



Executive Committee Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
8 PM ET
Zoom Invite

Members attending: Darrell Wallace, Sherry Copeland, Mark Himmel, Freddy Dunn, Ginny Grulke, Mike McGlenn, Brad Pollman, Tif Rodriguez, Dennis Serpa

Staff: Erica Fearn, Randy Rasmussen, Paul Sicilian

Guest: Craig Allen

Actions Taken:

Motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting. APPROVED

Motion to accept financial reports as emailed. APPROVED

Motion to recommend the Proposed Budget for the National Directors. APPROVED

Motion to adjourn. APPROVED

Topic	Accountable	Topic & Discussion
Welcome	Darrell Wallace, Chairman	Changes & additions to the agenda Sherry added questions for HQ to Strategic Agenda
	Darrell Wallace	Consent agenda: Minutes of the March Meeting <i>Motion to approve the consent agenda.</i>
Treasurer Report	Mark Himmel, Treasurer	Treasurer's Report Financial Reports Mark provided the EC with 3 reports: 1. Balance Sheet 2. P/L Comparison 3. P/L Budget vs. Actual <i>Motion to Receive and File Financial Reports.</i> Proposed Budget

		<p>Sherry announced that the Agenda for Orientation and Dialogue has been posted and will be accessible to everyone, not only new Board Members.</p> <p>Preparations for the digital NBM sessions were discussed. A plan was put in place to provide optional practice sessions before the official start of the meetings, which Freddy and Craig will coordinate.</p> <p>Sherry provided an update that the 2021 NBM will be held April 26-28, with arrival dates of April 24 & 25, at the same location as planned for in 2020.</p> <p>Questions for HQ (Sherry)</p> <p>Various particulars discussed. HQ provided updates and status reports, including a plan to reimburse parties who'd registered for the in-person 2020 NBM.</p>
	<p>Parking Lot</p>	<p>Next meeting date: To be determined.</p>

RESOLUTION

To Facilitate Growth and Operation of the BCHA Legacy Fund

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of future generations to have a funded BCHA, the BCHA Legacy Fund was created in 2018, as a long term fund, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of BCHA to grow the Legacy Fund in order to provide future funds for the general operations of BCHA, and

WHEREAS, the Financial Task Force has considered and evaluated the option of investment of the Legacy Fund assets,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED the following criteria be implemented:

1. That the Legacy Funds and assets be placed for investment with an impartial professional money manager.
2. That the professional money manager be instructed to not expose the Legacy Funds and assets to a level of risk greater than that of low to moderate risk.
3. That the Legacy Fund be the source of compensation for the professional money manager and for any fees for the operation and maintenance of the Legacy Fund.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the matters set forth above, be established as it pertains to the Legacy Fund, only, and not apply to any other BCHA funds and assets.

Presented to the Executive Committee on _____, 2020.

Public Lands & Recreation Update (a year in review)

Key National Campaign Updates Since BCHA's 2019 National Board Meeting

I. Aggressively Fought Agency Policy Changes that Promote Electric Bikes on Non-Motorized Trails

BCHA became a national leader in exposing the Administration's behind-the-scenes efforts to legitimize the use of motorized electric bikes (e-Bikes) on non-motorized trails. In 2019, BCHA:

1. Confirmed with sources inside the agencies that a policy change was being contemplated;
2. Sounded the national alarm (first, with partner organizations and then via the press/media);
3. Made the case that while e-Bikes have their place, but that place is not on trails used by hikers and horseback riders—whose safety is paramount.
4. Served as lead plaintiff in a “first-of-its-kind” lawsuit that challenged the Tahoe National Forest's authorization of e-Bike use on over 130 miles of non-motorized trails (titled: “*Back Country Horsemen of America, et. al., versus United States Forest Service*”); and in 2020:
5. Secured from the federal government a settlement offer that negates the Tahoe Forest Supervisor's e-Bike authorization and declares publicly (on the Forest website) that “E-bike use is currently not allowed on [National Forest System] roads and trails unless they are designated for motor vehicle use.”

Result: The government settlement can be used by trail advocates as substantial leverage against any national forest that approves—or attempts to approve—the use of e-Bikes on non-motorized trails without first entering into a formal decisionmaking process that includes public/stakeholder engagement, opportunities for formal public comment, and an appropriate level of environmental review. The lawsuit and settlement demonstrated the fortitude of BCHA and The Wilderness Society to challenge agency decisions clearly made outside of law and prevailing agency policy. It should serve to prevent any national forest from following the example used by the Tahoe National Forest.

II. Held Prominent Role in Efforts to Stabilize and Enhance the US Forest Service Trails Budget

For the fourth year in a row, BCHA played an important role in the efforts of a national coalition to bring stability to, and explore ways to enhance, the annual trails budget of the US Forest Service approved by Congress. For example, for the Fiscal Year 2020 budget BCHA and its partners:

1. Worked with partners to shape the recreation and trails community's request to Congress on 2020 funding for each of the four federal land management agencies.
2. Promoted with Appropriations Committee staff members efforts to create greater accountability in how the Forest Service uses its trails budget, including the budget for National Scenic and Historic Trails, by preventing the agency from merging its trails budget with larger forest operations accounts.
3. With partners, promoted the concept of a national trails “endowment” separate from the congressional appropriations process and, instead, funded by private and corporate philanthropy and made available via competitive grants to non-profit trail organizations for boots-on-the-ground projects.

Result: Congress provided a modest \$1 million increase in the Forest Service trails budget (from \$80M in 2019 to \$81M in 2020, perhaps on par with inflation). It also directed the Forest Service to retain its budget line-item for trails (CMTL), including National Scenic and Historic Trails. 2020 represents the third year in a row when the efforts of our national trails coalition resulted in minor increases (not decreases) in the Forest Service trails budget.

Result: The trails endowment concept has yet to take root. However, as a result of BCHA's efforts to secure the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (Public Land 114-245, Nov. 2016), 2020 represents the third year in which the Forest Service offered matching grants to partners solely for the purpose of reducing the trail maintenance backlog. A total of \$200,000 will be made available in 2020 via competitive grants. Since 2017, a total of \$850,000 has been made available via this grant program, which has been tapped by partners (including several BCH states and chapters) and leveraged to yield over \$2.8 million in in-kind volunteer labor and service.

For the Fiscal Year 2021 budget BCHA:

- Submitted to the U.S. Senate detailed appropriations request forms for recreation/trails programs covering the US Forest Service, BLM and National Park Service. We once again made the justification for an increase of the Forest Service trails budget to \$100 million.

Result: To be determined. Congress has yet to pass appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021.

III. Prompted Inclusion of US Forest Service in Bills Intended to Address National Park Service Maintenance Backlog

In 2018 and again in 2019, Congress introduced several bills to address the decades-long maintenance backlog that accrued throughout the US National Park System. In each instance, the bills—which have yet to pass in Congress—enjoyed strong bipartisan support yet were focused only on the Park Service or Department of Interior. Consequently, the bills did not include the US Forest Service (Department of Agriculture). However, deferred maintenance among the national forests ranks in magnitude second only to that of the Park Service. Given the high likelihood that the bills could pass in Congress, in 2019 BCHA:

1. Partnered with a national coalition to demonstrate support for these bills and push for inclusion of the Forest Service;
2. Issued BCHA action alerts asking members to contact their members of Congress in support of adding the U.S. Forest Service to these once-in-a-lifetime maintenance backlog bills; and
3. Worked with BCH Washington's president to educate and secure a commitment from Congresswoman Kim Schrier (D-WA) to work with Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) to introduce a bipartisan amendment to add the U.S. Forest Service to the current bill.

In early March 2020, a bipartisan group of senators introduced S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act. The legislation is modeled upon, and expected to replace, the existing Parks maintenance backlog bills. It would tap both on- and off-shore drilling royalties paid to the federal government to address the nearly \$12 billion maintenance backlog in our national parks and "other public lands." It is also intended to ensure full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund each and every year going forward.

Result: Unlike previous bills introduced to benefit solely the Department of Interior, S. 3422 includes resources to address the maintenance backlog of the U.S. Forest Service. For over a year, inclusion of the Forest Service has been a priority for BCHA, its membership and the national recreation coalition of which we are a part. The Senate has yet to hold a hearing on S. 3422. Further, a companion bill has yet to be introduced in the House of Representatives. Yet all indications to date are that a House version of the bill would similarly include the Forest Service.