

Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) Governance Structure

Issue: Proposed Delegation to the Executive Committee

BCHA Structural Situation

History

Back Country Horsemen of America was established in 1973. Through the Constitution Article II (Objectives and Purposes), the National Board of Directors (NBD) has a well-defined focus. *The NBD has a clear end result statement from Article II, Section 2 and the membership: public lands will remain open to recreational stock use. Since the beginning, BCHA's philosophy is to use the means of volunteer service, education, and responsible advocacy to achieve the end result.* Communication and networking with other organizations are increasingly important means to achieving the ends. The social and political environment is rapidly changing. Technology makes communications instant and 24/7. An issue or public perception can be won or lost in a matter of hours. Because so much has changed over the past 36 years, the needs for BCHA have evolved.

Intent of Delegation to Executive Committee

BCHA's proactive work with keeping trails open to pack and saddle stock is the reason most people join BCHA. BCHA needs to have a structure that provides for an organization that is not only quicker to respond to existing issues, but is also proactive in identifying and crafting solutions to future and emerging issues. What the Business Committee learned through experience and one-on-one communications with members and national directors is that it is time to address the BCHA operating structure. Members and directors recognize that a rapidly shifting and changing legislative, political, and social environment (local, state, and national) make it necessary to create a structure that is logistically reasonable and nimble to operate.

The national board is large (currently 42 directors). Work with a group of this size is inherently more complex and difficult, making the operational decisions a slow, unwieldy, and expensive process for the organization. Coming together more frequently is impractical and expensive for the individual national directors. The NBD needs to take the steps necessary to reduce the cumbersome structure and conduct business more efficiently. Doing so is well within the NBD's authority as established in the Constitution (Article IV, Section 2).

The Business Committee proposes that the NBD cede limited authority, within a well defined area, to Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have shared accountability for work delegated by the NBD. The NBD can cede such authority through policy according to the Constitution provisions in Article 4, Section 2 ("The NBD shall have the power to take any action consistent with the law or the BCHA constitution or duly

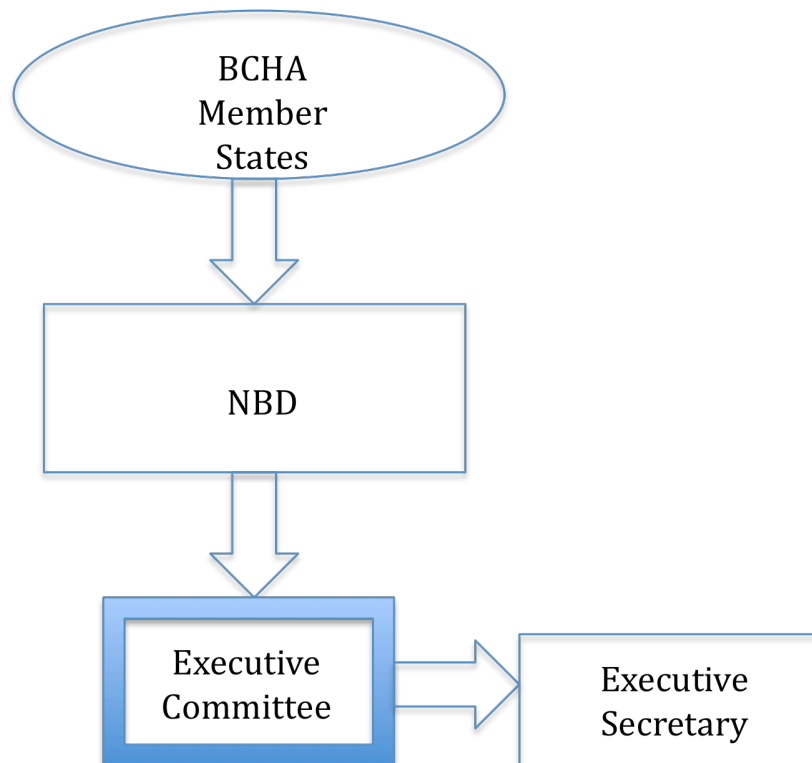
enacted resolution of the NBD”) and Article IV, Section 4 (“The National Directors shall decide policy at the NBD meeting”).

Proposed Makeup of Executive Committee

The Business Committee recommends that the existing Executive Committee structure adopted in April 2009 remain as the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Current Past Chair and four members. In the interest of continuity of leadership the four member positions should be elected in alternate years for two-year terms by the assembled NBD from the BCHA membership as a whole.

The ceded authority is in the areas of Public Lands, Administration, and Fundraising. Contained within the authority of this body is delegation for day-to-day operations and administrative tasks to the Executive Secretary (National Chairman Job Description adopted 4/26/2002). The Executive Secretary will continue to advise and inform the Executive Committee with direct reporting responsibilities to the Chair (Independent Contractor Agreement between BCHA and Peg Greiwe; NBD policies titled “Executive Director” and “Executive Secretary”, 1991, 1995, 1997, 1998; NBD policies titled “Executive Secretary Contract Review”, 1997, 1998).

The NBD retains ultimate authority and accountability for the organization and will specify through policy: the end to be achieved by the Executive Committee, limitations of the means the Executive Committee can employ, and mechanisms for monitoring the work of the Executive Committee.



Fiscal Impact: No increase in operational costs or expenses

Action Required: Adopt policies as outlined in the BCHA Governing Policies document; and rescind any and all inconsistent or conflicting governance, operational, or administrative policies adopted prior to the date of this resolution.