

Back Country Horsemen of America
2008 National Board Meeting – Elko Nevada – April 22-26, 2008

**MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed.*

**MSF – Motion made, seconded and failed.*

Chairman Michael Reedy called the National Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 23, 2008 with the pledge of allegiance. He then welcomed everyone and gave the "State of BCHA" address. President of Nevada BCH, Chuck Vickrey, also welcomed.

Roll Call – Vice Chair Terry Morrison (UT) called roll via introductions and a quorum declared.

States: Arizona (Jim Higgs & Tony Van Rooy), California (Jerry Ledbetter & Michael Murphy), Colorado (Julie Chaney & Larry Zauberis), Idaho (Val Johnson & Rod Parks), Indiana (Susan Miller), Missouri (Marsha Copeland & Allison Schottenhaml), Montana (Ken Ausk, Chuck Miller), Nevada (David McGarr & Chuck Vickrey), New Mexico (Nick Martinez & JoAnn Van Der Geest), Oregon (Phil Hufstader & Becky Wolf), Utah (Terry Morrison), Washington (Randy Darling & Bob Shonka), Wyoming (Barry Reiswig & Al Sammons). Affiliates: Florida (Truman Prevatt). Officers & Committee Chairs: Chair (Mike Reedy), Past Chair (Merlyn Huso), Media & Marketing (Ottie Otterstein), Public Lands (Steve Didier), Public Liaison (Alan Hill), Wilderness (Ann Lange). Staff: Executive Secretary (Peg Greiwe), Director of Development (Kandee Haertel), Wilderness Consultant (Dennis Dailey), Editor (Sherry Jennings), Webmaster (Bob Badgley). Incoming State: Alabama (Al Sanders). Incoming Affiliate: Kentucky (Edith Conyers & Roy Cornett). States Not Represented: Illinois, North Carolina. Affiliates not represented: Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia (Mid & South and North), Michigan, Tennessee (E TN & S Appalachian), Virginia (Golden Horseshoe & No Man's Land). Incoming Affiliate not represented: Wisconsin.

Guests: Jim Bedwell, USFS; Connie Myers, Carhart Center; and Rick Potts, NPS.

Memorial To Lost BCHA Members – Val Johnson (ID)

Minutes –

***MSP to accept minutes of the 2007 National Board Meeting in Prescott AZ as printed.**

Treasurer's Report – JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM) reviewed the financial reports of BCHA for 2007 & 2008 to date.

MSP to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Applications for State/Affiliate Organizations, Al Sammons (WY)

- Back Country Horsemen of Kentucky (Edith Conyers, Roy Cornett)

MSP to accept the Affiliate BCH of Kentucky.

- Chequamegnon Back Country Horsemen of Wisconsin (not represented).

MSP to accept the Affiliate Chequamegnon of Wisconsin.

- BCH of Alabama (Al Sanders)

MSP to accept the State BCH of Alabama.

Director of Development Report – Kandee Haertel introduced herself and spoke about what she needs in order to raise funds for BCHA.

Executive Secretary, Peg Greiwe – Peg started in October 1995 under Chair Randy Darling. Reported on travels of National Display, updated attendees list; updated list for extra copies of newsletter; mail list has 13,096 of which 1300 are comps (FS, BLM, etc); Congressmen and Senators on list but only with local addresses. Total membership from paid dues is 12,800. Spur Partners: 9 Spurs; 22 Bronze Spurs; 7 Silver Spurs; 6 Gold Spurs; 1 Diamond Spur.

2007 Policy Manual Update- Peg Greiwe (ES) guided the ND's through the process.

BCH Education Foundation – Peg Greiwe (ES for Education Foundation) gave the annual report for Chairman Mylon Filkins DVM for 2007 through April 2008. In 2008 four grants have been approved to date totaling \$8600. Through BCHA Fundraising efforts 133 donations averaging \$56 were received that enabled the Foundation to make the four grants for 2008 to date.

Committee Reports – printed in agenda binder and briefly reviewed by committee chairs.

- Education Committee, Jerry Ledbetter (CA)

- Legal Fund, Steve Didier (ID)

MSP to accept the Legal Fund report.

- Marketing & Media Committee, Ottie Otterstein (CO)

- Affiliations Committee, Alan Hill (CA)

- Public Liaison, Alan Hill (CA) – mission is to expand, maintain and grow relationships with agencies

- Public Lands, Steve Didier (ID); Barry Reiswig (WY) has agreed to co-chair Public Lands.

- Volunteer Hours, Nick Martinez (NM) – Computations about 99.5% complete; in excess of \$5.3 million; \$15 trail work, \$25 skilled; \$75 heavy equipment unless specified; \$23 power equipment.

- Ways & Means, Michael Murphy (CA)

- LNT Board – read and accept under final reports and include recommendation for next representative with \$1500 budget.

- Expansion, Al Sammons (WY)

- Legislative Committee, Bob Shonka (WA) & Phil Hufstader (OR)

- Nominating Committee – Susan Miller (IN)

- Development of Equestrian Facilities – Al Sammons (WY), Ken Ausk (MT), Barry Reiswig (WY), Terry Morrison (UT), Merlyn Huso (MT)

- Strategic Planning Plan, Terry Morrison (UT) – tomorrow afternoon immediately following this meeting

- 501/c3 presentation, Terry Morrison (UT)

Directors, your role is... a presentation by Val Johnson (ID); clues for ND – use the blue book (Policy Manual) to help you.

Equestrian Trail Head Facilities 2007 Resolution, Al Sammons (WY) – Will go back to committee to be expanded.

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Special Notice: Non-profit mailing – Peg Greiwe (ES) announced that BCHA has been awarded the non-profit bulk mailing permit retroactive to this past issue.

FINAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – Jerry Ledbetter (CA)

Will review the BCHA approved BCH Washington Youth Program and develop recommendations to implement the program on every state level.

Recommend that Randy Darling (WA) be the rep to LNT Board to replace Linda Serdiuk when her term is completed.

MSP to accept the Education Committee's recommendation that the BCHA Masters hold their Trainer Courses under the options developed by the Education Committee: (1) Follow the LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics Trainer Guidelines, enter into an individual agreement with the Center and purchase their insurance. Teach the class without stock; (2) Partner with a federal, state or local organization that can and will provide liability coverage with their existing insurance. Hold the class under the conditions and limitations of their liability coverage; (3) Hold the Trainer Class under the existing limitations and conditions of local or state BCH organization.

Media & Marketing Committee, Ottie Otterstein (CO)

Webpage: continue updating. Traveling Display: get second one with grant from BCH Education Foundation. Newsletter: change size to meet postal regs for lower postage; new editor Sherry Jennings; new publisher and ad coordinator TEKS Services Inc. and Zebra Graphics. American Horse Publications: continue membership and press releases. Continue Yahoo.Group; stress use of email "trees".

MSP to accept Media & Marketing report as presented.

Organization/Affiliations Report, Alan Hill (CA)

- American Horse Council - Organizational membership \$1250
- Coalition for Recreational Trails - Contribution \$100
- American Trails - Organization membership \$250
- Partnership for the National Trails System - Contribution \$100
- National Recreational Trails Training Partnership - \$100

MSP to accept Organization/Affiliations Reports.

Public Liaison Report, Alan Hill (CA), Roy Cornett (KY), Al Sanders (AL), Larry Zauberbis (CO), Al Sammons (WY), Nick Martinez (NM), Edith Conyers (KY). Increase exposure and knowledge of BCHA by increasing participation in seminars, horse expos, symposiums and trails meetings across the country, i.e., SETC, OVETS, NTS, Hike the Hill, AHC, Agencies (on call). Peg Greiwe (ES) keep a master calendar that is communicated by email and website for events and dates with person attending.

MSP to adopt the Public Liaison Report.

Ways & Means Committee Report, Michael Murphy (CA), Rod Parks (ID), Jim & Gayle Higgs (AZ), Tony & Mary Van Rooy (AZ).

Recommend that board adopt 501c3; annual appeal again next year; membership drive – chapter & state get award for the highest percentage of increase in their membership. (Michael write article).

MSP to accept the Ways & Means Committee Report.

Volunteer Hours, Nick Martinez (NM), Rod Parks (ID), Jim Higgs (AZ), Tony Van Rooy (AZ)

Increase personal vehicle miles to \$.90 from \$.80; \$1.00 to \$1.10 stock hauling mileage

Total hours 244,840 valued at \$5,619,737.65 (stock usage 13,430 days = \$1,343,000).

MSP to approve the Volunteer Hours Committee Report.

2007 DOUBLE DIAMOND AWARD – Shasta Trinity Unit, BCH California

Expansion, Al Sammons (WY)

- 1 – Sustain and maintain existing state and chapter units
 - Develop identification system (red alert) and mentoring for troubled units
 - Follow up for national, state, neighboring chapters
 - In person visits (neighboring resources from other chapters or national officers in area)
- 2 – Increase number of states and chapters in US
 - Spreading the word, advertising BCH and creating good, positive image (use of Media & Marketing Committee), publications, good stories about what we are doing; involve youth
- 3 – Assist start up of new states and chapters
 - Each state have a formal expansion chair and every chapter have an expansion chair
- 4 – Develop support service

MSP to approve Expansion Report.

Drop: Committee composition shall include "the National Chairman, the National Vice Chairman"

MSP to adopt Expansion Committee's edited recommendation to drop: Committee composition shall include "the National Chairman, the National Vice Chairman".

Strategic Planning Committee

MS to accept the revised Strategic Planning Report.

- **Recommend that BCHA file for 501c3 status.**
- **Committee Chairs are charged with the responsibility at each NB meeting to prioritize a list of fundable projects, projecting 3-5 years out and to also define how much money is needed for said project at each year end mark.**
- **At each NBM assign participating ND to each standing committee for the following year, so that committee chairs do not bear the sole burden of work.**
- **Recommend to the National Board a new standing committee called the Visions Committee. The strategic plan will fall under this new committee's responsibility.**
- **Recommend to the NB the creation of an Executive Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to assist the Chairman during the period when the National Board is not in session and to provide continuity to the collective memory of BCHA. This Executive Committee will consist of the Chairman, Vice Chair, Treasurer and four National Directors to serve a one year term. National Directors on this committee will be elected annually.**
- **MSP Amendment: In case of a vacancy the chair may appoint a replacement.**

Discussed in great detail the representation of the eastern states in order to be sure to have full representation on the Executive Committee.

Amended motion Passed.

Legal Fund, Steve Didier (ID), Terry Morrison (UT), Ron Greenwell (UT), Merlyn Huso (MT), Jim Higgs (AZ), Ann Lange (CA), Mike Reedy (Chair), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM), Nick Martinez (NM), Peg Greiwe (ES)

MSP to accept the recommendations of the Legal Fund Committee: That the criteria for disbursements from the monies of the Legal Fund remain the same (BCHA Policy Manual, Section 3, Legal Fund Policy); that the duties and activities of the Legal Fund Committee be absorbed by the Executive Committee and the Legal Fund Committee be dissolved.

Public Lands, Steve Didier (ID)

Recommends adopting Resolution Opposing Equestrian Only Specialized Fees"

A resolution by the Back Country Horsemen of America opposing the proposed special recreation permit fees to cover the cost for providing specialized services.

Whereas, the Shawnee National Forest provides no specialized services as required by FLREA;

Whereas, the Shawnee National Forest does not provide designated horse and mule trails only;

Whereas, BCHA has great concerns as to the impact the "specialized" recreation fee will have on volunteer efforts in the Shawnee National Forest by equestrians,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Back Country Horsemen of America opposes the proposed special permit fee to cover the cost for providing specialized services on the Shawnee National Forest.

MSP to adopt this resolution.

(Chair write a letter to Shawnee NF re-affirming the 1990 and 2004 resolutions.)

Public Lands Committee, Steve Didier (ID)

Recommendations: (1) that the Media Committee develop a 7-11 minute video detailing the mission of BCHA that would be used to educate/inform legislators; (2) accept the Strategy to Engage the Support of Mainstream Wilderness Advocacy Groups in our Efforts to Obtain Legislated Protection for recreational stock use; (3) accept Dennis Dailey's Analysis of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act and the accompanying five action recommendations.

MSP to accept the Public Lands Committee Report.

Temporary Finance Committee, Terry Morrison (UT), Merlyn Huso (MT), Bob Shonka (WA), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM), Chuck Vickrey (NV), Michael Reedy (WA), Peg Greiwe (ES)

Recommendations: (1) Watch Legal Fund Investment; put stop loss on fund; leave it where it is; (2) Check Writing – policy is in violation with constitution; recommend temporary committee to resolve issue; (3) mileage reimbursement: leave as policy – IRS standard.

MSP to accept the Temporary Finance Committee Report.

Staff Contract Reviews, Terry Morrison (UT)

Committee recommends approving one year contracts with the Newsletter Editor (Sherry Jennings); Director of Development (Kandee Haertel); Executive Secretary (Peg Greiwe); Wilderness Consultant (Dennis Dailey).

MSP to adopt the Contract Review Report.

Audit Committee Report, Terry Morrison (UT), Alan Hill I(CA), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM), Ann Lange (CA), Bob Shonka (WA), Chuck Vickrey (NV), Al Sammons (WY)

Audit Committee met and reviewed the financial records of BCHA and found no problems.

MSP to accept the Audit Committee Report.

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Future National Board Meetings

- **2009 NBM**, Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend WA – Juelie Dalzell (WA), Judith Hoyle (WA) presented information.
- **2010 NBM** – Show Me Missouri in Branson MO
MSP to accept Show Me Missouri in Branson MO for 2010 NBM.
- **2011 NBM** – BCH MT in Butte MT
MSP to hold the 2011 NBM in Butte MT.

Constitutional Ballot from 2007 – Approved by state roll call vote.

Changes to the Constitution of the Back Country Horsemen of America follow:

Article I - "Name"

Delete: "The permanent address of BCHA shall be Post Office Box 597, Columbia Falls, Montana 59912."

Article VI – National Board Membership

Section 1. "Each member state organization shall ~~also~~ have an alternate Director(s) to serve in absence of its regular Directors."

New: Article XIII

Savings Clause

"In the event portions of this constitution are found to be inconsistent with state or federal law by a court of competent jurisdiction, such portions to the extent that they violate the law shall be deemed deleted and of no force and effect."

RESOLUTIONS – Full board discussion facilitated by Raenette Didier on each resolution.

- **California** resolution (state voting rights proportionate to membership) – State roll call vote
Resolution fails. Vote: Opposed 13, In favor 1
- **NAIS Opposition Resolution from Missouri** - State roll call vote
Resolution fails – unanimous
- **Wyoming Resolution** (requiring chairs of all standing committee be ND of current standing) – Al Sammons (WY) recommends that we defeat this resolution.
State Roll Call – 14 unanimous in opposition
- **Montana Resolution, Bitterroot** – Montana respectfully withdraws its resolution.
- **Montana Resolution, Missoula** (Communication between BCHA and states) – Chuck Miller (MT)
State Roll Call Vote – Resolution failed (10 no, 4 yes)

2008 Budget, Terry Morrison (UT)

MSP to accept the budget.

Nominations – Susan Miller (IN)

Chair – Mike Reedy (WA); Vice Chair – Terry Morrison (UT); Treasurer – Yvette Rollins (IN)

MSP that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates for Chair (Mike Reedy, WA), Vice Chair (Terry Morrison, UT) and Treasurer (Yvette Rollins, IN).

Thank you to JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM) for her work as treasurer the past two years.

Executive Committee Elections (4 positions) (paper ballots)

Elected: Nick Martinez (NM), Larry Zauberis (CO), Al Sanders (AL), Val Johnson (ID)

Secretary will destroy the ballots.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on April 26, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Greiwe, Executive Secretary

Schedule of meeting and events:

April 23, 2008, 9:00 a.m. open meeting; adjourn 5:00 p.m. Welcome Reception 6:00 p.m.

April 24, 2008, 8:00 a.m.; committees; adjourn 5:00 p.m.

April 25, 2008, 8:00 a.m.; committees; adjourn 5:00 p.m.

April 26, 2008, 8:00 a.m. adjourn 2:30 p.m. Meeting of Executive Committee and Committee Chairs. Closing Banquet 6:00 p.m.

State Reports – after report given, the ND was presented with a copy of Dr. Gene Wood's book on Recreational Trails.

Alabama – Al Sanders; Arizona – CD – Jim Higgs; California - Jerry Ledbetter; Colorado – CD – Julie Chaney; Florida Affiliate– Truman Prevatt; Idaho Report; Indiana Report – Susan Miller; Kentucky Affiliate – Edith Conyers; Missouri Report – Marsha Copeland, Allison Schottenhaml; Montana – Ken Ausk; Nevada Report – Chuck Vickrey; New Mexico Report – Nick Martinez; Oregon – Becky Wolf; E. Tennessee – Peg handed out their report; Utah Report – Terry Morrison; Washington Report – Randy Darling ; Wyoming Report – Barry Reiswig.

Presentations:

Jim Bedwell, USFS Director of Recreation and Heritage and Volunteers and Youth

Connie Myer, Director for Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center

Rick Potts NPS, Chief Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Lamoille Canyon Project. Sue Kennedy of NE Nevada Stewardship Group with Duane Jones and Dave Asby of USFS.

Mule Whisperer & Packer Ingenuity – original poems by Al Sammons (WY)

Back Country Horsemen of Kentucky Affiliate Certificate of Acceptance to Edith Conyers and Roy Cornett.

Alabama BCH State Organization Certificate of Acceptance at Closing Banquet.

Certificate for Chequamegnon BCH of Wisconsin will be mailed along with the starter package of BCHA materials.