

**Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2013
Community Room, Fire Station
10135 Coyote Street
Nevada City, Ca 95949**

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:03.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Board Members: Don Soto, Jeff Foltz, Vicki Testa

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Sue Brusin, Jaede Miloslavich

Absent:

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Teri Personeni (Past President)

President Helen Harvey called the meeting of order at 7:03.

Helen requested approval of the January minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz reported that no revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 2/12/13 was \$15, 895.17. Current membership renewals are now about 135. The \$3.00 dues increase to \$25.00 will increase income by about \$500. She recommended changing future accounting from "Prepaid" to "Expensed" when paid because the Prepaid system requires more accounting time.

Also, Kathy announced that she must resign as Treasurer as she is moving out of the area, but she offered to prepare the monthly statements until a replacement is found; however, she will not be able to attend future meetings.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reported the following items:

The Forest Service is focusing on improvements for the Upper Burlington motorcycle trail system. These changes will include moving a trail, and adding more signage whenever motorized and non-motorized trails cross. Spark arrestors are required for all motorized vehicles using the trails. Funds for these improvements and enforcement will derive from sales of green stickers for motorcycles. These proposals stem from the TNF Grant Proposal Workshop held several years ago, and comments are invited on the website, not by postal mail. The Forrest Science Synthesis Study contains several errors, especially about the environmental impact of horses on trails, and Helen will draft a response to address these.

Three Skillman area non-motorized trails not shown on the Tahoe National Forrest updated map will be added to avoid their being decommissioned. Willie asked Board Member Vicki Testa to examine the trail map he brought to the meeting to help determine where missing trails should be added. Willie will see that the amended map is in Joe Chavez' hands in the next 30 days. In addition, several members of the GCTC executive board will meet with Joe Chavez in June to discuss the proposed changes at the Skillman campground. Before this meeting, executive board will visit Skillman to develop a plan regarding what should and should not be changed.

New Business:

Membership Chair Mary Johnson reported that there are currently 164 members. 31 members have not renewed and will be contacted with reminders via email and the telephone tree.

Sandy Ruggiero is completing the update of the membership directory, which will be available soon.

Helen reported more telephone tree volunteers are needed.

Helen stated that the Publicity Chair position is still open.

Helen asked Jaede Miloslavich to provide an update on the status of the effort to preserve the Emigrant Trail in southern Nevada County and to provide public access. Jaede reported that she and several other people, including GCTC Secretary Karen Schwartz, attended a tour of the Trail arranged by Larkyn Feller of the Nevada County Planning Department and including Brian Foss, Director of the Planning Department. Several local residents also attended and provided videos of flooding and other impediments they believe should prevent opening the Trail to the public. The Planning Department is preparing a report which will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors at their meeting on 3/12/13. The Supervisors will choose one of eight options regarding the Trail, ranging from affirming the trail easements which currently belong to the County to abandoning the easements. Jaede asked the GCTC board to reaffirm our offer to assist in the development of the Trail, which was ignored in the recent summary report developed by the Planning Department. It was agreed that Karen will provide a draft of our previous letter to the Board regarding this matter for Helen to use in sending a second letter to the Board of Supervisors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary