

**Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
July 8, 2014, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley**

Members Present:

President: Karen Schwartz

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Secretary: Karen Wyeth

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Vicki Testa

Call to Order - Karen Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The next board meeting will start at 6:00 PM at the Nevada County Horseman's clubhouse.

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

Approval of Treasurer's Report -

Jaede Miloslavich described the Action Coalition for Equestrian's efforts to preserve equestrian trails, develop Park Watch, oppose the bike pump park on the rim of the American River canyon, provide the equestrian staging area at Sterling Point, protect the Western States Trail in its entire length, and restore the stables at the Auburn Fairgrounds. ACE received \$20,000 from the Getty Foundation to develop a mobile app for Park Watch. The GCTC Board had approved a \$100 organizational membership for this organization and the check was presented to Jaede.

Kathy presented the Treasurer's report: The bank balance as of 6/30/14 was \$26,118.62. Our year-to-date profit was \$6,859.32. Live Wire Fencing reimbursed GCTC \$360 for the porta-potty at the Lone Grave equestrian staging area. In April we received \$1,000 from the Keen Grant for signage at Lone Grave. We received \$1,500 from AERC for the trail study to reroute the Pioneer Trail. We have paid the US Forest Service \$3,060 for the PEDA Report. There is a remaining cost of about \$1,000 to \$1,500. The PEDA Report for the Cable trail reroute from Lone Grave to Rock Creek will be shared and will cost GCTC about \$2,500.

We purchased a brush trimmer in April for \$470. We paid \$560 in May for grading gravel roads at Skillman, Overlook, and Lone Grave. Our filings with the IRS and the State are current. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Forest Service Report -

Willie Brusin presented the report:

There is no update from the Forest Service for signage funded by the Keen Grant. There is nothing new on United Trails Day scheduling.

Skillman: Melissa is working on improving the corrals at Skillman. The Forest Service has approved the necessary decomposed granite. A tractor is needed. Phoenix has been a great camp host, but he still needs an RV. Sandi Curry offered to donate one.

The Forest Service wants to put in fire pits. Melissa will coordinate with them, but this has not yet been done.

The Pioneer Trail relocation near the Washington Overlook is progressing. The Conservation Corps has worked one day and has finished about half. Further work depends on availability, since they are first obligated to fight fires. We want them to take out all stumps.

Willie proposed to change the work day on July 26 from Lang's Crossing on Bowman Rd. to clearing brush to the Omega Rest Stop. It will be a joint effort with BONC. We will provide lunch. We will work on the south side of Rt. 20. The motorized trail will be on the north side.

Old Business -

There is an opening on the GCTC Board and volunteers are being sought.

There is also a need for a publicity chair. Linda Lanzoni thought Diana, who did it for the Poker Ride, may volunteer.

We have several new members and visitors. Laney Humphrey is a new member. Lori Codey is a prospective member, looking for a trail horse. Charlotte and Dennis Chapman are visiting. Jaede will add these people to the email list.

The Cronan day ride was excellent.

The Poker Ride: Linda Lanzoni said that there were no problems with double booking. Heather (Forest Service) was helpful. Camp host Phoenix was great. Everything ran smoothly. Next year Merrill will run it and, hopefully, Sharon will do food next year. There were about 85 riders and the net proceeds were \$3,175.

The Little Lazier Meadow campout and work day were very successful. Karen Schwartz thanked everyone.

2014 Calendar Update: Contact Jamie Canon if you can go on the Royal Gorge trail ride on 7/19. Merrill will be spending the night. People need to sign up, because the number is limited.

Vicki Testa asked for a camp cook for the Omega Rest Stop work day.

Robinson Flat Campout is canceled.

Loney Meadows campout: Willie and Sue will check it out. The potluck will be Sat. and, if desired, Sun. The work day leader will be Teri Personeni.

Joint Trail Sensory Clinic with the Nevada County Horsemen is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 4. Karen Schwartz would like input about dates.

Review of archives has been completed, but there is no record of the original non-profit incorporation.

New Business -

Renee Boice of the Nevada County Search and Rescue gave a summary of the program. It has been in Nevada County for 20 years and she would like to encourage equestrians to participate. They need 5 people to start. She has 2 and needs 3 more. The training takes about 3 months with 6 weeks of classes, 4 hours weekly. It can provide a good tax deduction for horse expenses. There are both equestrian and foot missions. Half the calls are nordic, so horses are not involved. There is no age limit and you are not required to respond. Renee left 2 packets of information about Mounted Units. Contact Karen Wyeth 530-346-6081 if you'd like a copy. Renee's phone is 901-481-5128.

The next board meeting will be changed to 6:00 PM.

Comments:

Ann Rubenstein said that there were many cars backed up on Rt. 20 due to a trailer in front of her. Please remember to use turn-outs. The law is that if you have 4 vehicles behind you, you must pull over.

The meadow at Little Lazier was left full of manure. People must pick up manure from their horses there, as well as at trail heads. Jaede offered the "Leave Nothing But Footprints" program, which is beginning in Placer County, for Nevada County.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.
