

BCHA Executive Committee
Minutes - Conference Call September 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m. PDT

Chair Mike McGlenn started the call at 9:00 a.m. Participants: Alan Hill, Yvette Rollins, Tom Thomas, Peg Greiwe, Rick McLean, Mike McGlenn, Randy Rasmussen, Don Saner, Phil Hufstader and Ken Ausk (Jim McGarvey on pack trip in Wyoming).

MSP to approve minutes of August conference call.

Financials, Don Saner – doing well with the budget.

Executive Director, Rick McLean – congressional folks in a holding pattern; met with District Ranger of Pisgah NF. Membership, customer service support – planning to go to North Carolina Rendezvous and will attend board meeting; application for Blue Ridge Horsemen to become chapter of BCHNC in process. Outreach, partnerships, sponsorships – working with CHA (Certified Horsemanship Assn) interested in MOU with us.

Tom Seay – in communication with him; very excited about recognition with BCHA; following up to figure out mutual benefits; Plans to attend the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance meeting (Jamie Williams, pres of TWS will be speaking); sponsored in part by TWS and Southern Appalachian Stewardship

Sponsorships work – trying to get in line with companies for next budget year.

Tractor Supply (Alan) – local store is interested; very aggressive marketers in California area.

Advisor for Wilderness & Recreation, Randy Rasmussen –

Outreach & partnerships – Jim Schembs BCH member developed Project 30; had meeting with Region 6 FS on Project 30 – will consider chainsaws in wilderness only on a site-specific, case by case basis (in other words, they did not appear open to Jim's proposal for a forest-wide exception for chainsaw use in wilderness if trails not cleared with 30 days after being snow-free).; let Randy know if trails are not being cleared, keep record of trail maintenance not being done.

BLM Environmental Assessments – now in Oregon but will have national aspects or at least regional; taking playbook from IMBA; converted historic horse trails into bike trails; BLM is applying nationally; very stringent criteria; has decided horses can't be there on the 25 miles of trails; sent a letter asking for extension of comment period through Oct 3rd or 4th. The BLM agreed to extend the public comment period to October 4th. Don't want these standards applied nationally. Lots of comments from Disciples of Dirt wanting to ban horses from this trail system. Local BCH are writing letters. (Rick McLean & Yvette Rollins talked with IMBA at Great Outdoors in WDC.) Randy will work up a short alert of this situation.

American Trails Symposium – will have our exhibitor table; Yvette put together a proposal; leveraging land managing and trails being maintained; April 14-17 in Scottsdale; our National Board Meeting at end of month; 75 minute presentation (2 or 3 sessions). Alan willing to talk with Pam Gluck; she wants us to participate; Public Land Service Corps willing to have contingent or one person there to support mission.

Email blast/newsletter, Yvette – sending to Peg for proofing.

(Mike signed off at 9:58 a.m.)

Miscellaneous Information:

- SETC, Yvette – continue to have monthly phone calls to organize national trails conference.
- Pittman Robertson Act – Yvette will working with Ben Pendergrass, AHC.
- Best of America by Horseback, Yvette – presented Cert of Life Membership to Tom & Pat Seay in Cleveland a few weeks ago. Talked to them about partnership/agreement so would have well defined partnership.
- October call on Tuesday the 16th.

MSP to adjourn. (Call concluded at 10:10, more or less.)

Peg Greiwe

Executive Secretary

Acronyms

AHC – American Horse Council

BCHNC – Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed

NF – National Forest

TWS – The Wilderness Society

BCHA – Back Country Horsemen of America

BCHO – Back Country Horsemen of Oregon

IMBA – International Mountain Biking Assn.

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

SETC – Southeast Equestrian Trails Conference

WDC – Washington DC

Agenda

Minutes, Financials, Reports – Executive Director & Advisor, Wilderness & Trails

American Trails presentations, etc.

Email Blast/Newsletter status

SETC – Yvette

Anything else?