

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022**  
**Golden Empire Grange**  
**11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA**

**Officers:**

**President:** Jamie Canon  
**Vice President:** Helen Crawford McDermott  
**Secretary:** Mary Lundin  
**Treasurer:** Cathy Scott

**Board Members:**

Miriam Lytle  
Laura Simmons  
Teri Personeni

**Past President:** Bernie Molloy

**General Members:**

Laura Duncan, Jeff Foltz,  
Sandrine Farish, Toni Owen

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jamie Canon

**B. Changes or Additions to Agenda**

Three additions to agenda were added: Trailforks website, E-bikes incident Reporting, Grant Writer position

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting and Special Minutes**

December 2021 Board Meeting minutes-Laura Simmons motioned to approve with no changes. Cathy Scott seconded. Motion carried.

**D. Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Cathy Scott reported that the bank balance as of 1/31/2021 is \$42,251.60, including the funds held in reserve for specific projects. There were no changes to the previous report. Teri Personeni motioned to approve. Miriam Lytle seconded. The motion passed. The January bank statement is attached.

**E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson**

Mary Johnson and Jamie Canon met with Paul Hart from TNF today.

**Lone Grave Trail System Review:** The Forest Service is working on the addition of 7.8 miles of "Bike Optimized Trails" on the southern side of the Lone Grave trails system.

This addition is to encourage faster moving “sport minded bicyclists” from using the Lone Grave trails which are used by slower moving user groups such as hikers, family bicyclists, and equestrians. After completion of the new trails and a period of use, the FS will decommission user created trails and other redundant trails on the northern side of Highway 20. The Hoot Trail will be decommissioned as a bicycle optimized trail and returned to its original purpose as a non-motorized trail. There will be a public restroom created at the entrance to the Gold Country Equestrian Staging Area entrance road.

The Board had many questions about enforcement of speed on the existing trails. The FS plan is to use social media output to advise the public of the new system. Cathy Scott suggested that the new bicycle trails have a name that is different from “Lone Grave” to help clarify which system users are looking for.

**Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp:** TNF District Ranger for the Sierraville District Quinton Youngblood has retired as of December, 2021. He has been very supportive of GCTC’s maintenance of Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. Because there is no written agreement between the FS and GCTC about this campground, Mary Johnson, Karen Hayden, Quinton and Quinton’s successor discussed creating a written document about the creation and history of LLM Horse Camp. This would guide future FS Rangers and protect the ability of GCTC to continue our goal of keeping this as a horse camp.

**Non-funded cost share agreement:** It is time to renew the Non-funded Cost Share Agreement between the FS and GCTC. This agreement authorizes GCTC to provide “volunteer trail maintenance and construction, train and manage volunteer staff, conduct trail use ethics education, and develop private and public resources and partnership opportunities,” in addition to other specified activities. This also specifies which trails in the Highway 20 corridor that GCTC has agreed to maintain including Skillman Campground. Mary Johnson suggests that we add Little Lasier Meadow to this agreement.

**Cal Trans Hwy 20 tree removal:** Cal Trans has said that they are responsible for cleanup of storm damaged trees on the Pioneer Trail. Mary informed us that the straightening project on Hwy 20 by Cal Trans is in the works. Fewer changes will be made than previously planned. Be prepared for long durations of stopped traffic.

## **F. Old Business**

1. **Signage at Lone Grave Update:** Mary Johnson spoke with Andi Duncan today about the refreshing of the wooden sign and metal sign frame at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead. The metal frame has been painted a forest service approved color that stands out better than the old color. The wooden sign is not finished yet.

Andi also sent along the “What A Horse Sees” posters that were discussed in a prior meeting. These posters were designed by Back Country Horsemen and approved by the FS for posting at Lone Grave. Miriam Lytle will create a list of prospective places to post them around town. The board will review the list before they are distributed.

2. **2022 Projects:** Toni Owen informed the board about a GPS tracking system she uses for real time location on trails. Laura Duncan recommended that she make a

presentation to the membership at a general meeting. A committee consisting of Toni, Helen Crawford, Jaede, and Cathy Scott will review this.

3. **United Trails Day:** An brief history and explanation of United Trails Day was given .by Mary Johnson for the benefit of the newer members of the BOD. Per Paul Hart, the activity will take place the first weekend in October, subject to weather and smoke conditions. A suggestion was made to consider moving this to Spring.
4. **Poker Ride Fundraiser:** A chairperson is needed for the Poker Ride fundraiser in June. Jaime will have an email request sent to the membership. There is the possibility that the Forest Service will not allow the event due to the Covid pandemic. Suggestions were made for other activities to replace the event that would consist of the club members only. Some were fundraisers and some not. Examples were a Fun Ride, campout at Skillman, and silent auction.
5. **Pines2Mines:** Jeff Foltz gave a brief review of the Pines2Mines project, which will be 68 miles of trail connecting Truckee to Nevada City. The Forest Service has taken charge of the project and added e-bikes to the scoping document. The deadline for public input is February 24<sup>th</sup>. GCTC has a 5-member committee to respond to the e-bike issue. Jeff requested that the board members each write a letter to Tahoe National Forest, and individual club members also, stressing specific reasons why it is unsafe to have electric bikes on a non-motorized trail. Because the Pioneer Trail is part of the P2M design, it would change the use on that non-motorized trail to motorized. Since GCTC created and has maintained the Pioneer Trail for 40 years, should we ask that it be removed from the project in order to keep it as non-motorized?
6. **New Member Social:** The event was postponed due to the increase in Covid cases in this area. It will take place at the April BOD meeting, or possibly another date

**G. New Business**

1. **Reporting of hours to Barbara Simmons:** Mary Johnson said that the process is being revamped.
2. **Assignments for Board Members:** Not discussed.
3. **Timely response time for Board Member approval by email:** Not discussed
4. **GCTC joining BCH:** Laura Duncan will check into the procedure to join BCH as a group. We need to support their nationwide efforts to protect trail access. This can be done with Board approval if membership is under \$200.

5. **Outside venue location for warm months:** Having membership meetings outdoors during warmer months would possibly reduce the risk of spreading Covid. Some members with room for members and vehicle parking are Brusin's and Andi Duncan. How would that affect the support of the Grange Hall if we didn't use it on a steady basis?
6. **New line of apparel:** Popular opinion was that certain items were still desired, including the metal water bottles and orange trailer stickers. Jamie will ask Andi if she has information on where to get the items.
7. **New membership chairperson needed:** Cathy Chase is no longer able to fit the membership chairperson duties into her very busy schedule. Someone taking this position needs to be proficient in Excel. Toni Owen has volunteered. She will be able to start in March.
8. **Trailforks website:** This mountain bike electronic trail mapping website is for local Nevada County trails. Cathy Scott will create a committee to research it's use for trail information.
9. **E-bike incident reporting:** There is a function on the GCTC website for members to report trail incidents with e-bikes. It is important that the FS be kept aware of unsafe user conduct.
10. **Need grant writer:** It was decided to wait until we are ready to write a grant request before asking for member participation.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:18.**

**Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary**