

Minutes - Last Chance BCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 pm July 1, 2020 MONTANA WILD

Debbie and Dennis Milburn, Katy Donnelly, Nicole Anderson, Sue Mohr, Howard Reid, Fred Benson, Sherri Lionberger, Darlene and Neil Horne, Bud Criner, Tony and Lyndsay Smith, Terry Hutton, Joann Chambers, Renee Duykaerts, Clif Caughron, Rick Yearry, Tom Weiss, Jason and Brenna Hughey
Guests: Brittan and Ryan Kaiser

- Approve Minutes: Sherri moves approval; Tony 2nd.
Unanimous.
- Need a new alternate state board member. Sherri vacated the club's state director position so Howard now moves up to permanent board member along with Kerry Bartlett leaving the alternate director position vacant. Katy would like to elect a new alternate at the August meeting. Next state directors meeting will be in September in Deer Lodge. Sherri reviewed the job description: alternates usually attend just to stay up to speed although they do not vote unless a board member is not there. Talk to Sherri if you want more information.
- Treasurer's report – Darlene reporting for Jim Darfler
 - Checking \$4831.25; Savings: \$1689.16
 - Three CD's of \$10,000 each.
 - Bills: Renee has a bill for Elkhorns groceries: \$21.61.
 - Motion to pay: Fred moves; Lyndsay 2nd Unanimous.
- 2020 Projects – All Tentative
 - Gates of the Mountains – Sherri and Tony
Tony and Lyndsay went up and got about a mile past where Sherri and Sue stopped. Lots of big trees blown down and still need work. There are 35 trees between upper Kennedy and Bear Prairie and then “a lot” more down from there. If you want to go in, coordinate with Tony. Sherri will probably be out of town.
 - Elkhorns wrapup/RTP forms – Darlene. May be a need to check on the trails sometime this season. We are pretty much done with this grant. As always keep track of your time and mileage for any activities in the Elkhorns or the Gates. RTP grant: there are a few chapters who left funds unspent and can be distributed to other chapters so we might get more funds beyond our \$2500 left over. So track your time and effort as we may be able to qualify for more funds. Decision to be made soon.
- BLM Scratchgravel Proposal: Dennis
 - Comments due August 7, 2020.
 - The proposal was surprising in its scope since the increased amount of development was never discussed in planning meetings.
 - Adding 40 miles of new trail construction, mountain bike optimized. Portions open to hikers and equestrians.
 - Some closed to bikers and some closed to hikers and equestrian.
 - 40 existing trails only for hikers and equestrians. Up to 9 miles of trail per square mile. This is quadruple the normal density of trails for wildlife. No funds will be available for this work; expect partners to do the work for free.

- Inadequate discussion of weeds.
 - Dennis put together a page of talking points. Sherri will put our proposal together. Dennis encourages as many people as possible to submit comments.
 - Two alternatives are proposed by the BLM: we should encourage they adopt Alternative A (rather than expanded Alternative B) with some modifications. Should not include Ebikes. Ebikes are motorized and should not be allowed just like other motorized vehicles in the area. We share these trails now with mountain bikes and pedestrians and haven't had a lot of trouble. The proposal appears to set up the area to be destination spot for ebikes: Helena as the Moab for ebikes. This would be completely to the detriment of local users with out of state users being encouraged to come and yet no infrastructure provided. Parking areas and trailheads will be overwhelmed.
 - Letters should be personalized.
 - July 16 and 22 Q and A sessions at Norris Trailhead from 6 to 8 pm. Will send out an email ahead of time reminding people of the sessions.
- BMWF pack projects – Katy
Tony and Sherri doing McCabe Creek August 15.
The Alice Creek pack project is available on Aug 1 and goes out on Aug 7 for anyone who is interested. It is a 22 mile round trip and needs an experienced person. Don't think we have anyone to fill in.
If interested, 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 good count by the August meeting. Katy and Tony will check and see about campsite spots. Should we do group food? Or have everyone do their own breakfast, lunch and dinner or what?
 - Old Business:
 - New Business

Dennis reports that the comments on the Forest plan were submitted by Sherri. This was mailed out. Comments were approved at the last meeting.

Next year's convention: we should provide a saw similar to what Neil put together for the club.

Lyndsay asked about a request from a woman on Facebook looking for someone to pack some people in. Lyndsay would like to know how to respond to these requests. LC BCH is a volunteer organization and liability would be involved if the group became involved in private requests like this. Howard commented that the goals and objectives of the organization are not aligned with the request. Lyndsay should let the club know about these requests and individual members could choose to help out if they want. But they would be on their own, not a club sanctioned activity.

Adjourn. Fred moved; Sherri 2nd. All approved

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mohr, Secretary
LC BCH

