

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.  
Tuesday, December 10, 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 (absent)

**Board Members:**

Jamie Canon (absent)  
Helen Crawford  
Karen Hayden (absent)

**Administrative Members:**

Heidi Hansen

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:05 p.m.

**B. Changes or additions to agenda**

None.

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

October 8, 2019 Board of Directors minutes – Bernie and Helen Crawford seconded. Approved.

**D. Approval of Treasurer's Report - Cathy Scott**

Checkbook balance of \$39,419.21 as of November 30, 2019. Cathy provided full financial report, copy of checking account statement, and reconciliation reports (total 8 pages). Cathy noted that reimbursement checks for Hidden Falls efforts have been received from one of the expansion supporters (one check was "stale" and will have to be reissued).

Insurance renewal discussed. Policy was \$950 last year including general liability cost \$774 (cap of \$1 million per incident); not charged for parades last year. Liability coverage for parades \$200 each. Board agreement to continue to participate in two parades and purchase the liability coverage.

Check for \$591.23 received from U.S. Forest Service for unused portion of funds GCTC contributed for Pioneer Trail reroute (3-4 years ago).

Helen Crawford motioned and Bernie Molloy seconded to approve treasurer's report. Motion passed.

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

1. Mary met with Paul Hart on November 26, 2019 and discussed the following:
  - a. Suggested changes by GCTC to Lone Grave area map. The changes were trail names/ locations and added tie trails ("tie trails" is USFS lingo for connector trails). Paul agreeable to all suggestions. The Forest Service official map (internal) will not necessarily have the changes, but the user map will. Next item to be addressed will be trail descriptions and lengths. Paul has placed order for signs so inventory will be ready for placement on the Lone Grave Trails. Numbers will be added to trails to coordinate with the map. Trail names will remain in place until they decay, then will be marked only with numbers. Small maps with "you are here" designations will be placed at various locations.
  - b. Trail improvements will be on the Dascombe reroute and the Pioneer Trail below Chalk Bluff.
  - c. Highway 20 reroute and realignment of Pioneer Trail. Equine access to water on the Pioneer Trail at Steephollow Creek is critical. Mary emphasized (again) that water trough, concrete or other, must be provided.

- d. A culvert or other water diversion enhancement needed at the washout of the Pioneer Trail west of Skillman (below Highway 20 culvert). A culvert would have to be constructed so that the intake would not get plugged with debris.
  - e. The culvert at Skillman also needs attention.
  - f. Possible new restroom at Skillman—not on the priority list because it is one of the two lowest revenue-producing campgrounds (other is Onion Valley Campground in the American River District). Possible to get OHV funds but would need to have unloading dock nearby.
  - g. Paul has met with BONC representatives to reiterate right of equestrians to use “Hoot” Trail in order to make a loop ride to the Holiday Market.
  - h. Tahoe National Forest has long-range plans to create new trails, primarily for bicyclists, on the south side of Highway 20 (opposite the Lone Grave area trails) with a trailhead parking area and a restroom. By drawing bicyclists to that area, bicycle usage on the Lone Grave trails, including the “Hoot,” might be reduced. The parking near the market is on Caltrans property and could be closed by Caltrans at any time.
  - i. The NEPA report for the Grouse Ridge area for work and rerouting of the Bull Pen Lake Trails is on the bottom of the list per Paul.
  - j. Trail funding for all user groups: RACK from timber sales. Santa Cruz Bicyclists. Mary will try to obtain more information.
2. Rice’s Crossing signage still being developed.
  3. New “No Motorcycle” signs were recently posted on the Pioneer Trail near Skillman by Scott Rabeneau of the Woods Riders.

#### **F. Old Business**

1. ***E-Bikes in Tahoe National Forest and Pioneer Trail – Helen Harvey***  
No updates.
2. ***Skillman Event Prior to Summer Opening – Helen Harvey & Mary Johnson***  
Discussed possibility of having a campout following the work day for people who want to learn about camping with mentors.
3. ***Skillman Improvements – Helen Harvey & Mary Johnson***  
Generally, no one in favor of ATV off-road use in the campground in exchange for OHV funds. Helen Crawford conducted an informal poll and unless hot showers included, the restroom issue not important. An ADA port-a-potty (at least for the poker ride) might be a good option.
4. ***Riding with One Earbud Sign – Helen Crawford***  
GCTC board approved. Next step is to obtain Forest Service approval.

#### **G. New Business**

1. ***Membership – Heidi Hansen***  
Working on roster to be distributed in January with an update in March via email. Roster will not include members who marked “do not list” on their membership forms. Discussed setting up system for matching board members as “call buddies” for new members. Helen Harvey noted there will be new member social in February which Bernie said will be a taco night.
2. ***Cargo Trailer***  
Thorough discussion. Some points to consider: Trailer could contain all GCTC paraphernalia in one place. Who will be responsible for hauling? Where will it be parked? How much space needed/how big a trailer required? Need to lay everything out (tools, 4 tables, 2 E-Z Ups, etc.) to determine size required. When Vaccaros return from vacation, they should be asked whether

trailer would be good for tool storage (Helen Crawford will contact Barry & Suzanne). Helen Harvey noted that a used trailer likely will be in the \$3,000 range.

3. **Lone Grave Map – Mary Johnson**

Topic covered in Forest Service report.

4. **Future Trail Work – Mary Johnson**

Working on a 5-year plan. Need to keep interest and excitement going. Dascombe reroute at Lone Grave easy and can be done in current year.

Other projects:

- Pioneer below Chalk Bluff where there is considerable erosion; this will be a big project, no NEPA required but will need excavator (Forest Service or contractor) and would have to flag with Paul Hart in spring after snow; good summer project. Not affected by Highway 20 reroute.
- Bull Penn – Very much a future project.
- Spalding – Helen Crawford stated this is a great trail but poorly marked/maintained although it is a mapped trail.
- Skillman trails – Mile-long connector trail with switchbacks from Burlington to Deer Creek). Helen Harvey noted this is a future project as NEPA will be required.

5. **2020 Calendar**

- a. A general trail desensitization could be coordinated with the Woods Riders and BONC with Lone Grave as venue.
- b. Guided ride and compass and GPS clinics considered.
- c. Meeting time (general & BOD) to remain at 7 p.m.
- d. Possible 2020 dates:
  - January 14 – General Meeting
  - February 11 – 6 p.m. BOD & 7 p.m. New Member Social; ask “buddies” to attend
  - March 10 – General Meeting
  - March 14 – Spenceville ride (rain date March 21)
  - April 11 or 18 – Work day
  - April 14 – BOD meeting
  - April 22 – Ananda tulips ride (check with Jacqueline Debets)
  - April 25 or 26 – work day
  - May 2 – Desensitization clinic
  - May 12 – General meeting
  - May 17 – Rice’s Crossing ride
  - May 20 & 27 – Skillman work days
  - June 6 – Poker Ride
  - June 9 – BOD meeting
  - June 13 – Skillman guided ride
  - June 18-21 – Wild West ride
  - June 26-28 Little Lasier Meadow work/camp/ride
  - July 14 – General meeting & ice cream social
  - July 18/19– Skillman guided ride
  - July 21 – Royal Gorge ride
  - July 24-26 – Loney Meadow camp/work/ride
  - August 1 – Work day
  - August 11 – BOD meeting

- August 21-23 – Robie Equestrian Park camp/work/ride
- August 29 – Skillman guided ride
- September 8 – General meeting
- September 12 – Work day
- September 26 – Spenceville ride
- October 10 – United Trails Day
- October 13 – BOD meeting
- October 17 or 24 – Member BBQ & ride
- November TBD – Work day
- November 10 – General meeting & Thanksgiving feast
- December 8 – BOD meeting

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

***Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary***