

Board Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, February 12, 7 PM
Teleconference

Officers:

President Helen Harvey
Vice President Bernie Molloy
Secretary Cathy Chase
Treasurer Cathy Scott
Past President Laura Duncan, absent

Board Members:

Helen Crawford, absent
Karen Hayden
Mary Johnson

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:00 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

December 11, 2018 Board Meeting minutes received motion to approve and second to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cathy Scott provided 11 page report with bank balance of \$36,058.74 as of 1/31/19. A motion and seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report - Mary Johnson

1. **Rice's Crossing Equestrian Parking:** Shaun Clarke from Bear Yuba Land Trust is working with GCTC on creating the equestrian parking area adjacent to the trail head on Marysville Road south of Bullards Bar Reservoir. Several GCTC members met with Shaun on January 18, 2019 to look at the area. The parking area, which will also allow overnight camping (a dry camp), is part of a quarry which provided rock for the building of the dam. The entry into the area will be through a locked gate. The combination to the lock will be provided to equestrians by calling the BYLT office during business hours. Signs, improved fencing, and gate as well as moving some of the large boulders and grading the area funded by the previous donation of \$1,000, given to BYLT by GCTC. Shaun is currently getting estimates for the improvements and also contacting the county, which is responsible for Marysville Road, about establishing horse crossing signs. GCTC may consider additional funding of this project if needed.

2. **Future Highway 20 improvement north/east of Nevada City:** TNF had informed GCTC that Cal Trans is planning highway improvement that could impact the Pioneer Trail. Mary said she was able to get in touch with the Cal Trans right of way agent working on that project; Kathie Kent. She was very cordial and informative. She provided maps indicating the two proposed construction areas to eliminate a few major sharp curves.

The first area is east of White Cloud involving the 30 MPH curve. The construction area ends before Washington Road. The second site involves the curves west and east of Lowell Hill Rd. The project is in the early stages with anticipated environmental impact report to be completed the fall of 2019. Actual construction will possibly start summer of 2020, but more likely 2021.

Cal Trans is working with TNF through Heather Newell. Kathie informed MJ that there is a team meeting the week of February 21st with another meeting sometime in March. Because sections of the Pioneer Trail will be impacted, Cal Trans will contribute funding to realign and rebuild the trail.

Kathie is pleased to involve GCTC with this project and will keep Mary informed so that a representative from GCTC will be included in the March meeting, as well as future meetings.

Knowing where the future highway work will be allows GCTC to move forward with needed work on the Pioneer Trail, specifically the area near Chalk Bluff that needs rerouting. Bernie asked about timeline for construction. MJ said she will ask. (During construction, no use by bikes, riders, hikers.) Cathy Scott commented that portions of existing Route 20 will be recommissioned; perhaps consider use for re-routed trail.

Another area of the trail that needs attention is just west of Skillman where water from the culverts under Hwy 20 has eroded the trail. Mary spoke with Kathie about this and although work not scheduled, she is willing to work with GCTC in addressing the problem.

3. **Recreation.gov:** The updated recreation.gov web site is up and running. There is different contractor now. GCTC members Jaede Miloslavich and Mary Johnson investigated finding horse camping sites through the new system and discovered some glitches, specifically trying to locate horse camp sites through the filter system. Through contacting TNF's Heather Newell, Mary was referred to TNF's Cecelia Reed to explain the problem and hope to work on getting it corrected. Cecelia has agreed to meet/talk with Mary to address the problem.

F. Old Business

1. **Quickbook online for Treasurer** – Cathy Scott said she is now online with QuickBooks; \$50 for annual QB Plus. She said it seems to be working well although she is new to QB she is feeling more comfortable. Helen Harvey also has access. Teri was able to migrate info to online. Any information board members need, let Cathy Scott know and she will provide. In future, will link to bank and credit card. Security important and CS wants to pursue before making any changes.

Mary commented that perhaps some funds should be moved into a CD. Cathy Scott will check rates offered by Chase Bank. Bernie said Sierra advertising 2%. Proposed that one-third of checking balance be moved into a CD. HH agreed. Mary also advised that a non-profit can put money into a savings account which would get some interest.

2. **Budget Committee** – Karen asked if there is a Budget Officer? Pre-approval needed?
3. **Forest Trails Alliance and Scotts Flat trails** – Will support but not take leading role.
4. **Rescheduling Meet and Greet** – Cancelled because of weather; Bernie reported approximately 15-18 people rsvp'd. Delay for two months and schedule for after the 6 p.m. board meeting.
5. **Date for Horse Camping demo** – Mary Johnson will host, Saturday, April 6. Time to be determined.

G. New Business

1. Trail Patrol Organizer – HH has been talking to Ann Rubenstein about taking over this role.
2. Guided Ride Organizer – Need an organizer. Jaede put out info but a lead person critical so trail guides do not have added responsibility of organizing. Could start with Trail Patrol members as potential leaders. Cathy Scott emphasized that trail guide leaders must be positive and flexible and design rides to be appropriate to participants. Make it fun! Ideally, three guides per riding group. HH recommended keeping groups to 5-6 riders.
3. Skillman Camp Host – Cathy Scott thinks great idea. Asked how many weekends needed. HH said end of June to August on the weekends when no other activities scheduled (such as Poker Ride and Wild West Ride).
4. Discussed party honoring past president Irv Mazur who is moving to Rhode Island. All agreed that better not a surprise party so we will let Irv know ahead of time. Following Cathy Scott's presentation on Avenza trail mapping, we will honor Irv and Rita with cake and refreshments.
5. Membership – Cathy Chase said membership directory will be ready by next general meeting and will distribute pdf version via email with paper copies available at the meeting.
6. HH asked if the teleconference was acceptable meeting method in situations (e.g. weather) when difficult to assemble. Consensus positive. Some concern about background noise, feedback, etc. Karen Hayden pointed out that if all participants kept phones on mute except when actually talking that problem could be eliminated.

Meeting adjourned by President Helen Harvey at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary