

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

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

Board Members:

Jamie Cameron
Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:05 p.m. New members Cathy Pegeron, Todd & Susan Snook, Brenda Gillarde, Laura & Bill & Linda Allen welcomed.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

January 8, 2019 General Membership Meeting minutes were approved with motion from Barry Vaccaro and second from Irv Mazur. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cathy Scott provided 9 page report showing bank balance of \$34,404 as of February 28, 2019 with \$6,674 membership dues, \$7,600 expenses for fiscal year including insurance liability. Laura Duncan motioned and Adam Wilhite 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 in January to look at the area. The parking area is well off the road and secure. Information about the parking will be on the GCTC website and access to the combination of the lock will be provided to equestrians by calling the BYLT office during business hours. Overnight camping will not be allowed. Signs on the gate, improved fencing and gate, horse crossing signs on the road, as well as grading and moving some boulders in the area to be funded by a previous donation of \$1,000 from GCTC to BYLT for the project.

Teri Personeni asked if there would be connections from Rice's Crossing to trails at Bullards Bar. Helen Harvey said not now; that will be developed later.

2. ***Future Highway 20 improvement north/east of Nevada City:*** TNF had informed GCTC that Caltrans was planning highway improvement that could impact the Pioneer Trail. Mary was able to get in touch with Kathie Kent, the Caltrans right-of-way agent working on that project. She provided maps showing the two proposed construction areas to eliminate a few major sharp curves. The first area is east of White Cloud involving the 30 m.p.h. curve. The construction area ends before Washington Road. The second site involves the curves east and west of Lowell Hill

Road. 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.

Caltrans is working with TNF through Heather Newell. Caltrans will contribute funding to realign and rebuild the trail. Kathie is pleased to involve GCTC with this project and will keep us informed so that a representative from GCTC will be included in future meetings involving impact on the Pioneer Trail.

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.

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 she is willing to work with GCTC in addressing the problem.

3. The latest information about the Lone Grave area map is that it is again delayed due to lack of funding from the U.S. Government. GCTC will be discussing other ideas and options to try to move forward with the long-awaited map. Per Willie Brusin, the map will be like the Burlington map with recognized main trails identified.
4. GCTC is moving forward with the written agreement with the Forest Service/TNF and GCTC. "The purpose of the agreement is to document the cooperation between GCTC and TNF to perform trail maintenance and construction, train and manage volunteer staff, conduct trail use ethics education, and develop private and public resources and partnership opportunities." The advantage of this agreement is that it creates a written record with the Forest Service of GCTC's volunteer service and it lists the responsibilities of each partner.

F. Old Business

1. Limited printed copies of membership directory as of 3/10/12 available. A pdf version was emailed to all current members.
2. Google docs links – Helen Harvey will ask Jaede to send out links.

G. New Business

1. Poker Ride – Jeff Foltz

Poker Ride is June 1, 2019 and is one and only GCTC fundraiser. Jeff asked for volunteers to help Elicia Kamberg. So far: Willie Brusin will manage parking; Laura Duncan, prizes; Debbie Molloy, food and clean up. Still needed: registration help, raffle tickets sellers, card stations (8), readers of poker hands, drag riders (2), donations of prizes which can be gently-used items and crafts, solicited donations (acknowledgements available to give to businesses), silent auction, set up/distribution of prizes, assistants to Debbie Molloy for food and cleanup and GCTC members to contribute food. Thanks to Mary Johnson for again providing her trailer as "food wagon." Also looking for music possibility (free as there is no budget to pay band).

Camping reservations can be made only through GCTC; there are 14 sites available. Saturday all sites will be used for parking for the Poker Ride. May 22 is set for work cleanup day at Skillman.

2. Tack Sale Update – Laura Duncan

Laura described the Pines to Mines trail. BONC and BYLT working on agreement for passage over SPI lands. The tack sale will be June 9 in conjunction with Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center Health Center Fair. LBEMC will provide port-a-potties and traffic control. Laura reported that Bear Yuba Land Trust has applied for funding for a bridge at the Spalding spillway as part of Pines to Mines project. Hope to finish by end of year.

3. **Trail Patrol** – Helen Harvey described procedure for checking out horses and riders for trail patrol. Trail patrol volunteers must commit to ride or hike at least once a month on Lone Grave, Skillman, Grouse Ridge trails. Ann Rubenstein welcomed back, and she has agreed to become Trail Patrol Coordinator.
4. **Trail Adopters** – Mary Johnson explained that main trails are “adopted” by people who ride them frequently and then advise Mary of any issues that need attention such as washouts, trees down, wasps, etc. Contact Mary if interested in becoming a trail adopter.
5. **Calendar Information and Updates**
 - a. Horse camping demo at Mary Johnson’s on Sunday, April 28.
 - b. New member social at the Grange on April 9 at 7 p.m. (will follow 6 p.m. BOD meeting)
 - c. Robie Park Camp/Work event which was changed to September 7-8 now conflicts with the revised Tevis schedule per Jamie Cameron. Robie now scheduled for August 24 even though that will conflict with guided rides.
6. **Guided Rides** – Helen Harvey reported that these were very popular. Filled the Skillman campground last year when rides offered. Need a coordinator so guides don’t have to take on organization responsibility as well.
7. **Skillman Camp Host** – Laura Duncan said the Forest Service used to have a paid position. GCTC working on providing camp hosts for July and August. Details to follow.
8. **Parades** – Linda Lanzoni advised that the Penn Valley Rodeo Parade will be on May 18 and the Fourth of July Parade will be in Grass Valley this year, and she encouraged participation.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Following the meeting Cathy Scott gave a presentation on Avenza.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary