

Minutes - Last Chance BCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 pm June 3, 2020 MONTANA WILD

Debbie and Dennis Milburn, Katy Donnelly, Nicole Anderson, Jason and Brenna Hughey, Sue Mohr, Howard Reid, Fred Benson, Sherri Lionberger, Tom Weiss, Jim Darfler, Darlene and Neil Horne, Kerry Bartlett, Bud Criner, Bob Tomaskie, Tony and Lyndsay Smith, Don Kristenson, Mike Laying, Merlyn and Linda Huso, Renee and Debbie Duykaerts, Clif Caughron, Rick Yearry
Guests: Lee and Hassell York, Terry Hutton, Mark Sather

- Approve Minutes: Neil moves approval; Nicole 2nd, Unanimous.
- Treasurer's report – Jim Darfler
 - Checking \$5850.10; Savings: \$1689.16
 - Three CD's of \$10,000 each.
 - Bills: Bob Tomaskie
 - Darlene for Elkhorn Project: \$277.89 plus other costs TBD.
 - Motion to pay: Sherri, Fred 2nd
 - Check to Jim Darfler and to Phil's Saw Sharpening...3 checks paid by LCBCB.
 - Thank you letter from Food Share shared with the group.
 - New signs for Hunters Gulch (old signs spray painted) payment to Neil.
- First Aid Supplies – Tony and Lyndsay
Tony ordered 2 first aid kits. Back ordered for a month. Total \$192. Already approved.
- 2020 Projects – All Tentative
 - Cost Share v. Volunteer Agreements – Tony: completed and signed. Everyone who plans to work on a project this year must sign. This agreement must be signed. Then on each project a roster is also signed to attest you are working on that specific project. There is also an attachment which includes use of firearms for putting down stock.
 - Email a separate signature page to each member.
 - For firearm use send your name and email to Katy.
 - Gates of the Mountains – Sherri and Tony
 - Big Log to Hunters Gulch cleared and then Hunters Gulch to upper Kennedy and Refrigerator Canyon to where trail splits. May have another 6 miles to go. Not too bad. We were thanked by lots of hikers when we were up on the trail. Someone needs to finish this up: feel free to go. Talk to Tony if you want to go up. One or two in groups would be perfect.
 - Elkhorns, other forest service projects – Neil
 - Elkhorn trip: Bob Tomaskie, Don Kristenson, Mike Cannon and Fred went up last weekend and camped overnight and cleared the trail: a tremendous accomplishment. Had they not done this, the weekend project would not be possible. THANKS SO MUCH for this amazing effort!
 - 21 people are signed up. Neil has broken the group up into several smaller groups. Two will leave an hour before with GPS coordinates and will go through and put flags in the ground where every post goes: Jeff Brandt will head this up.

- 2 groups of packers: Bob and Neil packing posts and Fred and Renee other main packing.
- Tony is heading post installation: Lyndsay, Nicole, Mike and Tyrel. 42 posts being put in.
- As flaggers and packers get done, they will turn around and help with post installation. Not as important to get the posts dug and sunk as just getting the posts in place. That way folks can go up later and do posts if they want.
- Ed Darfler is bringing a load of wood.
- Katy, Howard, Sue and Lee Hassle are walkers.
- Jordan and Jason and Cliff will do a short ride (Trails 135 and 134).
- 2 cooks: Darlene and Debbie
- Neil has maps of all the trails and a map of how to get to Eagle Guard station.

Neil advised the group that, if we are going to cancel, we need to cancel tonight. Rain and high winds are projected through the weekend.

The group decided that we are on, rain or not!

Sherri:

This is an RTP project which means we can be reimbursed for it. RTP grant (recreational Trails program: federal funds administered by Fish WL and Parks). We still have \$2500 of funds to collect but documentation must be provided. Must document when you leave, your mileage, the names of your stock, license plate of truck and license plate of trailer. Also, note hours from start to stop and the time you get home. That is how we get reimbursed for \$2500. Time allotted can include the prep work done the weekend before by Bob and Fred and names of others helping. Sherri will run off the grant form and distribute. Big thanks to Fred, Don, Bob and Mike Cannon for clearing all these trails!!!! Well appreciated.

Agreement will be sent out to everyone electronically.

- Hurl race: Fred.
- MCC: Nevada Mountain: waiting to more info.
- BMWF pack projects – Katy
Tony and Sherri doing McCabe Creek.
Fred is doing Alice Creek pack project on Aug 1 and goes out on Aug 7. Need someone to do the pack out. Webb Lake is still available. July 2 to 5, three nights. Three pack animals. Weed trip.
If interested in pack in for Alice Creek or Webb Lake, let Katy know.
- North Fork of the Blackfoot Camping – August 14-16
Coincides with Tony and Sherri's pack trip. Katy proposes a fun campout that weekend for people to gather and camp and trail ride. May not have group meals but we will see. Let Katy know if you would like to do this so she can get a count.
- Dennis: revised Forest Plan for Helena Lewis and Clark Forest. Final plan is out and ready to be reviewed. We have a chance to object to anything in the plan. Dennis is pleased with the plan as many of our

comments were accepted. Nevada Mountain is now under the designation of recommended wilderness. The core area of the Elkhorns will be designated as primitive recreational. They did allow recognized use of the core area which is not great as it will allow trails to be upgraded. Dennis wants the club to approve his comment on the Plan to include an objection to the recognized use (specifically mountain bikes and wheeled vehicles) designation. This area extends from Eagle to McClellan Creek including Tizer Basin. Motion to authorize Dennis: Darlene and Clif second. Dennis will have Katy review his proposal and will make sure it is coordinated with other use groups. Unanimous approval.

- Sherri: State Director's meeting. The state convention was cancelled. The Board is having Zoom calls. Last meeting was in May. 30 people were on. State membership is up this last year. State level of volunteer work calculates to over \$1M worth of work.

Defensive horse safety has been changed to horse safety. It is not a certification but training to stay updated.

State convention information:

Convention will be back to the Bitterroot next year, 2021.

Three Rivers for 2022; Kalispell would like to host for the 50th anniversary in 2023 and are hoping to do the National Convention in Kalispell that same year.

So 2024 will be in Helena hosted by LC BCH.

Question for the group: Who looks at MT BCH Facebook page? A woman in Flathead wants to start an Instagram account. There is a newly developed social media policy to make sure it is pertinent to BCH so postings will not be political or religious. If you see anything inappropriate on the BCH Instagram, let Sherri know.

Ebikes: taking comment on proposed rule. It's not too late to go on and voice your opinion. We vehemently oppose why Ebikes would be considered non-motorized.

There was discussion regarding an incident in the local news this week about a private helicopter landing in the Bob Marshall Wilderness so the passengers could fish. Sherri talked to the Forest Supervisor about this. It is the group's consensus that these people should get cited since it was very blatant abuse perpetrated by what appeared to be privileged wealthy people who assumed they would not get caught.

Sherri received an email from Bill Dawson, the FWP game warden out of Jefferson County. Bill is a member of a local parks, trails and recreation committee. He was inquiring about a possible project on Muskrat trail, which is a BLM trail which goes into Forest Service land and accesses the Tizers. There is a need for a foot bridge two miles up Muskrat Creek. This project would be scheduled in the next year since it will take that long to get BLM approval.

Bill was wondering if we would be interested in helping assist somewhere down the line.

Neil: packing only or also installation? Sherri said she would inquire and keep us posted.

- Old Business:

Neil reports that there is a contractor working at Kading with a mini excavator building the tread.

If you go into Blackfoot Meadows, carry a saw as there is a lot of downed timber.

Neil picked up a couple of new saws.

They are shorter and easier to carry on pack animals.

\$180 apiece; \$320 for all the sharpening and the two saws.

The price includes scabbards which the person who built the saw didn't charge for but did them as a donation to the club.

New Business

Nicole is looking for a horse as her beloved horse died last fall. The horse needs to be well broke for her mom to ride and also to pack, preferably around 15 years old.

Reminder for everyone to sign the master volunteer agreement.

Adjourn. Fred moved; Tony 2nd. All approved

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mohr, Secretary
LCBCH