

FINAL
Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Teleconference - E-bikes

Officers:

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

Board Members

Helen Crawford McDermott
Karen Hayden
Greg Sherr

General Members:

Laura Duncan
Mary Johnson, Forest Service Liaison

Reason for Meeting:

On Monday, March 1 Laura Duncan sent an email to the board advising them that a new and troubling issue has come up with the Pines to Mines trail project. Eli Ilano, Tahoe Forest Supervisor, wants the P2M committee to consider allowing ebikes on the trail. The big issue for GCTC is that the Pioneer trail is part of the proposed P2M trail and the designation on this section would change from non motorized to allow ebikes traffic. This is additionally troubling because the trail project since its inception is clearly identified as non motorized for all public presentations and requests for donations.

Should this change occur GCTC needs to consider our continued involvement with P2M, withdrawal of funds, a campaign to fight the change, possible lawsuit or other options. Each organization has been asked to outline the top three issues Forest Service should consider on the topic of including Class 1 ebikes in the P2M trail study. The board needs to prepare and approve a letter for submission as an official position of GCTC. Current deadline for response is Friday, March 5. All available board members agreed to a teleconference on Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by Helen Harvey at 7:02 p.m. After a long discussion, everyone in attendance agreed that ebikes on the P2M trail is a bad idea and this last minute change is not in keeping with the original P2M vision.

Questions included what to do and/or how to apply pressure especially with such a short response time. In addition to GCTC, we need both the Nevada County Board of Supervisors and the BYLT to oppose ebikes on the P2M trail. Various members of these organizations will be contacted as follows:

1. Laura Duncan will contact Sue Hoek and Hardy Bullock. Laura has already spoken with Bill Hare.

2. Helen Harvey will contact Heidi Hall.
3. Cathay Scott will contact Shawn Clark to determine his feelings regarding the change of vision.
4. Greg Sheer will speak with his wife to understand if BYLT is ok with broadening its definition from non motorized to motorized trails.

Another action item is to send a letter preferably written by a lawyer to the Forest Service. In that regard, Helen Harvey will contact Randy Rasmussen at Backcountry Horsemen for a pro bono recommendation. Potentially Fran Cole could be contacted as she is a lawyer and former board member.

Our overall position is to get the Board of Supervisors and BYLT to support GTC's stance that ebikes should not be allowed on the P2M Trail. Should we fail in this area our fall back position is that the Pioneer Trail should remain non motorized

We scheduled another teleconference for Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 p.m. to report back. It is unlikely that we can craft a thoughtful response by that time. Should the timeline for submission not be extended, we will send a letter stating that we are deeply concerned about the proposed changes and want sufficient time to prepare a valid response.

Laura Duncan will let us know if the timeline to submit concerns has been extended but we are currently operating under the assumption that our response is due March 5.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Submitted by Andi Duncan