

190529 BCHA Presidents Call

Attendees:

Kim Testoni and Randy Rasmussen: NoteTaker

Darrell Wallace, BCHA Chairman. Michael Benner, NC. Duane Miller, OR. Chad Bowman, AL. Marvin, MN. Sherry Copeland, MO. Carol Marsh, AK. Brenda Cecil, KY. Mike Bagwell, AL. Becki Kruger, MO. Bob Magee, CA. Kathy Young, WA. Bob Graves, IN. Phil Ryan, ID. Monica Falk, CO. Evelyn Mills, AR. Deirdre Perot, NC. Tif Rodriguez, CO. Dierdra, NC.

Format:

Review Last Night Exec Call

- Questions

Open to Discussion

NOTES:

Agenda

Five Reports included in Executive Committee Agenda:

- Public Lands and Recreation
- HeadQuarter Report
- Donation Report
- Notes from Committee Chair Call
- Evaluations from NBM.

Consent Agenda: APPROVED.

Public Lands: Randy

On the National Front of BCHA Public Lands

- International Trails Symposium (Syracuse NY, held every 2 years in different locations): Coordinated a panel on implementation, of lack thereof, of the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Bottom line for those on this call: If you have yet to hear anything from your forest supervisors or district rangers about doing more as volunteers on trails, then they aren't doing their jobs. No forest is immune from its requirement to substantially increase engagement of volunteers and partners in trail maintenance. Washington DC office to provide more guidance and will be reaching out more. We worked on the Trails Act for years in order to get trails front and center, but the FS has been slow to implement it.
- As described in previous editions of BCHA national newsletter: Central Oregon Cascades Wilderness Project will establish quotas for all overnight uses in three wilderness areas. Yet the FS refuses to follow guidance from their own forest plans that requires them to target the use(s) that are causing the worst impact (which, in this case, is not horsemen). Meeting later this week with the congressmen and forest supervisor to

ask the sup why they are violating their own forest plans. Why it's important for those on this call: this new quota and Limited Entry Permit System could be copied by other forests in the U.S., and it inappropriately sweeps horsemen into a quota system that will further accelerate the trend of declining wilderness use by folks with pack and saddle stock.

- Issue at Board Meeting: BCHA passed resolution asking the Forest Services to apply their Minimum Requirement Decision Guide to look at options for opening up more trails in wilderness. Darrell will soon meet with the Chief to reinforce BCHA's resolution. Ironically, in SW Colorado, the Regional Forester earlier this month approved a MRDG that included limited chainsaw use in the Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas in order to combat a massive amount of trails closed by beetle kill and subsequent windthrow. Within a week, Wilderness Watch filed a lawsuit to try and prevent this from happening. So we will have to wait and see how this plays out. The lack of a public process (NEPA EA) and public review might derail the process, however.

Question: Deirdre- How might we voice support for this type of MRDG analysis?

A: You can still voice support for the MRDG process, consistent with BCHA's resolution. Ideally the FS would be doing this in combination with a NEPA EA that is made available for public review and comment.

Finances: Sherry Copeland and Darrell Wallace

IRS EIN Status Update: Sherry Copeland

- The **2017** 990 has been re-submitted and the IRS has now acknowledged receiving it.
 - Penalty added, but Headquarters is working to figure this out.
- The **2018** 990 has been submitted and has been approved by IRS.

Update on the reviewing of the financial statement: Darrell Wallace

During the Executive Committee call we hoped to go over this, but have run into a few issues.

- - Although our 2018-19 Profit & Loss showed a less fundraising income than expected for the Legacy Fund, the Fundraising Committee did a fantastic job.
 - There will be a spring letter going out soon. We are hoping this will receive a generous response leading to more funding. With this potential funding, we would use it as additional contributions towards our excellent programs.

Policies: Darrell Wallace

- Governance Policies Stipulated Policy Review

There are documents within BCHA that require the Executive Committee to review certain policies. These policies can be edited if needed. During the Executive Committee call, we took a look at different policies that could be in need for review.

They were divided into two groups:

- Global Executive Committee Constraint, The Group Process, Treatment of Members, Treatment of Staff.
- Policies regarding financial process

Sherry Copeland reviewed these with Executive Committee as required and there were no questions following

Financial Policies will be reviewed at a future Executive Committee call in June or July.

Gap Loans to States:

BCHA will provide assistance to member states who have a need for a bridge loan to allow them to qualify for a grant. This policy will be administered and governed through the BCHA Treasurer with the approval of the Executive Committee. An application will be given to the state who meets certain criteria. This application is currently being drafted by Headquarters.

Question: Deirdre, NC - will there be scoring of applications as far as state and chapter stability?

A: No, it will be based on first come first serve given all criteria being met.

Parking Lot Actions Items:

Headquarters is working on finding information for Sherry Copeland to eliminate the penalty from IRS.

Mark Himmel will be going over finances in a later Executive Committee call.

Headquarters is creating a Gap Loan application. It will then be reviewed and voted on.

Sherry Copeland will be evaluating the National Board Meeting surveys and creating suggestions to present on a future call.

Questions: On report or in general

Monica Falk, CO: how will the meeting schedule go moving forward?

A: There is a monthly conference call with committee chairs that is held on the third tuesday of each month. The Executive Committee has their call on the fourth tuesday. The Presidents call follows the next night. Information gets passed from the Committee Chair call to Executive Committee and then it is reported to the Presidents Call.

Tif Rodriguez, CO: Are there any calendar updates on the BCHA website? Was there any discussion on software?

A: Headquarters is currently working on the calendar update, they have been notified on the inaccuracies.

→ Action Item: Pass on the question asked to Erica and see where we are in terms of having this straightened out.

Bob Magee, CA.: We were unable to find a copy of the resolutions passed at the National Board Meeting on the BCHA websites. There was a change of wording for one of the resolutions- though I can't remember what it was- but I want to be able to share them with the members in California.

☐ **A:** Jerry Bentz from Nashville, Tennessee has the said amendment. This amended resolution is supposed to be sent to Erica to be given a logo and posted.

→ Action Item: Let Erica know this has been requested and that we'd like it to be posted.

Bob Graves, IN: Can you [Darrell] bring up the concerns with chainsaw and ATV certifications when meeting with the chief in Washington and does anyone else on the call have this problem?

☐ **A:** We can't exactly deal with this issue on this call. I have a one hour time limit and plan to discuss trail maintenance and the issues within that. There was similar discussion to this with the Trails Stewardship Act that Randy Rasmussen reported. These issues can be brought up by someone in your state by having them reach out to legislators

- My biggest hope for the call is to receive an ongoing dialogue with the chief by phone call, etc. throughout the year.

Phil Ryan, ID: Was asked by statechairment to propose question in regards to the Public Lands Stipend. Is there anything further on this; a movement, etc?

☐ **A:** This is a good question to bring up through the regional public lands call.

Follow Up: Is this a reference to the Friends of the Trail Proposal?

A: No.

Next Call:

Wednesday, June 26th, 2019.

8PM ET