

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

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

Board Members:

Jamie Canon
Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

General Members:

Heidi Hansen, Jeff Folz

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Bernie Molloy at 7:00 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

Jeff Folz will provide an update on Hidden Falls Expansion.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mary Johnson said she would like additional time to confirm corrections made to the June 11, 2019 BOD minutes. She will also provide June Forest Service report. Per Bernie, tabled until next BOD meeting.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report - Cathy Scott

Net for Poker Ride was \$4,852. Laura noted that this is little money for a lot of work; Mary commented that this is more than raised in past. Karen suggested raising entry fee; fees for similar rides with other groups are higher.

Pines to Mines fundraiser net of \$913.60.

Bernie inquired if any action yet taken on putting some of GCTC balance in a CD. Negative.

Cathy noted that August 31 is close of fiscal year so please submit expenses and cash reimbursement checks by that date.

Checkbook balance of \$37,554.00 as of July 31, 2019. Cathy provided full financial report, copy of checking account statement, and reconciliation reports (total 14 pages). Helen Crawford motioned and Karen Hayden seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report - Mary Johnson

1. Little Lasier Meadow: July 19-21, 2019, Successful work day. Repaired wooden corral in 4-plex; scraped, sanded, and painted 6 picnic tables; re-leveled tables with new paving stones; cleaned and leveled fire rings; replaced Site 2 wooden sign; cleared and marked Pass trail, re-established water bars on connector trail; transported and placed 4 new corrals, then dismantled them and stored them for the winter at the TNF work site (as per Quentin Youngblood, Sierraville district ranger) on the west side of Jackson Meadow Reservoir. They are chained and locked. Mary Johnson has the key. (Corral sizes are two 14 x 14 and two 12 x 12.)
2. Loney Meadow: July 26-28, 2019, successful work day per Teri Personeni. The main objective was to clear brush from the Bowman Mountain Trail along the old forest road out past the dairy.
3. Skillman corrals: Corrals have not been purchased yet. One corral was brought back from Little Lasier in order to work on a method of securing the corrals in place to prevent theft. Laura asked if

LiveWire offered discount to non-profit organization. Mary said they do not because the markup on corrals is small, however, they provided free delivery.

4. Work Day: Next work day scheduled for August 28, 2019. Brushing and trail work on the Hallelujah and Dogwood trails.
5. United Trails Day: October 12, 2019. Paul Hart has two projects in mind. Reroute of Pioneer Trail above Chalk Bluff due to erosion. Switchbacks to be created (most likely using TNF excavator) then hand finish work. Improve Omega Overlook trail (multi use #54) starts directly across from entrance to Skillman.
6. Highway 20 realignment/Pioneer Trail: Paul Hart has been in the field looking at reroutes. We discussed the Steephollow Creek crossing. Construction will create a lot of fill in that area and most likely the creek will be put in a culvert. The terrain is quite steep and the reroute of the Pioneer Trail will most likely be at the base of the fill line. Because that is the only water available for horses along the trail, Mary emphasized the need to find a solution to allow horses' access to water. Karen advised it is important to have Forest Service include this as part of the design.
7. Lone Grave Area Map: The draft map is completed and is available for review. The text is being written and will be available later. Paul Hart has sent digital copies to GCTC and BONC for review. GCTC members will meet to make corrections and then plan a meeting with Paul. The forest service was allotted some money for the map and signage. When the map is complete, Paul hopes to be able to print some small maps locally and have them laminated for posting on the kiosks. Mary reminded him that there is money set aside from a grant and a donation for the two large maps at Harmony Market and Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head. (Mary asked Cathy Scott to confirm \$1,200? Allotted. Bernie mentioned map at Skillman also.) Paul is also working on getting new kiosks with metal roofs to protect the signs from the sun and rain/snow. New trail signs will also be placed along with etiquette message signs. A combination of trail names and numbers are planned for the new signs. Per Paul there will be a TNF staff member dedicated to this project who will be working with GCTC (& BONC) for sign placement, etc. Cathy Scott asked Mary if she had looked at map, which Mary had and noted there were some corrections needed which would be discussed at upcoming meeting on Friday.
8. E-Bikes on non-motorized trails: Paul explained the class of e-bike allowed on the Pioneer Trail. He indicated that the decision was not his. He also offered to have a demonstration day for GCTC board members of an e-bike just to familiarize us with the bikes. (More discussion on e-bikes later in the agenda.)
9. Dascombe trail reroute: Paul Hart and Mary Johnson will meet on August 27, 2019 on the trail to discuss the area that needs improvement.

Bernie thanked Mary for all of the effort she contributes. Mary inquired whether appropriate to receive reimbursement for the multiple trips she made in preparation for the Little Lasier workday. After discussion, the board agreed that Mary should receive reimbursement at federal rate of \$.58/mile for trips to plan and measure and deliver corral panels. Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro also eligible for reimbursement for same. Cathy Scott advised that there is a GCTC credit card that can be used to avoid out-of-pocket expenses. Bernie said we will put a project reimbursement policy on the next BOD agenda.

F. Old Business

1. *Hardship Membership Policy – Laura Duncan*

Laura presented text of possible hardship policy (copy attached). Agreement that it is brief and to the point. Helen Crawford suggested substituting "he/she" for "they." All requests to be submitted in writing and will be kept confidential. Notice of hardship policy will be posted in newsletter and on website.

2. *Skillman Camp Host – Laura Duncan*

Pilot program orientation meeting on August 24. GCTC had weekend date to provide info on guidelines and orientation. Four members expressed interest; one person showed up. Lori McIntosh only host for this year. Manure management is an issue. Difficult to hoist garbage bags or muck buckets into dumpster; bunker would be the ideal, but that is another project. Karen Hayden offered to provide input at some future date on camp host concept. Jeff asked about liability. Discussion of providing host with radio as there is no cell phone service at Skillman.

3. ***Hidden Falls Expansion – Jeff Foltz***

The EIR has been delayed until the end of August. NIMBYs went to the last board meeting and asked for moratorium on trails using fire as an excuse. The county is trying to proceed slowly and attempting to mitigate anger and concerns expressed by neighbors. Placer Land Trust endeavors to remain neutral but is getting pressure and will prepare letters in support to send to county board, starting with inclusion of fewer parking spaces. Jeff said he had hoped to have petitions with 2,500-5,000 signatures but to date have fewer than 290. Opposition has over 500 signatures. Very active and vocal opponents. EIR August 31, then a 45-day review process, so likely will be on agenda for November/December board meeting (although could be pushed to following year). Must get a crowd of supporters to the board meeting. Bernie thanked Jeff for his time and efforts in following this issue.

G. New Business

1. ***Pines to Mines – Laura Duncan***

High country SPI (Sierra Pacific Industries) not interested in granting access to their lands. Having to look at alternatives although SPI has indicated they do not mind non-motorized users. BYLT (Bear Yuba Land Trust) grant application has been approved for bridge design over spillway at Lake Spaulding and the Forest Service likes it. Still have NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), etc. hurdles.

2. ***E-bikes in Tahoe National Forest and on Pioneer Trail***

Public comment period ending August 23. Link/list of recommended trails is on the Forest Service website. Lake Tahoe prohibits e-bikes on non-motorized trails. Precedent is the major issue as this is a violation of Forest Service's own rules. Cathy Scott will follow up with local Forest Service, Joe Chavez and Joe Flannery, new public affairs rep. Bernie will write letter as an individual, not GCTC executive. Karen Hayden noted that the Forest Service has new email address format, (e.g. *heather.newell@usda.gov*) which are not on the website. She cautioned that the point NOT to make is that e-bikes will increase trail use. Need to meet with line officers (there is a new district ranger) who needs to know about GCTC and our history of working with Forest Service and building and maintaining trails. Eli Ilano is new TNF supervisor (From TNF website: "*Eli Ilano has been selected as the new Forest Supervisor on the Tahoe National Forest. He has been the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Tahoe since 2010. Ilano brings years of natural resource and public land management experience.*") Jeff pointed out that the bicycle companies are all branching out into e-bikes of varying sizes, powers, batteries. Inevitably traffic will increase. Important to keep motorized and non-motorized trails separate. Karen said "Hoot" Trail is example of the issue; if it is not used by hikers and equestrians, we will relinquish rights.

3. ***Skillman Guided Ride August 24***

All campsites including walk-ins are booked and there are 22 to 24 riders signed up. Four leaders needed and ride-out times will be staggered.

4. ***Membership Committee – Heidi Hansen***

Heidi had to leave before end of meeting but asked Cathy Chase to check with board about forming a Membership Committee to aid in outreach to new members. Board supportive of an informal committee. Specifically, Heidi is looking for recommendations from the board as to individuals who could help since she is a relative newcomer to GCTC.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary