**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7 PM**

**Nevada County Horsemen’s Clubhouse**

**10600 Bubbling Wells Road**

**Grass Valley, CA**

**Officers: Board Members:**

**President Helen Harvey Bernie Molloy**

**Vice President unfilled Helen Crawford**

**Secretary Mary Lundin Elicia Kamberg, absent**

**Treasurer Teri Personeni**

**Past President Laura Duncan**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

 Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey.

**B. Changes or additions to agenda**

 None

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

January 9th, 2018 General Membership Meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Irv Mazur, second by Rose Massara. Motion carried.

**D. Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Teri Personeni reported the bank balance as of March 5th to be $35,125.47. Irene Jenkins motioned, Ann Driver seconded, motion carried to approve report.

**E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson**

On Feb 13, 2018, there was a meeting on the trail with Paul Hart, Rod Garcia (TNF), Jane Ragan, Matt Freitas (BONC), and myself (GCTC).  Discussed was the continuation of the Dascombe trail re-route section that removes the trail from under the power lines.  BONC had a work day scheduled on their calendar for March 10.  The two options considered were to use an existing trail with some changes or create a new trail. GCTC and BONC representatives concurred that a new trail was not a top priority. Paul Hart was concerned about one section of the existing trail that had slope greater than 5% which could cause erosion.  Since the existing trail was adequate with some changes (water bars, brush removal) it was decided to continue with it's use for now.

The discussion then turned to what was higher priority, which included the Zigzag trail and the recent reroute of the connector trail from the Dascombe to the Harmony. The group then drove to the bottom of the Zigzag trail to discuss the erosion at the very bottom of the trail. A reroute design was decided on, to be done with an excavator and then finished by hand. It was also decided that trimming and removing brush to enhance sight lines on the Zigzag switch backs would be done on the same work day, as well as the discussed water bars and trimming to be done on the Dascombe reroute.  It was agreed that an excavator would be rented to be operated by Rod Garcia TNF before the scheduled work day. The cost of The excavator would be shared by GCTC and BONC.

The work on section of the Dascombe/Harmony connector trail that is too steep will be done with an excavator and then hand work, at a later date.
On Feb. 21, 2018 the excavator was rented and Rod completed the reroute of the lower Zigzag. I visited the work site on that day to view the work and walk the trail to identify and mark the areas that needed the most clearing work.
On March 1, 2018 Paul Hart (TNF) facilitated the meeting with GCTC and BONC to discuss the safety issues on the hoot trail. Cathy Scott will give a report on that.
A follow up meeting (from the meeting with Jet Lowe, Sue Brusin, Suzanne Vacarro and Cathy Scott) with Paul Hart to discuss the map of the Lone Grave area trails is in the process of being scheduled.
The March 10 work date was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled. The tentative date for that work is  March 31, 2018. Please save the date...more information to follow.
Mary Johnson

GCTC Forest Service Liaison

**F. Old Business**

**1. Pines to Mines/GCTC Fundraiser-Laura Duncan**

Laura reported on the upcoming GCTC fundraiser for the Pines to Mines Trail to be held at the Loomis Basin arena. She said the weather should be good. More volunteers are needed. GCTC members will wear vests so as to be easily identified. Loomis Basin Equine Medical Center will give a presentation. Saddles That Fit will be there, and a Hot Dog Wagon available. GCTC will sell memberships and donated tack. Bernie Malloy will take pictures and do a newspaper article.

**2. Poker Ride Update-Elicia Kamberg**

No update available**.**

**3. Placer County Park & Recreation Plan**

Karen Wyeth attended the Placer County Park & Recreation Plan meetings. She reports that a ten year plan to develop trails depends on funding, but the plan itself for prospective trails should be finalized and approved by July 2018.

**4. Hoot Trail-Cathy Scott**

The Forest Service does not want one-way trails, nor will it build parallel trails. They support multiple use and sharing trails. Paul Hart will conduct another ground review of trail bed changes identified in July 2017, and changes to improve site lines where possible. Both BONC and GCTC clubs are to focus on trail safety and courtesy education. Volunteer trail patrols are being authorized by the FS to provide trail safety and courtesy information to trail users. GCTC members are being asked to continue using Park Watch Reports for both positive and negative trail experiences, which are relayed to the FS. Cathy reminded us to be friendly and polite on the trails, and to keep our equines on the main trail bed, avoiding the high berms and technical trail features. Trail usage and safety will be re-evaluated after the educational measures are in place. The Forest Service is willing to take steps to enforce safety, including issuing warning tickets, actual tickets, restricting users or closing the trail

**G. New Business**

**1. Bike Sensitization Workshop**

The location has not been decided but members have shown interest in having this workshop. This will be for GCTC members only. The purpose is to help equestrians when confronted with situations that could cause fear in their animals when on the trail.

**2. Bear Yuba Land Trust Liaison-Helen Crawford**

No report available as the BYLT meeting was delayed.

**3. Amazon Smile**

Amazon contacted Teri Personeni about GCTC participating in their program that donates 5% on certain purchases. Type in Smile.Amazon and choose GCTC.

**4. New GCTC Apparel Available**

New apparel is here and ready for purchase.

**5. Newsletter Editor**

Lynn Mangel has stepped down as newsletter editor. The newsletter is set up and ready for someone who can use Word to step in.

**6. New Phone Books-Cathy Chase**

The new member directory is finished and available at tonight’s meeting. The PDF version will be available soon.

Other Discussion: Willie Brusin would like a printed copy of the calendar.

Business meeting was adjourned at 7:55 for refreshments and speaker. Duke of Duke’s Trailers shared information about trailer safety, how to tell the age of your trailer tires, the required size of trailer safety chains, break away breaking systems, checking for stressed areas inside your trailer, and many other useful safety issues. Duke provides a full-service inspection for his customers. The possibility of having such a service in a group setting for GCTC was discussed.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary