help them practice whatever issues are difficult?

Tony shared that, at the Challenge, it was interesting to hear what chapters did to recruit new members. Bitterroot does clinics and works with 4H chapters.

Missoula does a lot of trail rides to attract new members.

Lyndsay said someone reached out on Facebook. This person was wondering if she could go on rides with people. Would it be acceptable to add someone to an email list of our activities if they are not a member? There is definitely a place for non-members who are interested.

Let Lyndsay know if there are rides scheduled that would be appropriate for non-members and she will get it posted.

### **Old Business**

Scholarship for Joe: Our treasurer should write a check to Montana BCH for the Youth Education program.

We can take the check to the Board meeting on Saturday.

Neil reminded us that a group from LC BCH took Bill Meloy's ashes in to Pretty Prairie and set up a plaque this summer. The Ranger called in the past few weeks and told Neil that the plaque was moved and put up inside Pretty Prairie Ranger Station. Everyone was glad to hear that was done!

### **New Business**

Sherri said the Secretary for the Department of Interior signed a document allowing EBikes on nonmotorized trails. This is only affecting trails where mountain bikes are allowed outside of the wilderness. It also only applies to the BLM and has no impact on Forest Service.

It will take time to figure out how to implement and Sherri is hoping to see public comment on this before final action is taken.

Our local bicycle group was opposed to it which we all appreciate.

Sherri also reported that there is a yearly get together with the Chiefs of Mexican, Canadian and US Forest Service. This year it will be held at Nine Mile Ranger station. Mexico and Canada do not use groups like us. BCH has been invited to talk over a campfire meeting regarding how we help out the land management agencies. Sherri will be representing us. Good job, Sherri!

Katy suggested it would be good to have signs to put up on our trails that say, Volunteer Trail Crew ahead, BCH.

Kerry moved to have Katy look into it and do whatever is prudent to order the signs. Tony second. Unanimous approval.

Katy is working on having a veterinarian come in to do a presentation.

Neil took a trip into Falls Creek, which has been opened up by Diamond Bar X. It is a quarter mile in to the Falls, and is a great trail. It was just opened up through purchase by Rocky Mountain Elk foundation and Lewis and Clark county. There is lots of riding to do there. It is an easy drive, just off the Dearborn road with good parking for rigs. Neil encourages members to take advantage of this new trail riding opportunity.

Next meeting October 2 at Montana Wild.

Motion to adjourn.

Sherry moved and Tony seconded.

Unanimous approval.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Sue Mohr  
Secretary  
LCBCH