

LCBCH Meeting August 6, 2025

Montana Wild Location

Meeting was opened at 7:00 by President Jason Hughey

Attending: Katy Donnelly, Nicole Anderson, Jason, Cari, Haylie and Hannah Funkhouser, Bob Tomaski, Fred Benson, Neil and Darlene Horne, Sherri Lionberger, Ali Kenny, Jordan, Jason, Ellery and Brenna Hughey, John Pavsek, Jeff Brandt, Merlyn Huso, Anna Pieri, Mandy Alvino (FS). Guests Denny Haywood and Gene Hansen

Jason asked for any changes to the last minutes. Katy moved to accept them, seconded by Jordan and motion passed.

Treasurer's report by Ali. Terry reviewed the convention finances for us and all bank records, compared it with Fred's spreadsheet and Dan Marsh's info from the state. Total expenses were about \$22,000 and we grossed about \$31,000 so we netted roughly \$9000. We had one reimbursement from Terry for rope from the conex. Ali reported the checking and savings account balances for the month and our CD's. Fred asked about our convention attendance -it was about 190 to 200. Motion to approve the report by John and seconded by Merlyn. Motion passed.

(Ali's Treasurer Report)

- Results of the 2025 State Convention review (as documented by Terry)
 - "The process was basically the info in the binder along with some review of the bank records and for the silent and live auction money, I compared Fred's spreadsheet with the BCHMT (Dan Marsh) financial info. The convention was a success due to LCBCH member support!"
 - Total expenses = \$22,010.37
 - Total deposits = \$ 31,042.66
 - NET = 9,032.29

Deposits

- 8/6/25 = \$24.00 (rope reimbursement; Hutton)

Opportunity Bank - Total account holdings as of 8/6/25: \$50,291.58

Account Type	Current Amount	Amount Last Meeting	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$14,051.96	\$14,051.96	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,728.20	\$1,728.20	0.05%	-	-
CD1-6738	\$11,688.12	\$11,688.12	5.25%	12 mo.	4/18/26
CD2-3512	\$11,253.94	\$11,253.94	5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26
CD3-3547	\$11,569.36	\$11,569.36	5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26

Bills Presented

- NA

Trail Clearing – Sherri and Ali cleared Mann Gulch a couple weeks ago.

Katy and John – no one has signed up for the weekend up at Duck Creek Pass. Jason F noted they were up there earlier and someone had used the corrals this year, so trails may have been cleared some. There won't be a camp out, but John/Katy will go up and make sure the trail is cleared on Saturday so the MCC crew can be packed in. Bob and John will pack the MCC crew in on the 12th. There are 6 crew members and 2 additional for a few days. They will take 6 pack animals as they are needing to pack in water also. Darlene asked about doing the clearing as well as the packing in on the same day to avoid driving up there twice, which would be a long day. Not easily done, so the plan will stay the same. We should talk about getting dates scheduled a bit earlier to make sure we get a good turn out. Mandy noted that the Crow Creek roads and Indian Creek road are getting about finished so we could go back to Eagle Creek guard station next year. Katy is also interested in Thompson guard station. Mandy suggested we get something on our calendar before the holidays so we can get the cabins reserved. Eagle Guard station area has a lot of trails we can work on from there.

Mandy had already sent out a message with all of the trails that she would like help clearing. She tried to keep the trails in the county so the RAC grant applies. Jason will send the list out to the chapter again.

Fred let everyone know that Mike Layng had a brain bleed, was in surgery in Missoula and he is back home now. He was in the Bob on a trip, had an odd fall off a log and hit his head. He is doing well now. We will send him a card. Along those lines Krissy had reached out that Rebecca Powell was diagnosed with cancer and was going to bring a card tonight. Krissy isn't here so Ali will send that card as well.

Fred said that L&C search and rescue has started a horse team and they meet the 3rd Thursday of the month. Let Fred know if you would like to join. They meet at 7:00 at the S&R building near the east Helena fire station. Also, the sheriffs dept is thinking of an MOU with BCH if they need pack support and they could reimburse us.

Donation to FS museum in Missoula. Katy brought this up a couple meetings ago regarding donations to support a BCH display. We (as BCH) would get very good PR with thousands of people coming thru the displays. Katy moved that we donate \$1000 for the museum display. Fred seconded the motion. Motion passed.

John and Bob talked about the need to use certified hay for 3 days prior to going into the wilderness to make sure your animals are pooping clean apples. We need to be conscious about keeping our lands as clean as we can. The conversation then went toward weed control in areas we have been.

Denny Haywood asked to give us a talk about his concerns regarding multi-use trails. He has been riding and packing between here and AZ for 35 years. He recently had an encounter with a runner on the trails out at McMasters. They were riding in a closed brushy area with no good line of site. Both his mules scattered and his wife's mule ran into a barbwire fence. The runner's response was I have a right to be on this trail – Denny said yes but when you drive on a public road you need to drive responsibly, and the mule thought it was being attacked. The runner apologized in the end and they had a good conversation. He wrote a letter to the BLM field office and volunteered to follow up with some possible ideas. One thought was to establish a trailhead sign about how to educate and help with encounters. The BLM asked Denny to put together a sign protocol and asked to get feedback from our group regarding the sign. He also contacted Randy Rasmussen (national) to ask if anyone else had already put together a sign similar to what Denny is doing. Randy said not that he knew of. The triangle yield sign is good, but it doesn't really communicate the "why". The bear aware sign has better communication and he was thinking if we could help people understand why this is important for safety, there would be more cooperation. He passed out a handout with a lot of website resources as well as a knock up of a proposed sign. This isn't a finished product but is the beginning of an idea. He is asking for feedback and thoughts. Katy thought we should consult with other stakeholders and perhaps do that before we put signs up. She is afraid if people see a

picture of a horse blowing up they will then be afraid of horses. Fred thought the picture is ok to let people know there could be a problem. Bob noted that most accidents are because we lost control of our own animal. He has never had an issue with bikes but he spends a lot of time training his animals. He thinks we can't expect the public to change their behavior because we don't have control of our animals. He doesn't want us to point the fingers at others for our animals issues. Denny agreed and takes responsibility but he would like to think education would help minimize some of these issues. An education stance seems like a good perspective, but be careful about the message. Anna felt that we should only keep the message positive – don't say they can't use earbuds, etc. Have a message saying if we work together we can keep the trails safe. Denny asked if there was any desire to get involved at all with this. Katy encouraged him to look at the BCHMT website. There are no signs currently at McMasters, but the triangle yield sign on the carbonite posts. Ali suggested that if we have folks interested in this they can contact him and work toward a group endorsement as it proceeds.

John volunteered to help with the Christmas party this coming year – Ali will help. Thanks!!

Sherri moved to adjourn seconded by Kari

Meeting adjourned at 8:13

Submitted by Sherri Lionberger in place of Terry H who was out of town.