

BCHVH REGULAR MEETING  
February 20, 2016

ATTENDEES: Wayne Frazier, Ronnie Patton, Diane Cherry, Elin & Roger Call,  
Dawn Theisen

Wayne called the meeting to order at 5:38pm

Secretary asked for and received approval of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes

Treasurer's report was handed out by Dawn:

– Administrative account balance: \$1337.90

This balance after payment of dues to national and state.

Dawn reported we have received the \$2000 from the state for our Trail Fund and a donation from a new member, Maxine Dellinger: Dawn will send Maxine a thank you note for her donation.

– Trail Fund account balance: \$2050

Note: Wayne completed the form required by the National Bank so he is able to co-sign checks on the BCHVH account if needed.

- Wayne asked about the money from the IMBCH in the BCHA Education Fund as noted in the email I sent to members on 2/13. The \$215 allocated to our chapter is available when we have a project. I suggested this should be the first funds we attempt to get for a project.

- Wayne then asked about the IMBCH money in the Southern States account. This issue had come up during our BCHVA state meeting. As state chairman I felt I should contact Linda Meyer, who had established and worked with the account since it was opened in 2009. First I went on line to learn about the Special Horse Organization Winner Program and then contacted Southern States. I was told to call Charlotte Lane who handled the SHOW program. On 1/20 I called Charlotte and told her I was calling about the IMBCH account (I had the #). I let her know the chapter had been dissolved by the state and formed into two new chapters. I think I told her I was the BCHVA chairman and I wanted to know if it was possible to have the funds divided between these two new chapters, as had been done with other funds belonging to the IMBCH. Charlotte told me that she'd had a letter in December from Linda Meyer writing in regard to the recent name change of the IMBCH to the SWVA group, saying something about the change being done to indicate a wider area of coverage. Charlotte said there would be no problem splitting the money into two accounts but she wanted me to talk to Linda first. I told her of course and I'd get back to her after I'd talked with Linda. So then I called Linda and let her know I'd spoken with Charlotte. Linda seemed to feel that the money could just be left with her new chapter since she'd collected a lot of POP from folks at the Glade Mtn Saddle Club, it was going to be used on trails anyway, and she wasn't running away with it. I stated that I felt it should be divided between the chapters since the account had existed for many years and folks in our chapter had also contributed a lot of POPs. I told her I had already talked to Peg about splitting the IMBCH Education Fund money between the two chapters. She said she'd have to talk to others about it and their Jan meeting had been cancelled due to snow. I talked to her

again a while later and she did seem more amenable to splitting the funds between the chapters but didn't know when they'd have a meeting. As the SWVA chapter had a meeting this weekend I will follow up with her for a decision. My last reported total from Linda for the SS account was \$487.25 on 2/4/14.

#1 – I reported signatures collected at the last meeting or emailed to me have been sent to the Forest Service. I also found a forest service JHA for Packing with Livestock and has asked the forest service if they want signature pages for this JHA as well. A copy of the Livestock JHA will be sent to members with the minutes.

#2 – 501c3 chapter activities, descriptions, and goals – In our 1023EZ application for 501c3 status we had to list our exempt code, which is from the *Environmental Quality, Protection, and Beautification* section. Our specific NTEE code is *C34-Land Resources Conservation*. Also on the application we had to “*be organized and operated exclusively to further one or more of the following purposes*”. Selections were: Charitable, Religious, Educational, Scientific, Literary, Testing for public safety, To foster national or international amateur sports competition, or Prevention of cruelty to children or animals. On our application I selected *Charitable* and *Educational*. In the long 1023 application form the instructions for section IV require a detailed description of activities. The instructions say for each *past, present, or planned activity*, include information that answers the following 7 questions:

1. What is the activity?
2. Who conducts the activity?
3. When is the activity conducted?
4. Where is the activity conducted? (i.e. town and state)
5. How does the activity further your exempt purposes?
6. What percentage of your total time is allocated to the activity?
7. How is the activity funded? (should agree with financial data elsewhere)

I felt it would be beneficial to work on this description so we could determine what we wanted to be doing over a long term time frame. Elin suggested thinking of both short and long term goals. Elin and I will work on writing up initial descriptions. We welcome anyone's thoughts and suggestions for future discussion.

#3 –Mount Rogers NRA 50 year anniversary activities – Dawn has offered to have a trail ride from her place (near Sugar Grove) on June 4<sup>th</sup>, National Trails Day. I mentioned we could call it a “join up” rather than an organized ride. Dawn knows a few organizations that have youth participants and will ask them about coming to this ride at her place. We discussed offering a simple lunch and providing a short Leave No Trace discussion at that time. Other ideas were to hand out trash bags to folks and have them take them along on the ride to look for trash. The rides would be led, no marking of trails would be done.

I mentioned the other 50 year anniversary idea previously discussed for setting up some kind of booth/exhibit at the FS headquarters and possibly bringing a horse that folks (especially kids) could meet, since this was a big hit when Nancy brought her horse to the Public Lands Day two years ago. Need to contact the FS to find out exactly what day this would be occurring and confirm the location.

Annie Malone had mentioned checking with Doug Crigger to see if he is available sometime during that week but she sick and not able to come to the meeting. I emailed Deb Sensabaugh about a packing demo but have not heard back, so this does not look like it will work for Deb that week.

#4 Youth Involvement Ideas - Wayne said he had talked to a scout master recently to see if they'd be interested in getting together with our group for any activities. He will follow up with this and let us know. Annie Malone has some contacts at WCC for the Director of Outdoor Programs and the Coordinator of Service Program. I sent Annie a list of contacts for boy scouts, 4-H groups, and FFA groups. We discussed whether or not to try to bring these groups into the MRNRA 50 anniversary events but it was felt we would not be able to count on getting in touch with any of these groups soon enough. I suggest the next step should be to create a letter about why we are contacting these groups and then determine which groups to send the letter.

#5 Valley Divide Project – Both our workdays in February were hit with bad weather conditions and were cancelled. The next work day will be Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> with a bad weather date of Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

#6 Friends of Mount Rogers – Dawn sent in our membership and put down the names and addresses for Annie Malone and Ann Crawford. Since both were sick and could not make the meeting we will ask them to let us know what kind of information they have received in response to our joining.

#7 BCHVH website and Facebook page – Nancy was not at the meeting but it does not appear that the website has been updated. Nancy has asked us to consider changing the Facebook page to a public group rather than a closed group. This will still restrict comments from none members and new members will need to be accepted by Nancy.

#8 Trail Tools – Don't know if the trail tools are available at Triple C yet.

New Business:

#9 – Grant Committee and potential projects – We discussed the need to begin learning how to apply for grants. I suggested picking a project might make it easier to focus on what was required. Elin and I volunteered to be on the committee. Dawn suggested Nancy be on the committee as well.

Potential projects mentioned were the switch backs on the VHHT near the New River Trail, Mike's Gap and the Moore Trail for their badly eroded sections, the Dewey's Cabin by-pass trail, and getting a connector trail from the start of the new trail for the Valley Divide project to connect it to the VHHT rather than require horses to be on the paved road for 3 miles to the Hurricane camp ground.

I mentioned that Randy Rasmussen had said IMBA had good success because they reviewed the existing trail plan in areas and developed projects that were in alignment with the plan. Randy also said the Forest Service would need to respond to anything that was submitted in writing. The Forest Service previously has told us that any big

project takes planning for a full year or more prior to implementation, so we need to start working on these now. Need to prioritize which project we would like to focus on first.

#### #10 - Educational Component

(One reason this was added to our agenda is to help support our 501c3 activities).

Reporting Volunteer Hours – Elin explained that there are many more hours that count as volunteer time beyond the actual work done on the trail. She said that any planning day for a trail work day counts, educational hours count, if you go to a mountain for a trail day you get credit for hauling stock, more than just driving your car, miles and time in car all count, when riding if you note a problem area and report that, that ride time can be reported, red cross course time and cost can be reported, chain saw class time can be reported.

The volunteer hours sent to BCHA for our chapter included the Iron Mountain BCH hours and totaled 325.8 hours. When added to the Eastern Divide chapter's volunteer hours we were able to report a total of 756.05 hours from VA for 2015.

Reminder that your trail hours should be emailed to Elin Call at [wildwoodsporthorses@gmail.com](mailto:wildwoodsporthorses@gmail.com). Each month Elin will send out an email to remind us to send in our hours (similar to the email she sent on 2/2). If you have any questions please email them to Elin.

#11 – Randy Rasmussen emailed Nancy, Deb Sensabaugh and I on 2/15 to ask BCHVA and BCHVH to send letters of support to Senator Kaine for the S.1110 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Randy requested this because he'd been in DC talking to Senator Kaine's aide about the bill and she had asked about support groups to provide the additional volunteer services. So he'd told her about BCHVA and wanted to email the letters back to her. This is similar to what IMBCH did at our last meeting when Nancy signed a similar letter for us to send to our representatives for H.R.845. I responded offering to ask all chapters for letters. I am happy to report that all four BCH chapters in VA got back to me quickly and I sent off the letters to Randy for both Senator Kaine and Senator Warner on 2/19. I will also mail hard copies to the senators. Copies of the letters will be sent to members.

#12 – Randy had also emailed Nancy and I earlier on 2/5 to ask if horseback riders used the Assateague Island National Seashore in VA and Maryland. He had seen that the National Park Service had released a Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement so if we knew of horse use there we might want to look into it. A quick review of the plan for horse references showed none of the alternatives in the plan mentioned any change for access to horse riding on the beach in either Virginia or Maryland. There were one or two negative comments about horses on the road but I think they were referring to the free roaming ponies there. There are two campsites on the Maryland side if anyone wants to check it out some day. After talking with Nancy and emailing with Randy we've decided to submit a comment letter to request that there be no change to the currently allowed access for horses. Currently day use for horses is allowed year round in a portion of the VA beach section. A larger portion of the VA beach is open from Sept 1<sup>st</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>. Maryland side allows horses for day use from Oct 9<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>. Horse beach areas are all within the OSV

areas. Randy has offered to also have BCHA submit a letter with us in support of keeping the current horse access. Randy mentioned that it is important to submit letters. The horse use in the park is about 50% less now than it was in 2000, so it's seems wise to send in some support for maintaining the access. It is fun to ride on the beach! Public comment period ends on May 1<sup>st</sup> so we'll be working on this.

#13 – On Feb 16<sup>th</sup> the BCHA President's Call was held. I will try to summarize these and email out since Peg has not sent minutes for these past few months. One of the issues discussed on the call was about BCHA taking out a full page ad in an upcoming release of the National Park Service Centennial Edition. The BCHA Executive Committee had discussed the benefits of an ad in this publication from USA Today and decided the opportunity was worth the expense. The cost of the ad is \$10,000 and they are asking for donations from BCH chapters in all states. They estimated that with 28 states they would need only \$342 from each to pay for the ad. This brought up a question on making a donation. A letter sent by Peg on this subject will be sent to the membership.

Dawn indicated that we always need to be aware that the current funds will need to cover our dues at the end of the year. The current membership estimated dues for next year is close to \$600. This leaves only \$737 in the account.

I mentioned that I was hoping for some reimbursement of my expenses for the NBM in April. Nancy is generously donating my plane ticket. The hotel costs are \$396, that's for five nights. I've been told the registration cost for the NBM is \$250. That's \$647, if it was reimbursed that would leave only \$90 in the administrative account.

I told how the state had been reimbursing Linda for several years and dues had actually been lowered several years ago, so the current state account had only \$70 in it prior to the dues input from this year, so they do not have funds to help the NBM attendees this year. Dawn brought up doing something to raise money for the administrative fund to help cover the expense. One idea was to have another tack sale at the Endurance Ride.

#14 - Next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Wytheville Community College again and will start at 5:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 7:33pm.

Minutes submitted by:  
Diane Cherry, Secretary