

BCHA Presidents Calls – March 17 and 19, 2015

Participants: Trygve Culp WA, Sherry Copeland MO, Rod Parks ID, Brad Pollman MT, Jan Potterveld CO, Russ Wright AZ, Gayle Higgs AZ, Randy Rasmussen, Yvette Rollins IN, Dick Kleinhardt MI, Pete Kriger CA, Don Saner WY, Mike Milner NC, Jim McGarvey GA, Peg Greiwe WA, Phil Hufstader OR

Jim started the call at 5:05 PDT.

Chair's Report

Reviewed budget with cash flow pro forma; compared with Feb 2014; donations down from last year because of crowdfunding; can still work fine; conservative on income and high on expenses.

Expansion: Saratoga NY Affiliate; Mississippi State.

Trademark for the new logo – process is slower than we hoped.

Estate Planning & Gifting – have a name in mind.

Travel – Jim & Cindy coming to WA Rendezvous (March 20th) and Montana's meeting the following weekend; will visit some other folks; treating as vacation so no charges to BCHA.

Been doing these Presidents calls for one year; started last year at Ken Ausk's home.

Changing Randy Rasmussen as Employee from 1099 Contractor. Peg will stay as an independent contractor.

NBM topics

State lands committee – most of our issues in the past have been federal situations; now, especially in the east, more state issues area coming up. CO pretty active in state parks; encourage others to consider their state parks.

The Country Store – rolled out in mid-December; want to streamline the whole process, website, etc. Have to use our cash flow to buy merchandise for sale. Have 3 Legal Fund CD's earning very little; could use CDs as collateral. Interest rate is only 2.5%. Several questions.

Name the Fund for the Estate Planning & Gifting: Ken & Phyllis Ausk fund.

Terms of officers: talked out of it; because we have Randy and ED for continuity.

Legacy Award – have chosen two recipients.

501c3 questions - \$200 AZ; \$850 on line in 45 or 90 days OR; MT was \$400; EZ form; discuss at NBM.

Randy Rasmussen, Advisor, Public Lands Recreation

Federal land issues – better communicate is happening.

HR 845 is doing well; have 20 co-sponsors; send letters to Congressmen and Senators; a template is on the website. Joint effort with TWS, AHC, AHS and IMBA. Have a wide diverse trails coalition on this bill. Senate – expect a companion bill soon coming from WY.

NBM Public Lands Workshop on Thursday. Woody Smeck, Supt of Sequoia Kings Canyon NP will be with us; hope that Randy Moore, Regional Forester, can be there.

Pending bill – closest thing to Right to Ride at federal level; being worked in CA in Emigrant Wilderness; would preserve historical pack stock usage in Emigrant Wilderness; could be re-introduced in very near future.

Federal lands going to states – national campaigns gearing up to keep federal lands in hands of feds; they are trying to give away lands from BLM and forests; could result in access limitation since state lands manage usage differently and want to sell off. Current push to sell off lands has more push than

before. Public across west wants to keep the lands in federal hands. Oil and gas industries are putting monies behind this.

Trails Caucus in Congress is being re-activated.

Issues, Opportunities, Success Stories?

Trygve Culp has issues to talk about at WA Rendezvous.

Pete Kriger and BCH CA is looking forward to NBM in Sacramento.

Dick Kleinhardt MI – made the jump to become a state organization; things are heading in the right direction.

Rod Parks ID – Fire fighting funds – live bill in front of congress. HR 167; they borrow from budgets all around because there is not a fire budget. ID congressional delegate is behind this. Chief Tidwell is going before congress for support.

Brad Pollman MT – several from BCH MT had annual meeting with foresters from Region 1 to touch base and keep on the same page; workers comp won't be taken out of the local ranger district. Extended and improved relationship with Region 1.

Yvette Rollins IN – use of logo; have to leave logo as it is but underneath can put in name of local group. Need to put something out on this.

Next call would be on the 28th and 30th of April.

Presidents Call – March 19, 2015 - 5:00 PM PST

Participants: Karen Kimball, ID; Oscar Simpson, NM; Jerry Bentz, OR; Amanda Buscemi, NC; Ginny Grulke, KY; Larry Wheat, GA; Richard Waller, CA; Jim Allen, SD; Ann Lange, CA; Danny Cosner, WY; Mary K Church, MO; Doug Bechen, SD; Joanne Mitchell, TN; Jim McGarvey, BCHA Chairman; Randy Rasmussen, BCHA Public Lands & Recreation

Chairman's Report – Jim McGarvey

- This completes one year of BCHA calls with state presidents/officers.
- On travel with Cindy to Ellensburg, WA, for BCH rendezvous; travel costs will be donated by Jim and Cindy. Next week going MT state meeting in Missoula, and meeting with USFS R1 Regional Forester staff (George Bain, Recreation) and visit with Phyllis Ausk and friends.
- Expansion – NY formed chapter, will come in as affiliate status; Mississippi will come in as full state organization (43 people), MI who has been affiliate, will come on as full chapter. Will be formally approved in next month's NBM.
- Trademark of new logo and name for website in progress. Will post policy on FB about how to use logo, can't alter it but can add your state/chapter underneath. Want to keep BCHA logo intact, not variety of versions.
- Estate gifting program moving forward. Committee head by Mike McGlenn and Ginny Grulke. Marketing and education challenge in that we've never dealt with estate giving, although we have (aging) demographic to make it work.
- New business: BCHA accounting firm recommended we change Randy's full-time contract to employee status. Will add 9% cost to his contract (SS, unemployment). Our first-ever employee, but good idea as we look to grow (including ED).
- State (public) lands committee: states like NY have 6 M acres of public state lands. MO hunting issue on state lands squeezing horsemen out. Attended PA Horse Council meeting, who had same problem and most their riding occurs on state land. EC motion will be to make a State

Public Lands Committee, to be comprised by BCH folks TBD. Nationally, state parks 43,000 miles of trails. ID is #1 state for miles of trail on USFS, plus DNR has 12 state parks with horse trails.

- Tested online BCHA store to adjust prices, etc. Have \$10k of inventory purchased.
- BCHA Education Foundation; separate entity from BCHA. Thought of changing name to Ken and Phyllis Ausk, but might name Estate Giving program after them.
- BCHA Chair and VC can only run two, 1-year terms. Thought was to make them 2-year terms. But now we have Randy full-time employee, perhaps we don't need to do that.
- BCHA Legacy Award; four awarded to date, EC this week voted in two more (Ann Lange and Alan Hill from CA), will make presentation at NBM in Sacramento. Congratulations, Ann!

Public Lands & Recreation Advisor, Randy Rasmussen

- **BCHA NBM Public Lands Workshop**; April 23, will include Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP superintendent and Dr. Rob Atwill (UC Davis researcher water quality/pathogens), BCH success stories (Bryce Canyon NP, Mammoth Cave NP).
- **HR 845 – Forest Trails Bill – National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act**; bill now has 20 bipartisan cosponsors, Randy would like letters of support from all BCH state organizations, he will circulate template to make it easy for you.
- **HR 167 Wildfire Disaster Funding Act** –has huge bipartisan support; FEMA type bill for fires of certain size. USFS borrowing from self to pay back fire-fighting costs cuts into trails funding and other program. Affects funding of other programs, including trails/recreation. CBO gave the bill a score of zero last year, meaning it is expected to be budget-neutral and not result in need for new appropriations from Congress.
- **States desire to control federal lands**; Great threat posed by states trying to wrestle control of significant BLM and national forest lands, more so than during 1980s Sagebrush Rebellion. Chairman of House Committee on Natural Resources, Rob Bishop (R-UT) made clear this past week his desire to expedite transfer of fed lands to western states, appears now to be item in GOP budget for FY 2016 (Chairman); Only Congress can transfer land to the states, so all the activity in western legislatures is aimed at getting Congress to move (Oscar); oil and gas industry and others are major funders in this push, some in Congress claiming it will help reduce drain on federal budget, we need to educate others of the benefits of federal western lands, including to folks in the east (Jim A). This will comprise big discussion during NBM, BCHA will distribute fact sheets to members and probably vote on a position (Randy).
- **Emigrant Wilderness Historic Uses bill to be reintroduced**; USFS Wilderness area north of Yosemite NP, bill introduced last year by outfitter Matt Bloom but not embraced by BCHC and BCHA. Matt worked with TWS to develop a bill we can support, might soon be reintroduced by Congressman McClintock, who now chairs Natural Resources subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Issues from states:**
 - Clearwater NF in northern ID cutting back on stock program, have asked BCH to pay for hay for their stock (Karen); Tuesday presidents' call Alan Hill reported cut backs in local (Shasta-Trinity NF) trails programs whereas Chuck/Mack BCH MT thought this year's trails budget looks more promising, so it appears to be based on how the regions prioritize these programs, R5 (CA) recently has invested in reinvigorating its stock centers for excellence (Randy); Jim will be speaking with George Bain of R1 USFS next week and ask why.
 - Land-Between-the-Lakes National Recreation Area - Are others experiencing USFS wanting to restore savannah grasslands by opening up canopy via large-scale tree clearing, thereby eliminating forested single-track trails? (Ginny); issue sounds specific to your region/ecosystem,

but would inquire whether it's being proposed for ecological reasons or whether the timber industry is pushing to cut/mill more board-feet; happy to speak off-line about it (Randy).

Next call: April 28 and 30 (moved back one week, as NBM will occur third week of April)

Concluded 6:13 p.m.