

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL  
Tuesday, December 9 2014, 3 PM  
NCHI clubhouse, 10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.  
Grass Valley, CA

Attendance:

President, Karen Schwartz  
Secretary, Karen Wyeth

Board Members:  
Vicki Testa

New Board Members (2015):

Fran Cole  
Teri Personeni  
Charles Green

Others:

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin  
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson  
Past President: Helen Harvey  
Sue Brusin

Call to Order: Karen Schwartz called the meeting to order at 2:57 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting: Karen Wyeth will send out the minutes shortly.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Kathy Southgate provided the report to Karen Schwartz. The balance for November 2014 was \$28,552.02. The insurance must be renewed. Karen Schwartz will look at other insurance companies. GCTC now pay Larry Viegas Insurance \$500 per year. Karen Schwartz will develop a thank you note for large donors for tax purposes. She has a model from the Tevis Cup race. We may need an independent audit of our books and we need a review of financial archives. Live Wire never donated for the outhouse at Lone Grave. Teri will talk to Kathy Southgate and then follow up.

Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin reporting.

Keen Grant update - Willie has not been able to get in touch with Jet Lowe. He wants to set a meeting for after 1/5/15.

Cable Trail - He recommends having a trail machine or tractor to do the trail work. He mentioned Zack Anderson as a source for this work. There should be only two switchbacks on the Cable Trail.

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Skillman - Willie asked if Linda Lanzoni has contacted Karen S. regarding the toilets. She has not so far. There is also a need for a new horse trough at the end. He recommended using a contractor for new corrals.

Recreation Survey - Karen S., Karen W., and Willie met with Joe Chavez. The survey will last 13 months and be at randomly selected points. Unfortunately this may miss equestrian use. Joe said that you can stop at any survey point to participate and state your type of recreation use of the national forest. There should be one along Rt. 20, i.e. at the Omega Rest Area. The board encourages all members to participate.

Mountain bike safety - Willie said that Jet Lowe is planning a workshop re. mountain bikes and horses. The Loomis Basin Horsemen has a good booklet on trail courtesy. Jet would like the GCTC to participate in the workshop. Willie will try to get more large signs re. trail courtesy from Joe. We'll have to pay for them. A joint committee from all trail groups can help put up the signs. Karen S. continued this item to the next meeting. Fran suggested including the difference between carnivore and horse manure in the workshop.

#### Old Business:

Karen Schwartz continued Archives Review to the next meeting.

Membership Report - Mary Johnson reported that 62 members have not yet renewed. There are 154 members now. She will send out a list to Jaede.

Website Update - Helen Harvey stated that the draft web site doesn't work on tablets. Merrill has asked for Gigi Lawton's Facebook password, but she understandably doesn't want to provide it. Karen S. will talk to Merrill and Brad. Teri Personeni made a motion to set 12/31/14 as the deadline for an operable website that will work on tablet and smart phones, including the minutes, archives, newsletter, and Pay Pal capability. Karen W. seconded the motion. Motion approved. The board decided that the list of advertisers should not be on the web site. They are in the newsletters and people will have access to them there. Ron Brown, who has created and maintained the old web site will be invited to a meeting for appreciation. Teri moved that we present him with a \$100 Visa gift card, Karen W. seconded, motion approved.

#### 2014 Calendar Update -

United Trails Day - In the future, volunteers will be encouraged to speak up regarding their ability to do the work assigned. Laura Duncan brought this need to Karen Schwartz's attention.

Lone Grave - There were no problems.

Skillman - There were no problems with the work day, but someone used the corrals while the DG was still wet and did some damage.

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Thanksgiving Feast - The presentation and food were very good. Mary felt that we should continue to allow guests. There needs to be more time for scrap books, maps. Fran recommended sending out slate of board candidates before the meeting so that the election or approval of the slate can be efficient. Because there was not an official election to support the slate of candidates presented and sworn in at the dinner, Karen S. would like to schedule that for the General Meeting in Jan. There was discussion of eliminating the business meeting.

Fran's proposed Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies will be scheduled for the Feb. board meeting. Fran offered to get the Articles of Incorporation.

Top Hand Award - We are taking recommendations. The deadline is in Jaede's email.

#### New Business:

Draft 2015 Calendar - The date for the Poker Ride should be checked to see if it conflicts with the Horse Expo or other events. Karen S. recommended going to the Running I Ranch instead of planning another desensitization clinic here. It should be scheduled during the spring. Karen would also like to have an annual ride on the Pioneer Trail lasting several days and she suggested monthly campouts. Diana Culver has volunteered to be our publicity chair. Merrill will coordinate the Poker Ride. Several board members pointed out that we had the maximum number of people participating in the 2014 Poker Ride. We should not increase the publicity for it in 2015. The Tevis Cup is scheduled for August 1. Sue stated that we need to have some open work days.

Committees - There is one opening for a historian.

U.S. Rider - ([usrider.org](http://usrider.org)) They offer roadside assistance for trailers. Karen S. will present this offer at the Jan. meeting. There is a \$10 incentive for groups.

Caples Creek - Mary Lundin recommended considering a new trail project at Caples Creek, working with the Forest Service and Back Country Horsemen. They would like to install water at the horse camp. The board generally felt that this is too far from our area and that we're too busy. We will have a future project of installing equestrian parking at Bear Valley.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary

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