

**BCHA Executive Committee Conference Call
Minutes - Tuesday, February 18, 2014**

Chairman Jim McGarvey started the call about 9:00 PT. Participants: Don Saner, Peg Greiwe, Ken Ausk, Chuck Miller, Randy Rasmussen, Alan Hill, Jim McGarvey, Nick Martinez, Tom Thomas, Phil Hufstader

Minutes – MSP to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2014 conference call.

Treasurer, Don Saner – We are solvent. (Jim will re-send pro formas.)

MSP to accept treasurer’s report.

Public Lands & Recreation, Randy Rasmussen

- FS announced to us during Hike the Hill that they resolved volunteer liability situation so individual districts would not shoulder liability costs for any volunteers injured and filing a workers comp claim. Pool of money to be retained in the chief’s office this/or next FY rather than in the regions based on historic claims over past few years. Doesn’t know when it takes effect. Region 5 indicated that it would be in effect for this season.
- NPS & Bob Ratcliffe, MOU – have to run it by all the different camps in their branches; so it is in process.
- Change in Energy & Natural Resources Committee; Sen Wyden took Finance Committee; Louisiana Senator will take over the chairmanship (Landrieu); Sen Wyden will keep his foot in the door of Energy. We still need a senator champion for the joint TWS-BCHA USFS trail maintenance bill.
- Paul Spittler TWS drafted language and shared with Rep Lummis office; her office has specific ideas to be added.
- Hike the Hill – lots of meetings with TWS and key congressional staffers. AHS did good job on reports. Appropriate, well timed and informative.
- Saw policy – FS has to go through additional bureaucratic hurdles before can reach light of day; not hopeful that it will be approved prior to this season. Think it may not be until 2015 when it is effective.
- Youth Corps – logical connection with USFS trail maintenance issue; we haven’t emphasized that enough. We should get it fixed and those partners on board; 21st Century Conservation Service Corps program would influence and provide more funding for urban and trails/recreation. Alan should have better handle on this by the end of next week. Time to work through it. Randy to follow up with Alan to tie these two efforts.

Public Liaison Report, Alan Hill – had annual meeting with FS, PCT – good meeting, debriefing for past year good; still some issues concerned about – reimbursement for stock use so use combination of mileage, per diem, etc. but doesn’t provide adequate reimbursement for stock; think there will be some future changes. Positive. Cooperative effort regions 5 & 6 and three states. Very important that each chapter/unit develop a relationship with agencies along the trail. Oregon is doing well; CA & WA not as good. Lines of communication need to be opened up more (Sacramento & Vacaville). 3rd radio call with Gary Holt was last week; Gary has been more than strongly supportive of BCHA in the 3 hour-long radio programs. Well received. Will be on again in March. In March report on Yosemite (3,000 page report).

Crowdfunding Updates:

- Website – home page finished (Montana’s site is one of the better ones).
- Brand – getting out different formats; will check with Robbin on copyright.
- Video – weather postponed the filming to 3/22. Two videos in one – one for crowdfunding and one for website that tells more about who we are and what we do (3 minutes). Raising donation goal from \$12,000 to \$15,000 because we are adding to the project.
- Estate Gifting – 3 levels: donations to 501c3; need a good name; endowment fund; 3rd level – put BCHA in wills.
- Email, Randy – will head up *Constant Contact* system in his scope of work to give more communication to members and others;

- Crowdfunding – looking at netting \$40,000 or more; trying to reach out to other organizations; public relations effort; crisis in trails; should be an easy pitch to Congress to close 40% of trails without public input. Issue we need to keep in front of; Kick off at NBM in Chattanooga.
- How is fundraising for crowdfunding - \$7500 so far. Utah challenged to match their \$1500 donation (CA, OR, WA, MT) OR is doing in kind with the filming; Jim will send communication to the presidents of CA, WA, MT.
- Will be live streaming parts of the NBM and filming the ride.
- Tom Thomas suggested Tom Seay attending. Yes.

Strategic Plan, Alan – Sherry Jennings agreed to help develop a strategic plan with small committee (Mike & Alan); proposal with letter of intent to do the project for \$1600 to start with and a total not to exceed \$3200. 3 year plan plus plan for how this can be presented into the future; don't go too far out. Want to have the outline by the NBM to be discussed. Will have draft by 3/31 if all goes well.

MSP to fund the Strategic Plan.

Florida has fulfilled its obligations to become a BCHA state.

MSP to grant conditional acceptance for Florida as a BCHA state.

GAO Request Letters– we need 15 or 20 outdoor organization to sign on to this; have 5 or 6 states; The Wilderness Society would like to have all the chapters sign on. List the state with its chapters.

BCH MT – Jim invited to speak first weekend of April. Will be going. Will be well received (Chuck Miller).

Insurance – national quote about \$10 per member (\$135,000); Nick will write article explaining it. Will also check with BCH CA President Richard Waller. Check with North Carolina Horse Council Sue Gray they charge \$10 for anyone who is a member.

MSP adjourn at 10:30.

Peg Greiwe

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Executive Secretary

Agenda: Minutes, Treasurer, Public lands & Recreation, Public Liaison, Ad hoc projects (Website, Brand, Video, Email, Estate Gifting, Crowdfunding, Strategic Plan), Florida application, NBM live streaming, GAO Request letters, MT state meeting, Utah's big Three Challenge to CA, WA, MT.

Acronyms

BLM – Bureau of Land Management
 CA – California BCH
 FS – Forest Service
 MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed
 MT – Montana BCH
 NBM – National Board Meeting
 NF – National Forest
 NPS MOU – National Park Service Memorandum of Understanding
 PCTA – Pacific Crest Trail Assn
 TWS – The Wilderness Society
 WA – Washington BCH
 WDC – Washington DC

