

BOARD MINUTES

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Road
Grass Valley, CA**

Attending:

Officers:

**President Laura Duncan
Vice President Melissa Ribley
Secretary Mary Lundin
Treasurer Teri Personeni
Past President Karen Schwartz**

Board Members:

**Fran Cole
Charles Green
Merv Kril**

Members and Guests:

Debbie Maloy and guests, Jaede Miloslavich, Gail Plakos, Sue Brusin

1. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Laura Duncan at 7:00.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting

Teri Personeni motioned and Melissa Ribley seconded that minutes be approved.

3. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Teri Personeni reported that as of 1/31/16, the bank balance was \$27,394.01.

A. Update re: audit committee

Teri Personeni, Gail Anderson, and Ann Driver completed a Financial Committee audit of income and expenses for 2014/2015 fiscal year and found no discrepancies. A suggestion was made by the committee to have the income from the Poker Ride fundraiser be broken down into separate categories of ride entry fees, raffle, additional poker hands and camp site fees.

B. Donation receipts

Laura requested all donations received be sent a written receipt/thank you letter from the Treasurer.

4. Insurance update

A. Liability

B. Board indemnification

Teri Personeni has insurance policy packets. Fran Cole explained that there are different kinds of liability to the club and board and suggested some changes be made to the bylaws. Mary Johnson and Fran will work together on the language. This will need to go to the membership in writing one month prior to a vote on changes. Written notice can be made in the club newsletter. Suggest getting changes or new bylaws to board in June for July newsletter notification.

A “non-profit raffle program filing form” was discussed to see if this was something we should look into.

5. Contract and payment for NCH clubhouse update

The contract was signed 1/12/16. Rent is \$30 for the general meeting. The rent for NCH clubhouse was overpaid by \$20 for a two month period.

6. Forest Service Report

A. Forest Service Liaison

Willie Brusin reported that the Cable Trail is still waiting for the Wildlife Biologist report to be completed. Once done, the trail can be completed with the use of the trail building machine in one day.

A meeting is scheduled for February with Paul Hart, Jet Lowe, Willie and Sue Brusin, and Vicki Testa regarding the final maps for Burlington Ridge area. A map kiosk will be placed. Willie noted that the map kiosk installed at Lone Grave has been removed.

The Bullpen Lake Trail, Lang’s Crossing bridges and the Bowman Mountain Trail projects are on hold due to snow.

PG&E has notified Bear Yuba Land Trust that due to safety concerns, they will not authorize trail construction on the Bear Valley conservation easements. Willie suggests that we work with BYLT on this issue.

The Fuller Lake bridge project is still under consideration. The Forest Service has plans for a \$75,000 bridge which would be placed via helicopter, such as those at Hidden Falls. However they do not have funding for this project.

B. Review of January 19th Skillman meeting with Cecilia Reed

Karen Schwartz, Laura Duncan and Linda Lanzoni met with Cecilia. Her inclination is to have a “group only” campground that would be open only when booked. Horses would not be required for the group to reserve the campground. The FS has a timber contract to have hazardous trees removed at Skillman. The future design layout of the campground will likely be determined once that is completed.

Board members noted that there are more riding trails out of Skillman than any other campground around this area. Also that Robinson Flat

FS campground has no fee and remains open. Laura met a forester from Camptonville named Terri Walsh who is an equestrian. She will be looking at the trees at Skillman for possible removal. Laura will email her to see if she might assist us in plans for Skillman campground. Melissa Ribley will be kept apprised of any input by Terri.

7. Old Business

A.Membership: Member database

Helen Harvey has a excel database set up with membership information. Laura will send this to Jaede. New members can be added to an excel spreadsheet and emailed to the membership to keep them updated. Mary Johnson will provide Laura with an actual “person count” rather than number of memberships. This information can be used as “clout” to further our mission.

B.2016 Calendar Events

1. Review of previous events

Merv Kril expressed concerns about adequate parking at the Cronin Ranch trailhead.

2. Additions (tack swap, line dance, draft horse barn tour)

The Board discussed and approved the addition of a tack swap by and for the club, possibly at the May meeting. Stacy Guerrero is a member who teaches line dancing. This could be done at, or possibly before, the July Ice Cream Social. Ellyn Carmen offered at the Thanksgiving meeting to provide a behind the scene tour of her barn at the Draft Horse Classic. Jaede will get this information out to the members when it is finalized.

C. Pioneer Ride Update/Karen Schwartz

Karen discussed the 3 day work/ride/campout at Skillman scheduled for May 12 -14, 2016. The scheduled workday on May 11th will remain, with additional work each morning of the campout. These dates are approved by the FS with no fee because the campground will not be open to the public yet. A rain date would most likely have to be in September after the campground closes for the season. Campsites will be available on a first-come basis. GCTC would provide bbq dinners and the members would bring pot luck items to share. Rides will be lead on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to familiarize members with the trails. Willie indicated that we need to have Corey turn the water on at the campground. Karen mentioned that the area is in need of trail marker signs as people still complain of getting lost.

D. Poker Ride Update/Jeff Foltz

Jeff submitted an update report in writing. Skillman Horse Camp has been reserved for the weekend of June 4, 2016. He asked if the Board wants to pay \$300 for a live band. The board declined. Jaede presented the flyer. A request was made for the original artwork as the new ones are fuzzy. Mary Johnson said that Merrill Kagan-Weston should have it. Mary will ask Merrill to get it to Jaede. Volunteers are still needed for committees. Gail Plakos has volunteered to work with Debbie Maloy on the food. Larry Schwartz will help with poker hands. Campsites will be first come.

E. Governance committee review of concerns from June 25th meeting
Covered under insurance discussion.

F. Trail report updates/Willie Brusin and Mary Johnson
Covered under Forest Service report.

8. New Business

A. Sound system proposal/Jaede Miloslavich

Jaede submitted a report of her contact with Keven Windrem, a GCTC member, of options and prices of various sound systems to be considered by GCTC. The portable system package and training by Kevin chosen by the Board will cost \$926.79. Teri Personeni and Fran Cole motioned and seconded authorization of the purchase.

B. Walker's and/or other vendor accounts use

Laura questioned who is authorized to make purchases on behalf of the club. There are very few vendors we have accounts with, and very few members have need to use them. No changes or updates are needed.

C. Tracking volunteer hours

We were reminded of the importance of tracking and turning in hours of volunteer work by club members. Willie reviewed the types of volunteer hours that are acceptable to the FS. Melissa stated that she has no problem getting completed workday sign-in sheets to submit. These hours help to get funding for the local forest service.

D. Publicity position recruitment

Mary Johnson will check the membership forms for members who expressed an interest.

E. Skillman Horse Camp improvements/Linda Lanzoni

Linda Lanzoni submitted a written estimate for new corrals. Discussion was held as to whether spending club money on new

corrals would increase the campground usage enough to keep it open. Willie suggested asking Cecilia to let us place 2 temporary 12'x12' corrals there with the understanding that if the campground is closed, they belong to GCTC. If they help to keep it open, consideration would be given to erecting permanent corrals. The estimate for 2 temporary panel corrals is \$600. This was tabled until the April BOD meeting.

F. Three year strategic plan

Helen Harvey has the 5 year plan made in 2012. This should be emailed and reviewed by the April meeting.

G. Pt. Reyes support letter

Rather than have the Board write a letter supporting the continuance of maintaining horses at the Pt. Reyes Historical Morgan Horse Ranch, it was decided that we would suggest the membership do this as they please. The program is likely being phased out as the horses are no longer used by the Rangers.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary