

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.
Grass Valley, CA

Attending:

President: Karen Schwartz
Vice President: Melissa Ribley
Secretary: Karen Wyeth
Treasurer: Teri Personeni
Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson

Board Members:

Fran Cole
Charles Green
Vicki Testa

Others:

Sue Brusin
Linda Lanzoni

Absent:

Past President: Helen Harvey

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:59 PM.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the September meeting: Minutes were approved.
3. Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance at last meeting was \$27,423.90. Ending balance as of this meeting is \$27,591.47. Karen Schwartz passed out the proposed budget for 2016. The Board approved the budget. There was discussion about unusual expenses. The budget is based on expected income and expenses. The amounts can be modified as needed.

Teri reported on the seminar she attended for non-profit organizations. We're doing everything ok. We need to notice the Franchise Tax Board of any raffles that we hold. We usually hold one at the Poker Ride and sometimes at the Thanksgiving Feast. Silent auctions don't need notice, but these haven't worked out well in the past.

Karen S. reported on her conversation with Laurie Sweeney, a member who has worked for a Placer County non-profit rated by Charity Navigator. If we don't have a large income, we shouldn't bother with an auditor. Laurie or Kathy Scott could do an internal audit and that would be sufficient. We should schedule this for Sept. 2016. Fran Cole is concerned about insurance to cover Board members from individual liability and a conflict of interest policy.

4. Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin reported that we can order signs directly from the rock art catalog the Forest Service uses as long as the design is the same used by them. We need to get the order number from Paul Hart. Sue will keep the catalog.

United Trails Day - Latest schedule is for Nov. 7. Karen S. is concerned about so many changes. Jet Lowe will change her event to Nov. 8. Jet should have a grant to pay for food at United Trails Day. Karen S. will check with her to make sure. Sue thinks the Woods Riders did the food last year and it should be BONC's turn this year. Jane Ragen is the new president of BONC.

Grouse Ridge - BONC had a successful trail work day and improved the trails to Penner Lake, Island Lake and Crooked Lakes.

Bowman Mountain Trail - Forest Service will do the rock work to cut new trail on the east side of Bowman Mountain in 2016. Bullpen Lake trail is scheduled for our next Loney Meadow work day in 2016.

Cable Trail re-route - no update on this or on the Forest City Trail.

Top Hand Award - scheduled for Jan.

Skillman - There are 18 stumps, which are marked and along the road, that need to be ground down. The camp must be unlocked for access. GCTC can fill in any holes left at the spring work day. Melissa moved that up to \$1250 be authorized for this work. Karen Wyeth seconded it. Motion approved unanimously.

Melissa Ribley's report on Skillman - She and Linda Lanzoni met with Forest Service representative Cecelia. Cecelia wants GCTC input for the future of Skillman campground. It is operating at a loss and will need to be changed or closed. They are taking out hazard trees in the fall of 2016, and the number and location can vary depending on which of four options is selected.

1. Group Campground - Groups are the largest source of income. The camp would be closed between groups. This needs public comment. More trees would be taken out to accommodate groups and there would be a large, open parking area. Old growth trees would remain.

2. Leave as is - There are 16 sites. Barriers would remain. The cost is too high. Linda asked about increasing the number of corrals, marking trails better, providing better maps, and improving advertising.

3. Combination of 1 and 2 - It would be more open and a few individual campsites would remain. Reservations this year stopped mid-August. The camp is never full except for groups. Sue asked about keeping the camp open longer. It closes in Sept. and Oct. is usually the best month.

4. GCTC to manage camp - We would take over all maintenance.

Willie said that recreation.gov is a problem. Communication within the Forest Service is very bad. The trails are not GISed and there are no accurate maps. Paul Hart has to approve trails and then Jet can make the maps. Karen Schwartz proposed to schedule a special meeting. It was set for Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 pm. Charles will check room availability.

Coordination with other trail organizations - Willie recommended that representatives from the boards of BONC, BYLT, Woods Riders, and any other trail organizations meet to coordinate schedules in January. The Board agreed. We will also be coordinating with BYLT in planning for trails, the bridge over Fuller Spillway and parking in Bear Valley.

Lone Grave BBQ, Oct. 24 - Debbie Mallory will organize the pot luck side dishes. Willie suggested Barry Vaccaro for the BBQ. Willie will bring the BBQ. There was discussion over who should buy the meat. The ride will start between 9 and 10. We will start lunch from 12-1. Melissa will contact Jaede regarding announcing the schedule.

Old Business:

Membership - Mary recommended that members should be reminded that it is dues time through our email notification system.

Feast - We need to buy a new microphone for the meeting room. Cecelia was added to the guest list. Teri would like to invite a person who has the history of Grouse Ridge. Melissa invited Paul Hart to do the program. Charles said that the food organizers should come early to learn how to operate stoves. We also need a coffee maker and an ice maker.

Governance Committee - Insurance to cover individual liability for the Board of Directors will cost \$1,000, with a broker's fee of \$150 for \$1 million coverage (Burns & Wilcox). Teri moved to accept; Fran seconded. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

2016 Calendar - Discuss this at Dec. meeting. Mary will coordinate with BONC and Paul Hart for maintenance of the Pioneer Trail from Lang's crossing to Zeebright Mine Rd.

Strategic Plan - Karen S. proposed that we develop a three-year Big Vision Plan to be discussed by the Board at the Dec. meeting. The Pioneer Trail event will also be discussed at the Dec. meeting. Karen W. passed out some brief legal research on whether our non-profit status might limit what we can pay for provided by Harry Wyeth.

Announcements - A nominating committee will need to select new people for President and Secretary for 2016. Karen Schwartz will continue attending meetings as the Past President. Karen Wyeth must resign from the Board because of difficulty driving at night.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.
Submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary