

**Back Country Horsemen of America**  
**Minutes Executive Committee Conference Call - March 18, 2014, 9:00 PDT**

Chairman Jim McGarvey started the call at 9:00 a.m. Participants: Don Saner, Jim McGarvey, Nick Martinez, Chuck Miller, Alan Hill, Ken Ausk, Tom Thomas, Phil Hufstader and Peg Greiwe. Excused Randy Rasmussen and Mike McGlenn.

**MPS to accept minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting with change.**

**Treasurer**, Don Saner – we are solvent; thanks for sticking to policy for pre-approval

**MSP to accept Treasurer's Report.**

**Advisor for Public Lands and Recreation Report**, Jim McGarvey for Randy Rasmussen. Reviewed written report.

- Meeting for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) with Woody Smeck, Supt, Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger; Gregg Fauth, Wilderness Coordinator; Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Advisor for Public Lands & Recreation. Growing up, Superintendent Woody Smeck backpacked and rode horseback in the SEKI backcountry (his family owned horses). The draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan/EIS is expected to be released for public review and comment in June. All alternatives analyzed in the plan/EIS allow recreational stock use (i.e., there are no alternatives that specifically seek to eliminate or severely curtail rec stock use). All alternatives are framed around different aspects of "preserving Wilderness character," that is: (1) untrammled, (2) natural, (3) undeveloped and (4) solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The reference point for defining Wilderness character is the time when the landscape was designated as Wilderness by Congress.
- Trail user surveys at trailheads are set up for ease of hikers but difficult for stock users so surveys are flawed. Riders need to make the extra effort to fill out the surveys so we are not undercounted.

**MSP to accept the Advisor for Public Lands & Recreation report.**

**Public Liaison**, Alan Hill – met with PCT again; they were going to try to get the last of the three states on board. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps was going to meet with Paul Stanford TWS.

**MSP to accept Public Liaison report.**

**Chair/Acting Executive Director's Report, Jim McGarvey**

- Crowdfunding – conference calls with video conference; second goal is to get our name out there.
- Website – looking pretty good; resembles Montana's format. To keep up to date going forward will have a group or committee to match our permanent committees to update website with their information. Oregon's webmaster will help with overseeing.
- Brand roll out – will be on masthead of newsletter.
- Video, Phil Hufstader – will be shot in late March.

**Strategic Plan**, Alan Hill & Mike McGlenn – spending a lot of time with Sherry Jennings; draft #4 now; have identified several key topics – who we are, what we do, how we are different, how we got here, job is never done. Should be able to share draft at next conference call.

**Endowment Plan** – moving ahead; no plan to have it operational by NBM; will give report there.

**National Board Meeting** – one less business day; Bob Ratcliffe and Joe Mead from FS will be speaking on Wednesday morning. Public Lands Days will be on the GAO study and threat to horse access on public trails in general. Agenda – working on it; Civil War Ride – had 4<sup>th</sup> practice ride; Cindy McGarvey in charge; park is opening visitor center early for first time ever.

**MSP to approve another press release.**

**GAO To Date** – still trying to get everyone to sign on.

**MSP to accept the Chairman's Report.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Oregon Resolution** – Seeing major push in Region 6 to close roads leading to trailheads which essentially closes the trails. Don't need to do public input. New bill from Oregon – public land should be left open to the public. Jim sent to Randy & Dennis. Probably won't be able to support on a national level. Same issue in California. Strength of local levels and state levels to support their back yards. EC be aware but won't take to NBM. Region 1 (Chuck

Miller) will not ever use chainsaws in wilderness. Best left up to the states and units/chapters for their own efforts.

**Grand Teton National Park**, Don Saner – doing another EA on the Jenny Lake area of the park encompassing trails. Need comments to the Park.

**MSP to adjourn (10:19 a.m.)**

*Peg Greiwe*

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**Executive Secretary**

*Agenda: Minutes, Treasurer, Recreational Advisor, Public Liaison, Chairman/Acting ED (Crowdfunding, website, brand, video, email, strategic plan, endowment plan, NBM update; MT state meeting, GAO to date, Emigrant Wilderness); New Business (Oregon Resolution, other).*

**Acronyms**

BLM – Bureau of Land Management  
ED – Executive Director  
EA – Environmental Assessment  
FS – Forest Service  
GAO – Government Accounting Office  
MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed  
NB – National Board  
NBM – National Board Meeting  
NF – National Forest  
NPS MOU – National Park Service Memorandum of Understanding  
PCT – Pacific Crest Trail  
PCTA – Pacific Crest Trail Assn  
PST – Pacific Standard Time  
TWS – The Wilderness Society

