

Minutes – Last Chance Back Country Horsemen, Membership Meeting

December 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

Montana Wild

- President Jason Hughey welcomed everyone
- Take Roll
Jason Hughey, Terry Hutton, Lynda Wiles, Neil Horne, Fred Benson, Nicole Anderson, Mark Turner, Krissy Gillispie, Bob Tomaskie, Katy Donnelley, Cari Funkhouser, Jordan Hughey, Taylor and Nick Patterson, Nolan Wanner, Mike Layng, Sherri Lionberger, Jodie Ross, Merlyn Huso, Mike Cannon, Tom Weiss, Deb Remillard
- Guest Speaker: Wayne Chamberlin, Montana Conservation Elders (MCE)
 - MCE is an independent, non-partisan organization, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. MCE membership represents a variety of conservation perspectives and members bring experience from a wide range of fields, including journalism, publishing, teaching, law, health care, politics, outfitting and more. There are approximately 40 participating groups and/or agencies. MCE works to encourage and enable youth (next gen) to be conservation leaders in the future. Various events are held annually that include opportunities for youth participation. Approximately 22 youth camps were held in 2023. Some examples are archery, fishing, tent camping, hiking and backpacking. Depending upon the type of camp activity, ages range from about 8 – 18 years old.
 - An event for LC BCH to participate in will be the Montana Youth Expo, held April 13, 2024, 10:00 – 4:00, in Helena at the L&C Fairgrounds. MCE has reserved the Multi-purpose building (indoor arena) as well as the area outside of the Exhibition Hall. MCE will heavily advertise the event in Helena. LC BCH chapter will participate; more planning and discussion to be done in preparation.
- Minutes from October 2023 meeting: Fred B motioned to approve, Jordan H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer's Report: Lynda Wiles, treasurer:
Checking: \$13,112.82
Savings: \$1,726.68
CDs:
\$10,271.03
\$10,558.90
\$10,987.11
- Woods Creek follow-up: Hank Flatow returned project money back to the chapter less annual 2023 membership dues; another helper (from MCC) cannot be located so his payment will go back into checking account; Deb Tomaskie returned project money back to the chapter.

- Treasurer's report: Sherri L motioned to approve, Katy D seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- State Directors Meeting report, Krissy G:
 - Next state directors meeting to be held December 16; items to be voted on by LCBCH chapter prior to meeting
 - Decker Dispatch newsletter: paper mail (expensive) or only electronic (via email); all chapter members have an email address. There may be a need to share either electronic or print and mail newsletters for local USFS offices. To be determined.
 - Jordan H motioned to approve only electronic mail, Deb R seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Annual LCBCH membership dues: currently single is \$30 and family is \$40; \$10 of each membership is retained by the chapter, the remaining funds go to the State BCHMT and from there some portion of the funds go to BCHA. These (national BCHA) funds help pay for a lobbyist as well as the full-time admin staff. The BCHA is in need of additional funds to be donated from chapters who are able to do so. The state membership dues are submitted early December of each year for the current chapter membership.
 - Sherri L motioned to approve the chapter to pay an additional \$5 per member for the 2023 year to the State BCHMT, Jordan H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Jordan H motioned to approve an increase in LCBCH membership dues to \$35 for single and \$45 for family effective for 2024, Cari F seconds. All in favor, motioned passed.
- 2025 State Convention Committee update: Sherri L reported Civic Center is reserved March 14, 15, 16, 2025; initial planning included: potential theme = Gold Rush; video presentation of LCBCH event in 2025, to be prepared by Lyndsay S and will be available at 2024 State Convention; committee requests pre-approval for initial event funding of \$1,000
 - Terry H motioned to approve pre-approved funding of \$1,000, Deb R seconded funding approval. All in favor, motion passed.
- 2024 State Convention: to be held at Fairmont Hot Springs in March; hotel rooms will be blocked out for attendees; delegates for LCBCH chapter to be determined after elections however all members are encouraged to attend; Katy D has raffle tickets for purchase
- LCBCH chapter nominations update, Sherri L: current nominees - Jason H, Pres; Jason F, Vice-Pres; Jodie R, Treasurer; Terry H, Secretary; Katy D and Krissy G, State Directors; Sherri L, Alternate Director; elections to be held at Jan 20, 2024 party/meeting; anyone interested in being nominated for any of these positions, feel free to contact Sherri L

OLD BUSINESS

- January 20, 2024 Holiday Party committee update, Fred B: event info has been sent out to members; \$15 per person, \$10 for children; money to be paid by Jan 12; send money to LCBCH, PO Box 4008, Helena, MT 59604; Fred B is tracking paid attendees
- LCBCH chapter officer/director duties: executive board is updating roles and responsibilities; currently in draft form; to be finalized shortly after elections in late January 2024
- Grant Application update: Krissy G is completing and submitting the Youth grant request for \$500; there is also a \$1,000 grant for the chapter which can be applied for in January; if LCBCH chapter receives one or both grant fundings, it is planned to be used to prepare for the Montana Conservation Elders Youth Expo event in Helena in April 13th

NEW BUSINESS

- LCBCH chapter membership dues: as noted previously, 2024 dues will be \$35 single, \$45 family; when annual memberships are received the membership list is updated; be sure to identify current info such as name(s), phone number(s), address and email address
- 501(c)3 status: the IRS website indicates the chapter as a 501(c)4; Katy D researched chapter paper documents and located the 'official' IRS letter confirming the chapter status as a 501(c)3 non-profit and able to receive donations as tax deductible
- Stu Sorensen of Flathead chapter memorial – brief discussion if LCBCH chapter should send anything; discussion ended with no results

OTHER BUSINESS

- LCBCH logo embroidered hats: still some available for purchase; structured (Richardson 112) \$24; dark gray or maroon unstructured for \$21. The remaining hats will be available at future meetings or contact Terry H
- Krissy G indicated Greg Schatz is gathering extra gear to distribute to youth to use as needed
- Next meeting to be held January 20, 2024; party, buffet dinner and elections, VFW East Helena; start at 6:00 pm
- Financial Audit: Fred B brought up an audit should be done before new/next treasurer; Jason will check with Jim Darfler
- Adjourn: Sherri L motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted:
Terry Hutton, Secretary