

## Minutes – Last Chance Back Country Horsemen, Membership Meeting

January 7, 2026 7:00 p.m. Montana Wild

- President Jason Hughey welcomed everyone
- Take Roll:
  - Jason, Jordan, Ellery and Brenna Hughey, Terry Hutton, Tom Weiss, Taylor, Nick, Payton and Madeline Patterson, Fred Benson, Bob Tomaskie, John Pavsek, Katy Donnelley, Nicole Anderson, Teri Juneau, Anna Pieri, Nolan and Sheila Wanner, Merlyn Huso, Denny and Marie Haywood, Krissy Gillispie, Neil and Darlene Horne, Mike Cannon, Michael and Kristen McDaniel
  - Guests: Justin Bailey, Savannah Murphy, Micah Fields, Mandy Alvino, Erynn Castellanos
- Guest Speaker: Erynn Castellanos, Education & Partnership Specialist of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. Erynn provided an excellent overview of their organization’s goals, objectives and mission. Like the Montana Back Country Horsemen organization, the BMWF has a shared interest in maintaining access to the backcountry and managing our natural resources. Erynn shared statistics and information on the work BMWF accomplished in 2025 and provided ways in which our organization or as an individual can participate in upcoming projects. She also had brochures and other handouts to share.
- Minutes from December 5, 2025 holiday party/meeting: Fred B motioned to approve, Merlyn H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Treasurer Report January 2026, Terry H reporting for Ali Kenny
  - Deposits
    - 11/28/25 = \$7,382.90 (USDA Treasurer; trail work reimbursement)
    - 12/26/25 = \$280.00 (Christmas party entry: cash)
    - 12/26/25 = \$10.00 (Terry Hutton; Christmas party entry: check #4876)
    - 12/26/25 = \$55.00 (Darlene Horne: Christmas party entry + family membership: check #1341)
    - 12/26/25 = \$205.00 (2026 membership dues: cash; Fred Benson (individual), Jeff Brandt (individual), Alissa Bare (family), Anna Pieri (family), Russ Wattnem (family))
    - 12/26/25 = \$35.00 (2026 membership dues: check; Mark Turner (#2097, individual))

Opportunity Bank - Total account holdings as of 1/7/2026: \$55,211.92

Account Type	Current Amount	Amount Last Meeting	Interest Rate	Term	Maturity
Checking	\$18,971.86	\$12,905.96	-	-	-
Savings	\$1,728.64	\$1,728.42	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
  - 12/12/2025 = \$920.00, Chapter member dues to state (BCHMT #1348)
  - 12/12/2025 = \$982.00, reimbursement to Ali Kenny for Dec party caterer (#1349)

- 1/7/2026 = \$264.88, reimbursement to John Pavsek for Dec party raffle prizes (#TBD)
- Treasurer's report: Merlyn H motioned to approve, John P seconds. All in favor, motion passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

- December holiday event update by John P: original pre-approved budget \$1,000.00; Costs: Caterer \$1,232.00, VFW Rental \$125.00, Raffle Prizes \$246.88; Payments: \$300.00 (\$10 per adults, kids free); **final total cost to chapter \$1,321.88**
- State Directors Meeting Dec 13 update by Terry H and Katy D: re-cap of current issues due to Federal Government changes and/or proposals:
  - USFS – possible re-organization, possible repeal of Roadless Area Conservation Rule and Travel Management Rule
  - BLM – possible repeal of rule giving conservation, recreation and public access the same priority as mining and drilling
  - Sale of Public Lands – still being discussed
  - 100 mile border zone – being discussed; zone between Canada and US, would include Glacier Park, Bob Marshall Wilderness and Charles M. Russel National Wildlife Refuge
- Mark Himmel continues work with national FS admin for continued sawyer program certification
- BCHMT Annual Rendezvous at Monture, June 18-21, 2026; everyone welcome
- 2026 State Convention March 27-29, Bozeman; **Fred B has raffle tickets for purchase or to sell**
- BCHMT had funds available for Challenge Cost Share; Terry H submitted invoice for reimbursement of chapter member first aid/CPR training in 2025; potential reimbursement of \$585.00
- BCHA offers a Chapter Support Grant in 2026, potential of \$100 - \$1,000; Terry H will possibly apply for LCBCB chapter
- Life Flight Network (Steve Schmidt): Jason H discussed them possibly providing Wilderness First Aid training; training takes two days; cost per person \$450; certification is for 2 years; they need a minimum of 10 people up to 18; discussion about the cost, could LCBCB subsidize some of the cost for members; Montana Wild room reserved March 7 – 8; Mike McDaniel made a motion for the chapter to subsidize and pay \$2,250 (for minimum 10 people), Katy D seconded; much discussion about training; possibly other less costly opportunities; Jason H wasn't sure if Wilderness First Aid training included CPR certification; Darlene H brought up if members do not participate in work projects, should the chapter pay/subsidize training for them; Kristen M will research other training opportunities and report at future meeting; discussion ended with motion being withdrawn; Jason H will not pursue Life Flight Network Wilderness First Aid training
- USFS update from Mandy Alvino: another RAC Grant application opportunity coming in 2026 if we are interested; FS will continue to rely heavily on volunteers to get field work done; Mandy will be providing required volunteer forms and will present a list of trails to be worked based on priority as soon as available; FS may also be able to provide chainsaw and crosscut certification training; our chapter still has funds available from previous grants if we get out and get the work done; see below for current 2026 projects
- USFS/RAC (Resource Advisory Committee) report for work done in 2025 by LCBCB: after the federal government shutdown, Terry H, with help from Mandy Alvino finalized and submitted the report and request for reimbursement mid-Nov; payment received late Nov; Terry H has the list of volunteers and information; potentially an email to volunteers to identify possible reimbursement and determine if volunteer requests payment or is donating payment back to the chapter; Terry H will coordinate with Jason H who followed this process for the prior year and with Ali K, treasurer; **on second thought, the member reimbursement amounts needs to be discussed and approved at a membership meeting – TBD February**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Packing demo opportunity: Micah Fields of Pretty Good Outfitters presented information about their outdoor education program; on February 21 he would welcome a packing demo; class runs 10am – 2pm at the Union Hall, 110 N Warren; there is space for trailer parking if bringing an animal if weather allows, or training can be done indoors (without animal); the goal of the demo is to give students some familiarity with packing equipment, packing styles and to introduce our LC BCH Chapter; info at [www.prettygoodoutfitters.com](http://www.prettygoodoutfitters.com) , Micah Fields, 406-431-1807, [micahbfields@gmail.com](mailto:micahbfields@gmail.com)

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Elections: Terry H volunteered to find nominees for officer/director elections to be held in Jan 2026
  - Current nominees identified:
    - President – John Pavsek
    - Vice President – Mike McDaniel
    - Secretary – Terry Hutton
    - Treasurer – Ali Kenny
    - State Director – Sherri Lionberger
    - Alternate State Director – Terry Hutton
  - Nominations for other candidates may also be made by any current member at the election meeting
  - Terry H read through the list of current nominees; Katy D called for other nominations from the floor three times for each position as noted above; hearing no further nominations, elections were closed; Nick P motioned to approve nominees, Merlyn H seconds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Next Meeting: February 4, 2026, Montana Wild
- Adjourn: John P motioned to approve. All in favor, meeting ended.

Respectfully submitted: Terry Hutton, Secretary

## **Current Chapter 2026 projects planned; get them on your calendar!**

- 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