

Minutes – Last Chance Back Country Horsemen, Membership Meeting

March 6, 2024 7:00 p.m. Montana Wild Conference Room

- President Jason Hughey welcomed everyone
- Guests: Ralph DeCunzo; Mandy Alvino and Lucas Parriman - USFS
- Take Roll:
Jason Hughey, Terry Hutton, Jodie Ross, Fred Benson, Krissy Gillispie, Bob Tomaskie, Katy Donnelley, Jordan Hughey, Taylor Patterson, Sherri Lionberger, Merlyn Huso, Tom Weiss, Cathy Lay, Jeff Brandt, Jason and Cari Funkhouser, Mike Layng, Mike Cannon, Robyn Barkley
- Minutes from February 2024 meeting: Fred B motioned to approve, Sherri L seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer’s Report: Jodie Ross, treasurer:

Total Account Holdings as of 3/4/24: \$45,788.18

Account Type	Amount	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$11,400.63	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,726.89	0.05%	-	-
CD1-7679	\$10,987.11	3.5%	17 month	4/18/24
CD2-5937	\$10,687.01	4.05%	13 month	3/7/24
CD3-9561	10,986.54	4.05%	13 month	3/7/24

Expenses:

- 1266 Nicole Anderson - Holiday prizes for x-mas party - \$140.28
- 1267 Katy Donnelley \$30.75 x-mas party & \$85 reimbursement for Annual Convention \$115.75
- 1268 Nick or Taylor Patterson - Annual convention registration for 2 - \$170.00
- 1269 Terry Hutton - Event Thyme Catering for x-mas party \$942 and \$3.99 for water - \$945.99
- 1270 Jodie Ross - Darlene Horne Flowers - \$16.99

Total \$1,248.73

Deposits:

- Terry Hutton \$35 – membership dues
- Cathy Lay \$35 – membership dues

Total \$70.00

- Jim Darfler did a financial audit; based on recommendations the monthly expenses and deposits will now be identified at a chapter meeting and be part of the treasurer’s report approval by members and included in the minutes; another recommendation is if a pre-

approved spending limit is approved for an event, the trail boss or committee needs to monitor expenses; another recommendation is to not void checks, if member receives a check from LCBCH it needs to be cashed, if member wishes to donate funds back to the chapter they can do so by writing a check to LCBCH.

- Reminder to pay 2024 membership; dues \$35 single, \$45 family
 - Treasurer's report and pay bills: Fred B motioned to approve, Merlyn H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Discussion about two CD's that are coming up for renewal; based on recommendation of the board, renew the two CD's with interest into a 5.25% Variable Rate CD with a 12 month term; Merlyn H motioned to approve, Sherri L seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- 2025 State Convention (March 15, 16, 17) Committee update: Sherri L/Katy D co-chairs
 - Sherri L reported a planning meeting, Wed, March 13, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Montana Wild
 - Clif Caughron – a card was sent to him while on Hospice care in Helena, he received it and appreciated it; a few chapter members attended the Vigil or Funeral reception; a sympathy card was sent on behalf of the LCBCH chapter; Margy Kernan (spouse) appreciated it

OLD BUSINESS

- 2024 State Convention, Fairmont Hot Springs, March 8, 9, 10:
 - Katy D has raffle tickets for purchase, make payment to LCBCH, one for \$5 or five for \$20
 - Wall of Honor for members who recently passed away; Linda Huso and Clif Caughron
 - Reimbursement of registration fees and mileage one way; submit to Jodie R
 - A live auction item is needed, value \$100 or more; Jason F offered to donate a saddle pad (value @ \$300); thanks go to Jason F
 - Discussion about taking the chapter display board; to be determined if anyone can bring it
- Tracking time/mileage/stock use – determine a common method for members to track whether for USFS projects with available RAC funding, or for general volunteer service; committee to work on a solution: Terry H, Cathy L, Jason F
- RAC Grant Application – Allen Rowley working on it; if awarded the grant, funds will be for the 2025-2026 year projects

NEW BUSINESS

- Montana Conservation Elders Youth Expo: April 13, Helena fairgrounds; Jason H is Trail Boss; a small box of books and DVD's was donated by Clif Caughron's wife Margy Kernan

2024 Project Updates

- Mann Gulch Project – Monuments; Fred Benson, Trail Boss

1. Take in 4 monuments approximately 50 pounds with a foot of rebar coming out the bottom – 2 mules. Possibly practice loading monuments on mules at May meeting.
 2. Take in 4 to 6 - 60# bags of Quikrete – 2 to 3 mules
 3. Take in 10 to 20 gallons water, water weighs 8 pounds per gallon, 80 to 160 pounds – 2 to 3 mules
 4. Tools, bucket(s), shovel(s), polaski(s), tarp – 1 mule.
 5. We drop the materials and leave, FS and Smoke Jumpers to place monuments and carry tools down to the river.
 6. There is a small landing area at the end of the Jim Philips Spur Trail from the saddle at the top of Mann Gulch. One or two mules at a time due to the steep terrain at the end of the trail.
 7. Total needed: 9 mules, 4 to 5 packers, 2 to 3 outriders, 1 to help with each string unless packer wants more.
 - Date not set yet. BLM will be working to improve the road to Willow Creek TH this coming spring – summer and we need to work around their schedule. Proposed timeline starts about May 27 with a final date to haul monuments in June 7, about a 12 day window. Prior to May 27 there are shed hunters.
 - Contact Fred B if you can help, if you have pack animals and dates that work for you.
- Gates of the Mountain – Trail Clearing, Fred Benson, Trail Boss
 1. Refrigerator to Merriweather trail clearing (prep for Mann Gulch 75th anniversary in Aug); LC BCH to clear from Refrigerator to Upper Kennedy Springs; other groups to clear from Merriwether CG and up
 2. Propose begin clearing National Trails day, first weekend in June
 3. Propose setting up a common use drop camp near water (Lower Kennedy Springs maybe)
 4. Trail(s) may be difficult to follow as there is a few years overgrowth
 5. Will need certified crosscut sawyers, at least one per team
 - a. Per USFS no certification needed for Katonaboy
 - Eagle Guard Station/Elkhorns/Crow Creek – Jordan H, Taylor and Nick P Trail Boss
 1. Remove fallen tree and repair foot bridge; may be some trail clearing
 2. Eagle Guard Station will be available to use August 8 through August 12 (Thur -Mon)
 - Townsend trails – Cathy L Trail Boss
 1. Various trails in the area need clearing; most will be shorter trips and less time
 2. Will need saw certification; generally chain saws to be used
 - Chapter Freeze Branding/Dutch Oven event – Krissy G and Jodie R Trail Boss
 1. Will be held May 19
 2. Location to be determined depending upon whether there are animals to be branded
 3. An email will be sent out to members to determine if freeze branding is needed

- Tizer Guard Station (New) – Lucas P, USFS, noted MCC crew will be doing some clearing in the area in July/August; they will need pack support to haul tools, chain saws and gas; to be discussed more at subsequent chapter meeting; potentially up trail #114, up to Airplane park

Overall Project Notes:

1. The chapter has approx. \$10,000 RAC grant funds available to be used in 2024 by end of Sept on USFS projects; this includes mileage, camp food and/or supplies as needed
2. Trail Boss will follow Trail Boss/Project Manager Checklist requirements (let Terry H know if you need the Checklist)
3. Members must sign the USFS volunteer form prior to project participation
4. Lucas Perriman, USFS will need a list of members who need or want saw certification; Jason H will check if Darlene H has a list and will then send out email requesting list of members wanting saw certification
5. Members working on a project will be required to report time, stock, mileage, etc., regardless of project

OTHER BUSINESS

- Katy D recommended an event/project calendar to be posted on LC BCH website and maybe Face Book; Lyndsay Smith currently handles posting on the Web and FB but has requested assistance; if available to help with social media updates please contact Lyndsay S

- Adjourn: Sherri L motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted:
Terry Hutton, Secretary