

Minutes – Last Chance Back Country Horsemen, Membership Meeting

September 3, 2025 7:00 p.m. Montana Wild

- President Jason Hughey welcomed everyone; no guests attending
- Take Roll:
Jason, Jordan, Ellery and Brenna Hughey, Ali Kenny, Terry Hutton, Tom Weiss, Nick, Taylor, Payton and Maddie Patterson, Fred Benson, Bob Tomaskie, Darlene and Neil Horne, John Pavsek, Alissa Bare, Sherri Lionberger, Katy Donnelley, Merlyn Huso
- Minutes from August 2025 meeting: Terry H motioned to approve, John P seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer Report Sept 2025, Ali Kenny
 - Audit?
 - Donating \$1,000 to BCHMT for the BCH exhibit at the Forest Service Museum
 - Deposits
 - 9/3/25 = \$45.00 (family membership; Denny Haywood)

Opportunity Bank - Total account holdings as of 9/3/25: \$50,390.58

Account Type	Current Amount	Amount Last Meeting	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$14,155.96	\$14,051.96	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,728.20	\$1,728.20	0.05%	-	-
CD1-6738	\$11,688.12	\$11,688.12	Up to 5.25%	12 mo.	4/18/26
CD2-3512	\$11,253.94	\$11,253.94	Up to 5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26
CD3-3547	\$11,569.36	\$11,569.36	Up to 5.25%	12 mo.	3/7/26

- Bills Presented – n/a
- Treasurer's report and pay bills: Sherri L motioned to approve, Merlyn H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Some discussion about membership dues; LCBCH individual \$35 and family \$45 and what is paid to BCHMT and BCHA; what is more beneficial to the members and the chapter

Here is an example from November 2024 when we paid BCHMT/BCHA for LCBCH members:

- Individuals paid \$35 = \$20 to BCHMT, \$5 to BCHA, \$10 to LCBCH
- Family paid \$45 = \$30 to BCHMT, \$5 to BCHA, \$10 to LCBCH

OLD BUSINESS

- 2025 Work Projects:
 - Stove Camp TH/Woods Creek area - John P reported; John and Katy D cleared trail #118 out of Stove Camp TH Aug 9; John, Terry H and Bob T packed in MCC crew, supplies and tools Aug 12; John, Bob and Bill Niehoff packed MCC crew and tools out Aug 20th; Bob reported there is still a large stack of bridge planks on/near the trail; MCC crew reported they finished the bridges and also

cleared more of the trail; the road is tough on trailer tires, Darlene and Neil brought a spare into Stove Camp TH for Terry

- Steve Wadsworth (member from Great Falls) informed Jason there is a trail into Mann Gulch that is very brushy and could be cleared/trimmed; Fred B had pictures of the brushy trail; Sherri L may go in on Sat 9/6 and do some clearing; she'll check with Steve to possibly help and welcomes others

NEW BUSINESS

- Upcoming BCHMT meeting, Sept 20: Katy D is going; let her know if you have info to share or have questions she can ask
- LCBCH chapter is due to submit an article to BCHMT for Decker Dispatch: article due 9/5; Sherri will draft an article for submission; *and/or* Katy D will submit an article regarding all of the information on the BCHMT website
- USFS/RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) report for work done in 2025 by LCBCH for payment; Jason said Mandy informed him the request for reimbursement payment is due Sept 26; Jason will send me (Terry) the latest agreement info;
 - **send volunteer info (mileage, stock, etc.) to me (Terry); some members have reported via Fred (trail boss, National Trails Day), John (Stove Camp TH) and some members have reported separately; I may reach out to members for any potential missing info**
- 2026 Project Planning: Mandy Alvino indicated our chapter can reserve Guard Stations by Nov 6 to use in 2026; we discussed these dates for 2026 projects
 - June 5, 6, 7, 2026 – reserve Eagle Guard station for overnight June 5 & 6; clear trails and other needed work in the Elkhorns
 - July 10, 11, 12, 2026 – reserve Thompson Guard station for overnight July 10 & 11; clear trails and other needed work in the Big Belts
 - NOTE: these 2 projects are within the RAC area and eligible for reimbursement by USFS
 - August 2026 (dates TBD) – the repair/replacement of the Monarch Bridge near Little Blackfoot and Kading campground; the work will need to be done by hand, no machinery can get to the location; LCBCH chapter and MCC will be doing the work; John P has worked with Mandy and engineer to determine bridge requirements; Mandy indicated this project is approved by USFS but this project is not within the RAC grant area so there will be no reimbursement for the volunteer work from chapter members

OTHER BUSINESS

- Other Activities/Events:
 - Guest Speakers: John will reach out to someone to speak at our next meeting regarding bears in the backcountry; some discussion about possibly someone to speak on fire mitigation in the future
 - Clinics and community events: we may coordinate with other outdoor organizations in the Helena area to plan events in 2026; possibly do defensive horsemanship based on BCHMT website
- Christmas Party: John, Ali K, Alissa B planning committee will report plans at Oct meeting; Fred will be the contact with VFW in East Helena
- LCBCH Website: Alissa has been working on our website with help from Lyndsay Smith; Terry will send her the missing meeting minutes and the contact info of a valuable resource for web help, Dan Marsh
- Elections: Jason mentioned we need to prepare for officer/director elections to be held in Jan 2026; per the by-laws: ARTICLE 7 – ELECTIONS

- Section 1 All Officers and State Board Directors must be members in good standing and shall be elected at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Their term of office shall be at the end of their nominal term plus or minus those days, which make up the difference to the nearest election date.
- Section 2 No Officer shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms.
- Section 3 A nominating committee of three current members shall be selected one month prior to the election of Officers.
- Section 4 The nominating committee shall provide a list of suitable candidates for Officers and State Board Directors to the membership. Nominations for other candidates may also be made by any current member at the election meeting.

I (Terry) was confused about the duration of an officer term, which appears to be one calendar year and then the max appears to be 3 years. After some research, which is subject to correction, here are the start dates/years for the current officers;

- Jason Hughey – was VP 2022 into 2023; moved into President position Sept 2023
- Jason Funkhouser – VP starting in 2024
- Terry Hutton – started in Secretary position Sept 2021
- Ali Kenny – started in Treasurer position June 2024

The State Directors position terms are directed by BCHMT:

- Sherri Lionberger – Senior Director, 1st year, term ends 12/31/2025 (? Not sure if this is correct)
- Katy Donnelley – Junior Director, 5th year, term ends 12/31/2026
- Terry Hutton – Alternate Director, 1 year at a time, term ends 12/31/2025

As mentioned earlier, this is the info I have, but all of it is subject to correction and will probably be discussed at the October meeting.

- Next Meeting: October 1, 2025 – Montana Wild
- Adjourn: Jordan H motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted: Terry Hutton, Secretary

Reminder - 2026 Project Planning, get it on your calendar (more info in minutes):

- June 5, 6, 7, 2026 – Eagle Guard station for overnight June 5 & 6; Elkhorns
- July 10, 11, 12, 2026 – Thompson Guard station for overnight July 10, 11; Big Belts
- August 2026 (dates TBD) – the repair/replacement of the Monarch Bridge near Little Blackfoot and Kading campground

Another Reminder: submit your volunteer dates, mileage, stock use, etc. to Terry no later than 9/22 (more info in minutes)