

DRAFT

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.

Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 7 PM

Golden Empire Grange

11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President: Bernie Molloy
Vice President: Jamie Canon
Secretary: Andi Duncan
Treasurer: Cathy Scott
Past President: Helen Harvey - absent

Board Members:

Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden - absent
Greg Sherr

Administrative Members:

Mary Johnson
Jaede Milolsovich

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Molloy at 7:05 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda - Terri Personeni to talk about Safe Covers

C. Welcome to new members - Debbie Beth-Halachmy, Meredith Cherry, Holly Regan and Jill Tucker. First meeting for Laurie Weber.

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

March 10, 2020 General Meeting minutes – Linda Lanzoni motioned to approve and Teri Personeni seconded. Motion passed.

E. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Cathy Scott reported that our current checkbook balance as of July 13, 2021 is \$38, 621 which includes \$10,571 in reserves. The reserves include \$3,571.17 for Pines to Mines, \$5,000 for a new equipment trailer, and \$2,000 for printing two trail maps for the GCTC Board at Lone Grave and Harmony Market. Notable expenditures include \$5,300 to Mader Gravel for resurfacing and gravel for the road into Lone Grave. Andi Duncan motioned and Barry Vaccaro seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed. A full accounting is attached.

There was a short discussion about how much money should be held in reserve and whether we needed an equipment trailer. Jaede Milosovich said the club has a two year plan and that should be reviewed.

Jaede also said the club could use more publicity including free services such as Instagram, Twitter, and Tik Tok as well as fee based services. Don Soto said if someone brings the GCTC banner to the Knights of Columbus booth at the County Fair, he will display it. Subsequent to the General Meeting, Meredith Regan volunteered to set up and manage an Instagram account for GCTC. The Board voted to approve this action.

F. Forest Service Report

Little Lasier Meadow - Mary Johnson reported that the work party was a big success with 19 GCTC members in attendance. The campground wasn't full due to some last minute cancellations, but there were 12 rigs and 16 horses. Total volunteer hours were 66 plus 85 hours of travel, and 4 hours of stock use (riding and pack animals for trail clearing with sawing equipment) and approximately \$100 of materials. Work included cleaning fire rings, marking corral panels, scraping/sanding/painting 2 picnic tables, leveling and placing bricks under table legs, replacing rotted barrier posts, resetting the PCT trail sign, repairs to the 4-plex corrals, trimming brush on trails and clearing fallen trees from trails. The volunteer hours were reported to the Sierraville District Ranger Quentin Youngblood for their volunteer reports. Quentin and Rachel Westaby were very helpful in reserving the campgrounds for GCTC members. GCTC members were given free camping not only for the weekend but also for any extra days that were spent before the weekend. Paint for the tables and lege poles for the barrier replacements were provided by the Sierraville District. See attached letter from Mary Johnson to Quentin Youngblood.

G. Old Business

1. **Lone Grave Port-a-potty Update** - Quick Response (the Port-a-potty rental company) may be up and running in early August. Until they are in a position to deliver and service the unit, no action is being taken. Teri Personeni suggested the club consider buying one on wheels. The advantage to owning is that the port-a-potty can then be transported to other GCTC events. Bernie Molloy said this will be put on the August Board Meeting agenda.

H. New Business

1. **Pines to Mines Update** - Laura Duncan was unable to attend and asked Jaede Milosovich to say a few words on this topic. The key point is that the Forest Service plans to include the use of Class 1 E-bikes into the Environmental Report which the Nevada County Board of Supervisors will be reviewing and voting on later this month. If the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approves the overall plan, they will automatically give E-bikes the go ahead. It is vital that GCTC members communicate with the Nevada County Board of Supervisors to make them aware of what they are signing. Additionally, members are encouraged to attend the next NC Board of Supervisors meeting. Pamela Swartz, Jeff Foltz, and Bernie Molloy are crafting a

template for members to use to communicate with the NCBS. This is similar to what was done for the Hidden Falls campaign.

2. **Lone Grave Trails** - Mary Johnson reported that the Forest Service is closing many non-system trails...many of these trails have been on the ground for more than 20 years and not suffering any degradation from use. The closing of these trails relates back to the Rock Creek Decision Memo and Map. This was the project that re-routed the old cable trail and the Hoot trail was created. Within this project there were tons of other re-routes and proposed closures to reduce user conflict and address erosion issues. The Hoot Trail is complete and the Forest Service is now implementing the other part of the plan. Mary Johnson is meeting with with Joe Chavez and Paul Hart and is looking for constructive ideas for negotiation on keeping many of these trails open. Positive ideas only, please.
3. **Upcoming Work Date and Calendar Changes** - Loney Meadows Camp/work day is this weekend, July 16-18. If you are not camping but attending the work day, be saddled and ready to ride by 8:30. Currently there are 11 people signed up. There will be a BBQ and potluck. August 25 will be the new work day for the Pioneer Trail. The guided ride at Royal Gorge has been rescheduled to September 25.
4. **Tow Chain Covers** - Teri Personeni gave a short presentation on free tow chain sleeve covers to prevent sparks. The covers are made out of old fire hoses and are being given away free at various locations in Browns Valley, Camptonville, Loma Rica, and Smartsville. She is attempting to get the Nevada County Fire Safe Council to offer them in Grass Valley and Nevada City. She had a few samples to give away.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by Andi Duncan, Secretary

Quentin Youngblood
Sierraville Ranger District
317 So. Lincoln St.
Sierraville, CA 96126

Hello Quentin,

GCTC members enjoyed a wonderful camp/work/ride weekend (and more) at Little Lasier Meadow and greatly appreciate the effort you made for reserving the campground for our use.

Green meadows, colorful wildflowers, thunder showers, trickling streams, abundant birds, and even a bear created the amazing backdrop for our stay. The days were warm, the nights comfortable, the mosquitoes and flies tolerable, and the trails and scenery were fantastic.

Nineteen GCTC members attended this year's work party. Campground work included cleaning fire rings, sanding and painting 2 tables, leveling and setting blocks under tables, replacing posts on failing barriers, marking the metal corral panels, re-setting the PCT trail head sign, and repairs to the wire and boards in the 4-plex corral. Trail work included cutting brush on the connector trail and removing trees that had fallen across the connector trail and the PCT. One of our members, who is a certified sawyer, packed his equipment via packhorse and cleared trees both north and south (from the connector trail) on the PCT. There is one large tree on the PCT fairly close to the paved road going into East Meadows campground that was not cleared (heading south from the intersection of the paved road and the PCT.) Perhaps someone in the forest service would have an opportunity to cut that tree. The PCT north of Pass Creek was not explored this year.

Thank you for providing the lodgepole posts and the paint for the tables. We did not use all of the posts or paint. The posts were left in the camp and the paint was set by the bulletin board for Hunter to pick up.

Volunteer Hours from GCTC:

Hours worked: 66

Hours of travel time: 85

Hours of stock use: 4

Materials: \$60.00

I am assuming that I should report these hours to you (Sierraville Ranger District of the TNF) for your district report of volunteer hours. Please confirm that assumption. If that is not the case, I will report them to the Yuba River Ranger District in our annual report of volunteer hours.

Thank you again for the opportunity to help maintain Little Lasier Meadows Horse Camp and the surrounding trails.

Regards,

Mary

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