

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President Helen Harvey
Vice President Bernie Molloy
Secretary Cathy Chase
Treasurer Cathy Scott (absent)
Past President Laura Duncan

Board Members:

Jamie Canon
Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:03 p.m. Welcome to new member Joyce and friend Jodi.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

July 9, 2019 General Membership Meeting minutes were approved with motion from Barry Vaccaro and second from Willie Brusin. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report – (read by Cathy Chase for Cathy Scott)

GCTC finished fiscal year 8/31/19. Checkbook balance \$36,094. Gross revenue \$19,074. Notable revenue sources were Membership dues \$7,831. Poker ride \$5,270, silent auction \$1,216, cash donations \$1,373, Pines to Mines fundraiser tack swap \$935, rest from sales of club merchandise and miscellaneous. Total expenditures \$18,304. Notable expenditures were \$1,174 donation for emergency animal evacuation services, \$600 donation towards new equestrian staging area at Rice's Crossing, \$9,200 for campground and trail construction and maintenance. Net revenue for the year was \$770. Barry Vaccaro motioned and Willie Brusin seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report - Mary Johnson

1. Work Days: July – Little Lasier Meadow, Loney Meadow. August – Dogwood and Hallelujah trails. Thanks to all who helped
2. United Trails Day October 12, 2019. Forest Service, NCWR (Nevada County Woods Riders), BONC (Bicycles of Nevada County), and GCTC. Will be working on a single-track, multi-use trail near the Omega Overlook. This is the 15th year GCTC has participated. Fun way to get to know others who use and help maintain the trails.
3. Highway 20 alignment affecting the Pioneer Trail: Paul Hart is working with Caltrans on the reroute. He has been out in the field studying the area. One area of concern is the Steephollow Creek crossing. We are trying to find solutions to keep water available for horses at the crossing.
4. Lone Grave map. Several GCTC members reviewed the draft and suggested improvement to the trail labels on the map and a couple of missing tie trails not on the map. Mary has spoken with Paul about the changes, and she is in the process of making the changes on the map to give to Paul.
5. Paul Hart and Mary met in the field and flagged an area on the Dascombe trail that needs an erosion control reroute. The plan is for the Forest Service crew to do the initial brush/tree

clearing. There will be a GCTC work day to do the finish work in the spring of next year. Pink flags mark the switchback.

6. Bowman Mountain Trail: The Forest Service had a crew working on improvement of the rocky part of the trail the last week of August. Mary has not seen yet.

F. Old Business

1. **Hidden Falls Expansion – Jeff Foltz** Jeff reported GCTC had a booth at the Gold Country Fair and expressed thanks to the GCTC members who helped collect almost 500 signatures on petitions to send to supervisors. Jaede noted 575 signatures collected online. Jeff's goal is 2,000 total. We have a sponsor who is underwriting costs and the current schedule will allow more time to collect signatures. Jeff urged Placer County residents to send postcards and letters (he can provide postcards and form letters) to supervisors in support of the project. Non Placer residents could sign as "Placer County neighbor." Jeff has flyers that explain history, etc. of the expansion. Currently it is an out-and-back trail. Some neighbors not happy; met a few at the fair. Staging areas would be on Garden Bar, Bell Road, Bear River. Placer Land Trust will own and county will maintain. One more booth scheduled at Rocklin's Hot Summer Nights on September 21 with expected attendance of 10,000-15,000. \$10 million already invested in the project. Supervisor meetings will take place in October/November. Will send out email to get supporters to show up. NIMBYs are very vocal and there were about 40-50 at previous meetings. Jaede noted that when equestrians packed the meeting for the previous expansion, it was approved. Jeff said there has been a lot of support from all groups—bicyclists, hikers, runners, etc. GCTC support very important.

G. New Business

1. **Membership – Heidi Hansen** There are 18 new members and 9 renewals. Heidi provided spreadsheet with membership details. Reminder that if you were new member as of June 2019 membership is good through August 2020. Please renew online if possible!
2. **Sheila Gierszewski – Bernie Molloy** Bernie trying to organize assistance for horse care; Sheila had accident that left her with broken foot. Suzanne Vaccaro said she knows an animal sitter who lives nearby who is scheduled to meet with Sheila. Bernie said prepared meals would also be helpful.
3. **Thanksgiving Feast November 12, 2019** – Will be at Higgins Community Center on Magnolia. Larger space to accommodate. Need separate crews for set up/clean up and will be asking for support soon.
4. **Class 1 e-bikes on Tahoe National Forest non-motorized trails.** Helen Harvey outlined issue of pedal-assist bicycles which conflict with "non-motorized" categorization of trails. Outcry from both "For" and "Against" sides. Big market industry exists with great potential of monetary gain pushing for e-bikes. Forest Service did not follow standard procedure and due process for allowing use on trails designated non-motorized. The Wilderness Society, Back Country Horsemen (California unit and Placer), GCTC will join in lawsuit and cease-and-desist demand letter to Forest Service to block e-bikes from non-motorized trails. Lawsuit will be formalized in about a month. E-mails from opponents are important and the broader the coalition the better. Bernie noted he and Debbie have encountered Class 3 bikes on Pioneer Trail. Suzanne asked how to identify different classes of e-bikes. Helen H. stated Class 2 and 3 have throttle and big battery and big tires. Class 1 bikes have no throttle and user must pedal to get power. Class 1

and Class 2 have 20 mph maximum. Class 3, 28 mph maximum. The bikes are quiet so not identifiable by sound. Other bicyclists are not making any objections to the e-bikes. Also, bike groups are playing “ADA card” when it comes to garnering support. It was pointed out that there are just as many motorized trails as non-motorized trails in the Tahoe National Forest, so it seems reasonable to restrict e-bikes to the motorized trails. Question about downside of e-bikes on the trails, and comments included: 1) they are going faster and farther; 2) travel at higher speeds which increases potential for collisions on multi-use trails; 3) heavier bikes (50 lbs.+) will increase wear and tear on the trails. GCTC Trail Patrol members encouraged to document encounters with e-bikes and photograph e-bikes as evidence if possible. Member Lori McIntosh stated her Meadow Vista equine group had an event where the local bike shop brought e-bikes for all to try. She said they are “awesome, fast, scary. Be very afraid!” She had not realized when trying the bikes out that they were going to be permitted on the multi-use trails.

5. **Homeless Issue Task Force – Bernie Molloy** GCTC was asked to participate in assessing homeless encampments in Tahoe National Forest along the Route 20 corridor. Issues are fire danger, garbage, human feces, etc. The Route 20 corridor for 300 ft. on either side of road is Caltrans responsibility not Forest Service. Forest Service has suggested having Caltrans cede responsibility to Forest Service so they can ban camping for health and safety concerns. The 14-day limit on camping is difficult to enforce. Initial step would be to send out staff from Hospitality House. Harassment and citations by other agencies will simply drive people farther into the forest. Sherriff’s office has geotagged 50 sites. GCTC to help by geotagging, taking photos, making reports. Avoid any confrontation. This needs to be a multi-agency effort.
6. **GCTC Thermos Bottles** – We are discouraging the use of disposables so reusable water bottles have been added to GCTC apparel/products inventory. Helen Crawford is storing and coordinating sale of the bottles. They have GCTC logo, 20.9 oz., cost \$15.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary