

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 7 PM
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

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

Board Members:

Jamie Canon
Helen Crawford
Karen Hayden

General Members:

Heidi Hansen

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Bernie Molloy at 7:07 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

Helen Crawford request from Jaede.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

August 13, 2019 Board of Directors minutes – Karen Hayden motioned and Bernie Molloy seconded. Approved.

D. Approval of Treasurer’s Report - Cathy Scott

Checkbook balance of \$35,368.27 as of September 30, 2019. Cathy provided copy of checking account statement. No full reconciliation because she is still working on method to keep Hidden Falls expansion expenses and reimbursements separate. Have spent 50% more than received from donor. Heidi Hansen advised Bob has been on vacation for three weeks and will most likely be sending in check soon. Karen Hayden motioned and Bernie Molloy seconded to approve treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report - Mary Johnson

1. Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) equestrian parking at Rice’s crossing (north). BYLT informed Mary that target shooting is allowed through the end of the year on Wednesdays and every other Saturday at the quarry where the equestrian parking is located: 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 11/30, 12/14, 12/28. In 2020, shooting will be allowed on Wednesdays only. History: When BYLT first took ownership of the property, people were shooting in the meadow that is now the trailhead. The Yuba County Sherriff’s Department had been telling people it was OK to shoot there. As BYLT prefers not to alienate people who previously had access to acquired lands, it was decided to allow target practice in the quarry. Anyone interested must fill out a form and pay \$5 annual fee. (<https://www.bylt.org/save-land/access-yuba-rim-quarry/>) After paying, the gate combination is provided. There are currently 19 people who have the combination to the lock on the quarry for 2019. There is a place farther west along Marysville Road where the Yuba County Police Force goes for target practice (it is an old shooting range). There is also BLM and USFS land adjacent to the BYLT parcel, and shooting is generally allowed on public lands. Still in the process of creating appropriate signage for the quarry gate and inside the quarry. This should be wrapped up by end of November. Laura Duncan suggested asking Shaun Clarke (BYLT Land Access Manager) to get article in The Union, on blog and radio about new opportunity for equestrians. Jamie noted that Spenceville is closed March to April when we usually try to schedule group ride; Mary suggested going to Rice’s Crossing instead.

2. United Trails Day, October 12, 2019. Good turnout from all groups; expecting approximately 100 volunteers from GCTC, Bicycles of Nevada County, Nevada County Woods Riders. Staging area is the Omega Overlook. GCTC serving lunch with cost of lunch to be split among the three groups.

F. Old Business

1. *E-bikes in Tahoe National Forest and Pioneer Trail*

Coalition of groups will file lawsuit against Forest Service. Bernie noted that 25% of bikes he recently saw at Harmony Market were e-bikes.

G. New Business

1. ***Meeting Length*** – In Helen Harvey’s absence, Laura noted that the intent of this item was to request that comments be concise and avoid going off on tangents so board meetings do not exceed 90 minutes.
2. ***Earbuds Trail Sign*** – Helen Crawford investigated cost of signs like those she saw on trails in Colorado. Would cost \$79 each if total of 10 purchased. Signs could be placed at Harmony Market, top of “Hoot” trail, Grouse Ridge, Empire Mine. Karen cautioned Cal Trans is very strict about signs. Cathy Scott commented that BONC should be included (after review with Forest Service). Bernie asked Mary to check with Forest Service about signs as this is a safety issue. Bernie said he will reach out to other groups about the earbud signage.
3. ***Elections*** – Laura Duncan reported Bernie Molloy will be next president. Vice president position is open and anyone on board can be vice president. Laura also said she is working on recruiting new board members—any suggestions, please let Laura know. Also, “Top Hand” will be awarded at November meeting so need to ask members for nominations (no repeats). Have veered away from nominating board member or president but there is no set rule about this. Could even be a couple or small group. Elections will also take place at November general meeting.
4. ***Skillman Event prior to Summer Opening*** – Laura Duncan reminded all, “use it or lose it.” Need to find ways to promote Skillman. Guided rides successful. BBQ might be good also.
5. ***Skillman Improvements*** – Mary Johnson recently visited the Chalk Bluff trailhead with Paul Hart and noted restrooms there are much more modern than the pit toilet facilities at Skillman. Green sticker funds from off-road vehicles helped pay for these restrooms. If these funds were tapped for improved restrooms at Skillman, it would be necessary to designate some campsites for motorcycles. Discussion of pros and cons. Cathy Scott stated she was against inviting motorcycle groups to Skillman for camping; other ways to improve the toilet situation e.g. more frequent cleanings. Cathy will prepare a list of concerns, and Mary will continue to explore and get more information on green sticker program. Karen Hayden noted EPA is pushing the Forest Service to replace open pit toilets, and Heather (USFS) has list of priority replacements. Issue tabled for now. Mary reported she is also working with Nevada County Woods Riders (she noted this is a great group) and talking with Scott Rabeneau about adding signs that identify which trails motorcycles can and cannot use. Laura asked Mary to follow up on equestrian signage and sponsoring port-a-potties for the Poker Ride.
6. ***Projector bulbs*** – Helen Crawford relayed request from Jaede for things she needs. First is projector bulbs which cost \$97 each; agreed two should be purchased so there is a spare. Second, pull-up projection screen; Mary said she has one that can be used.

7. **Water bottles** – Helen Crawford said she is in charge of storage and sales; half have been sold. She will bring bottles to United Trails Day in case anyone wants to purchase. She also noted that she gave one to Kelly Torrisi, DVM, who was our speaker at last general meeting. All approved this expenditure.

8. **Membership** – Heidi Hansen reported 50 currently paid memberships (20 new; 30 renewals). She would like assistance from board to identify GCTC mentors who would contact new members a couple of times a month (via text, phone, email) to ask how they are doing, would they like someone to sit with at meetings, help finding trail buddies, etc. Laura asked Heidi to write up a blurb that Jaede can send out. Name tags, especially for board members, should be worn at meetings. Helen Crawford made suggestion that notice be submitted to newspaper about upcoming speakers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary