

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, April 10, 2018 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Road
Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President **Helen Harvey**
Vice President **unfilled**
Secretary **Mary Lundin**
Treasurer **Teri Personeni**
Past President **Laura Duncan**

Board Members:

Bernie Molloy
Helen Crawford
Elicia Kamberg

Members in attendance: Mary Johnson, FS Liaison, Cathy Scott, Hoot Trail Liaison, Cathy Chase, Membership Chair

A. Call to Order and Welcome

President Helen Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

B. Changes or additions to agenda

No changes or additions

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the February 13, 2018 were approved with motions by Bernie Malloy and Elicia Kamberg. Motions carried.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Teri Personeni reported the ending bank balance as of March 31st to be \$33,420.59. The profit and loss statement showed membership dues received to be \$325, which included 9 memberships obtained at the PTM fundraiser tack swap. Bernie Malloy motioned to approve report, with Mary Lundin seconding. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson

Mary and Cathy Scott attended a meeting with Paul Hart of TNF and Jane Ragan of BONC on March 21st. The agenda included ways to deal with the conflicts on the Hoot Trail. Education with a Trail Patrol, and an Etiquette manual were discussed. The Lone Grave area map will have some changes and some trail names will remain the same. The Dascombe Loop will remain the same, although the Harmony connector trail will not be named on the map, just shown as a line on the map. The sections with the HOOT and Zigzag trails will be the Rock Creek Connector trail. Trail names were decided to be used on the map rather than trail numbers, and color-coded indicator arrows will continue to be used. The time line for the completion of the map is in the hands of Jet Lowe.

Starting May 1st, backcountry patrollers will be in the Grouse Ridge area for the summer. They will also go up and down the Hoot Trail, educating trail users, or issuing citations when appropriate. The work needed in the Grouse Ridge area was discussed pending the NEPA report.

The TNF crew will do the rock work on the Bowman Mountain trail. Packer support will be used to bring in equipment, staging at Loney Meadows. Some GCTC members will be assisting with this. The expectation is that this will take place possibly the week of June 4th or June 11th, packing in on a Monday and out on Wednesday.

Future work on the Bull Pen Trail at Grouse Ridge will be done by a hired crew, once the NEPA report determines what can be done on that trail.

Reservations for the GCTC camp/work/ride weekend of June 29th to July 1st have been made through the Forest Service. They are looking for a campground host.

Barry Vaccaro and Willie Brusin checked out the Skillman Campground to see what needs to be done at the Skillman workday in May. There was still some snow on the ground, as well as logging site debris, with trees and multiple branches down. There was also a broken water pipe.

F. Old Business

1. Manure Management at Skillman-Laura Duncan

GCTC will be paying for an extra dumpster for manure for the months of June, July and August.

2. Pines to Mines Update-Laura Duncan

Some trail is already in existence, but it will take years to complete the approximately 18 miles yet to be constructed. Some of the trail is on private property. SPI was approached to allow trail on their property. The Truckee Trails Alliance and GCTC have an agreement to work on this project, but the agreement needs to be updated. Helen Harvey and Laura Duncan will work on that.

3. Tack Sale Fundraiser-Laura Duncan

Dr. Langdon Fielding has invited GCTC to a customer appreciation day in May. He liked our organization and will consider having another tack sale next year free of charge. Unfortunately, we may not have time available in May to participate in the customer appreciation day. We earned \$1542 for the Pines to Mines project, which came from space rental (\$1451) and donations (\$91). We also have \$531 available to add from a raffle. Richard Anderson, District 1 Supervisor, is on the PTM committee. GCTC will have a picture taken with him for publication.

4. Advertising-Laura Duncan

The Union Newspaper is publishing "Adventure in Nevada County" and it does not include equestrian activities. Valerie Costa offered GCTC to provide an article and ½ page ad, with about 4 photos to be included. Laura will check into getting this done. We also need to provide club information to KNCO Radio, and other news outlets in the area.

5. Hoot Trail-Cathy Scott

Paul Hart stresses the need for education to fix the user conflicts on this trail. A walk of the trail was done March 29th. Noted were limited lines of site and shaved banks. The technical parts of the trail will be smoothed, in order to reduce speed on the trail. Thirteen Park Watch Reports were submitted in two months, which are received by Paul Hart and Joe Chavez. BONC is to make an educational video and will have an educational information kiosk at the Harmony Market. They will also have a trail patrol that will ride bicycles uphill on the trail.

G. New Business

1. Forest Service/GCTC MOU-Mary Johnson

This is the same agreement that BONC, Woods Riders Motorcycle Club, and others have with the Forest Service. It is basically a description of "what we do/what you do" as FS volunteers. Having this document will help to provide continuity of club participation and expectations when Forest Service personnel change. This also frees us from restrictive measures imposed, such as chain saw certifications. We must provide our own insurance coverage for club volunteers. We already do a year-end report of our volunteer projects that is provided to the FS. We will use our "Adopt-A-Trail" list of trails to be responsible for.

2. Budget

Postponed until next meeting

3. Educational Materials-Mary Johnson

Mary discussed the draft dated April 7, 2018 of the "SHARING TRAILS-Equestrian Etiquette and Safety Guidelines" being put together by GCTC. It starts with "It is our responsibility as equestrians to be good stewards of the trails and land that we ride on, so that we may continue to have trails available." Guidelines include "Leave Only Hoofprints", "Exercise Safety", "Know Your Horse's Ability", "Communicate", "Yield", "Be Attentive", "Be Kind to Trails", and "Leave No Trace And Tread Lightly", with detailed suggestions for each heading. Lastly, it reminds us that Park Watch Reports is a useful tool to report damage or hazardous conditions and can be downloaded on your phone.

4. Trail Patrol-Helen Harvey

The patrol needs both equestrians and hikers. The purpose of the patrol is for education of equestrian trail users regarding safety on the trails, as well as general information and helpfulness. The club has purchased vests with "Forest Service Volunteer" and the FS emblem to wear when on trail patrol. We need about 20 to 30 people minimum to cover Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, although you may patrol any day you want to. Helen would like to know who will volunteer as soon as possible, as horses and riders will need to pass a safety test. This will be done sometime in May, possibly at Lone Grave. The question of liability coverage was brought up for members when on patrol.

5. Bike Sensitization Clinic-Helen Harvey

This clinic is separate from trail patrol. The purpose is to expose your horse to things that might scare it, such as screeching bike brakes. This is to teach the rider how to stay calm and what to do to keep the horse calm. Lisa Calder, GCTC member and a trainer, has volunteered to help Helen with this clinic. It would be for GCTC members only, unless it was held at the NCH arena, then NCH members would be included. Preferably this will take place in May.

6. Summer Trailer Class-Teri Personeni

Teri spoke with Duke of Duke's Trailers about providing a free safety inspection for club members in a group setting. She will coordinate with him to set up a date, preferably in May.

7. Newsletter Editor

Pamela Womack has volunteered to be the newsletter editor. Thank you, Pamela.

8. PCT Association Tahoe Trail Skills College-Helen Harvey

A trail building skills clinic will be held July 20th-22nd. Jaede will send out a request to members with information.

A reminder about the Lone Grave workday on April 14th was given. Work will be on the Dascombe Trail and the Zig Zag Trail.

Adjournment-Meeting adjourned at 8:56 P.M.