

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
General Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley

Attending: Karen Schwartz, Karen Wyeth, Kathy Southgate, Vicki Testa, Mary Johnson
Absent: Melissa Ribley, Willie Brusin, Rafe Little, and Don Soto

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Karen Schwartz at 7:10. Karen thanked Helen Harvey and Jeff Foltz for their service on the board. New member, Natalie Drost (an equine veterinarian), and guests Armando and Patti Aguirre were welcomed.

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: As of December 31, 2013, the bank balance was \$21,800.22. \$2,005.92 was received during that month. In 2013, the dues increase to \$25 added about \$500 to our budget. Net cost for the Pioneer Trail re-route between Skillman and the Overlook was \$2,500. The time share raffle raised about \$400. The 2013 cost for the Grange rental was \$300. The cost of insurance is \$500 for 2014.

Forest Service Report: Karen Schwartz read Willie Brusin's report: The Keen Grant Proposal for 2014 for \$2,500 has been submitted by Jet Lowe of YBONC. The NEPA report may cost in excess of \$5,000. Jet would like GCTC to commit to a \$2,500 donation. The National Forest will commit \$5,000. GCTC is concerned whether the Cable Trail NEPA report will be approved. Karen Schwartz, Sue and Willie Brusin met with TNF, YBONC and BONC. Heather Newell of the TNF will contact the wildlife biologist to determine if there seem to be any serious problems.

The Back Country Horsemen's Association is requesting a support letter for H.R. 3606, introduced by Congressman Tom McClintock to insure that Recreational and Commercial Packing can return to 1975 use, which was when the Emigrant Wilderness was created by Congress.

The United Trails Day for 2013 trail project will be completed by BONC in the spring of 2014. The 2014 United Trails Day project hosted by the Woods Riders is proposed for late spring. Irv Mazur is the contact person for this.

The recent wind storm has caused major downed tree damage to the upper portion of the Pioneer Trail. There is little damage in the Lone Grave area.

The Pioneer Trail in the Lang's Crossing area is in poor shape and will need several days of trail maintenance in 2014. Karen Schwartz will contact the BYLT to determine if the snow park area on Bowman Road is included in the conservation parcels being transferred to the Land Trust by PG&E.

The trail trimmer machine will be purchased in 2014.

The Ribleys will coordinate the updated configuration of Skillman Campground in the spring of 2014.

Joe Chavez and Willie Brusin are scheduled to be re-certified to work with the CalFire teams from Washington Ridge in the spring of 2014.

The Pioneer Trail re-route project is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2014.

Old Business: Rafe Little is looking into other possible future locations for Board meetings.

Jaede Miloslavich requested a reimbursement of \$60 for hall rental which she paid out of pocket for the Wilderness First Aid course. It was an excellent training and can be repeated if there is interest. Contact her if you would like to attend in the future. Having members trained in Wilderness First Aid on rides and campouts will improve everyone's safety.

Linda Lanzoni explained that the Poker Ride reservations can't be submitted until February. Mary Johnson said that reservations for Little Lazier are also pending.

New Business: Pat Gibbs and Gigi Lawton have volunteered to manage the GCTC website, but Teri Personeni reports that Ron may continue to manage it. The newsletter is not now on the website and we need a definite commitment from him. We may need to consider paying him. Teri will meet with him tomorrow and will give him necessary material. When minutes are approved, the secretary will forward them to Teri. Ron prefers dealing with only one source of information to post. Teri needs an electronic form of the November newsletter and minutes.

Karen Schwartz pointed out that there are unfilled committee chairs for publicity and trail work day coordinator. Trail bosses for day rides are also needed. Irv will coordinate United Trails Day and may consider others.

Jaede Miloslavich reported that manure is becoming a problem at the Hidden Falls parking area. This will be a pilot project for "Leave Only Footprints." Rangers will put informational flyers featuring logos of regional equestrian groups, including the Gold Country Trails Council on truck windshields. The program will also be used at Sterling Point and throughout Placer County.

Karen Schwartz asked everyone to review the calendar and give feedback on any errors. Teri stated that the dates for the Loney Meadows camp and work trip should be July 14 through 17. Mary Johnson will lead the Royal Gorge ride. The Horse Expo dates are wrong. A coordinator is needed for Lang's Crossing work. Robinson Flat needs a date. United Trails Day will be in May, not October. We need a trail boss for the Spenceville ride and a coordinator for the Lone Grave workday.

She said that Willie wonders if the trail names on the map the Forest Service is developing are incorrect. He requests that members review it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary