

FINAL
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, August 08, 2021
Empire Grange

Officers:

President: Bernie Molloy
Vice President: Jamie Canon
Secretary: Andi Duncan
Treasurer: Cathy Scott
Past President: Helen Harvey - Absent

Board Members:

Helen Crawford McDermott - Absent
Karen Hayden - Absent
Greg Sherr - Absent

General Members:

Cathy Chase
Mary Johnson, FS Liaison

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Molloy at 7:12 p.m.

B. Changes or Additions to Agenda - None

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting and Special Minutes

Bernie Molloy made a motion to approve the Minutes for the June 08, 2021 BOD Meeting. The motion was seconded by Jamie Canon and the motion carried.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Cathy Scott reported that August is the end of the GCTC fiscal year. Anything that requires reimbursement should be sent in now. As of August 10, 2021 the checkbook balance is \$38,492.61 which includes \$3,571.17 in reserve for Pines to Mines, \$5,000 for an equipment trailer, and \$2,000 for the Mapboard at GCTC Trailhead. We also have a recurring charge for the dumpster at Skillman in the amount of \$293.00 per month. October will be our last service until next year. It was discussed that Waste Management should be notified about the wheel which has come off the dumpster. Current donations for the year are \$1,883 which is about the same as last year. Membership contributions are \$8,907. This is slightly higher than last year but is expected to level out between now and the new calendar year. One potential expense for the future includes a new water system for Skillman.

Cathy Scott submitted a full financial report consisting of 23 pages. Andi Duncan motioned to approve and Bernie Molloy seconded approval of treasurer's report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report:

Mary Johnson reported that the Wednesday, July 28 (on the ground) review of Lone Grave trails was cancelled and currently hasn't been rescheduled. *Mary, my notes are sketchy so if you wish to add anything let me know. As you can see I have included the background information you emailed. Thought it was a good idea to get it down on paper should there be questions in the future. If you disagree, I will delete it.*

Background on the Lone Grave trails is below.

On July 19, 2021 a meeting took place at the forest service office in Nevada City. In attendance were Paul Hart, Joe Chavez, Oliva Olin (TNF) Sue and Willie Brusin, Bernie Mollory, Mary Johnson (GCTC) and Matt Freitas (BONC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the trails and potential closure of some trails in the Lone Grave trail area, also known as the Rock Creek Drainage.

History: When the reroute of the cable trail (Hoot) was finally started/completed, a Decision Memo was written for the Rock Creek Trail Project (January 1, 2016). Included in the memo was a plan regarding the establishment of newer trails in the area (Hoot, Zigzag, Dascombe reroute among others) and the subsequent decommission of the trails that were being replaced as well as some shorter "redundant" trails. Although this plan was established in the spring of 2015, it remained incomplete until now. With the continued push to identify the trails in the area and subsequent map of the trails for TNF publication, the original Rock Creek Drainage trail reroute proposal was brought to the attention of GCTC and BONC.

Olivia Olin TNF has been given the assignment by Paul Hart to inventory all of the trails (on the ground) to determine what exists in the current Rock Creek Drainage system. Along with the trails established by GCTC in 1994 there have been changes to the trail system in the form of official reroutes and some user created trails, some of which have been on the ground for a number of years and are sustainable.

In the past one to two years there has been a boom in the creation of additional trails by users. Some of these trails are long sustainable routes and others are short unsustainable trails.

With an overall look at the trails that are actually in use (on the ground) the discussion led to which trails make the most sense to establish and maintain for good interest and movement to the primary users (hikers, equestrians, bicyclists), and additionally are not confusing to those unfamiliar with the trails. When the trails are looked at on the map it can be identified where trails might be parallel or duplicated in close proximity, or when there are multiple short trails bisecting a longer established route. According to the forest service all of the trails in the area cannot continue to be used due to an overabundance of trails in the Rock Creek Drainage. There must be some compromise of which ones will be kept and which will be decommissioned. Additionally the creation of new user created trails must stop.

Also discussed was a TNF proposal that is moving forward for a new system of trails opposite the Lone Grave area that will be optimized for bicycle use. The description on the TNF website reads "construct a new trail-head and staging area, construct new mountain bike trails, and make modifications to the existing Hoot Trail in the Lone Grave area, south of State Route 20/Forest Road 20-02 in Nevada County.

This is a project that BONC is supporting. The proposed trail-head will be somewhere near the intersection of Hwy 20 and Conservation Road located on the north side of Hwy 20. The plan also includes a possible restroom at that trailhead. Mary Johnson did express some concerns that it would mean that the bicycle traffic would have to cross Hwy 20 to access the trails. Both Paul and Matt expressed little concern about that matter stating that is happening now near the market.

The project is subject to environmental review which may be starting soon. It was proposed by Paul Hart that the environmental review also include the Lone Grave area in order to establish any of the "new" trails (that are already on the ground, but currently non system trails). This proposal was of some concern to Matt Freitas of BONC, concerned that it might slow down the timeline of the new bicycle trails and citing that sponsors may be discouraged by the delay and rescind their sponsorship. Paul responded that he did not feel that the inclusion of the Long Grave area would slow down the environmental review because there have been recent environmental reviews in the area.

It was proposed by Paul Hart that we hold a ground review of the trails to determine which trails may be redundant where parallel trails exist as well as which trails are enjoyed the most in order to determine which will be the "official" system trails in the Rock Creek drainage. That meeting is set for Wednesday, July 28 at 3:00 in the staging at the GCETH.

It was strongly pointed out by Paul Hart that there is an enforcement system in place that could fine people that are caught building or destroying trails.

F. Old Business

1. **Upcoming Work Days** - Mary Johnson said that the August 7 work day has been rescheduled to August 28. Work will be on the Pioneer Trail along Bowman Road. We need Debbie Molloy to provide lunch. Mary Johnson will contact her. There is another work day scheduled for September 11 but location is undecided.
2. **Port-a-potties** - It is too late in the year to add a port-a-potty at Lone Grave. This will be addressed next spring.
3. **Trail Patrol/Training Update** - Jamie Canon reported four new people have joined trail patrol. There have been three articles in the GCTC Newsletter encouraging members to join. Many have expressed interest but they haven't attended the clinics.

The purpose of Trail Patrol is to be a goodwill ambassador in the Tahoe National Forest as well as report concerns such as e-bikes on non-motorized trails. Some trail patrol members find reporting cumbersome and consequently don't submit reports. To make the process easier it was suggested to have a training session prior to a Board Meeting or create a leader position. Details would be sent to the leader who would do the actual reporting.

4. **E-Bikes on Pines to Mines** - The Nevada County Board of Supervisors in a unanimous vote approved funding for the Environmental Assessment excluding motorized vehicles.

G. New Business

1. **Report on the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Meeting** - GCTC had a good turn out and a number of members spoke. After many presentations and much discussion, the BOS voted unanimously to approve the Environmental Assess excluding motorized vehicles.
2. **Next Steps** - It was agreed upon that Bernie Molloy would write a letter to the membership telling them about the BOS decision, thanking the membership for all their hard work, and suggesting that they write thank you letters to the Supervisors. Additionally, we need to remain vigilant when it is time for public comment and not let anything slip by.
3. **Public Thank You to Susan Donnelly for the PA System Report** - Bernie Molloy said he would contact Susan Donnelly about the PA system and determine if she would like a donation letter or a card.

4. **Lone Grave Sign Repair** - The GCTC sign at Lone Grave is in need of repair. The painted frame is peeling, the sign board is faded, and the plexiglass is milky white with age and sun. Andi Duncan said she would get the key from Mary Johnson, remove the board to sand and restrain. Next, she would sand, prime and paint the metal frame. Mary Johnson to identify color choices of the Tahoe National Forest. Lastly, Andi would purchase two (2) pieces of plexiglass from Moul's Paint. Andi Duncan made a motion requesting the board approve a maximum of \$300 for repairs. Bernie Molloy seconded. The motion passed.
5. **Thanksgiving at Higgins** - The increase of COVID cases in Nevada County may influence our ability to host our annual dinner. In the meantime, we must proceed as if the event is happening. Bernie Molloy will contact the Higgins Lions Club to see if the space is available, what it would cost to reserve the date, and refund policy if we had to cancel.
6. **Trailforks** - Cathy Scott gave a short presentation about a website called Trailforks. Trailforks is a trail mapping database/website focused primarily on mountain biking, although several other activities such as hiking, trail running, horse, e-bike, etc., can be included. Trail user's GPS devices are used to record and upload individual's tracks and metrics. Cathy Scott saw that several segments of the non-motorized Pioneer Trail are showing in Trailforks as e-bikes allowed. She said she pointed out this misinformation to Orion Kroger of BONC while attending the NC Board of Supervisors Meeting. Orion told Cathy he would make the appropriate changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by Andi Duncan