

**Back Country Horsemen of Missouri
Twentieth Annual Membership Meeting
Panther Creek Trail Rides
Tuscumbia, Missouri**

**Minutes, Final w/Correction
November 6, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER: Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Becki Krueger, on November 6, 2021. The meeting was held at Panther Creek Trail Rides, Tuscumbia, Missouri

INTRODUCTIONS: Board Chair Becki Krueger made a few announcements of this past year: Changes of the board members and officers mid-term provided some challenges but the remaining directors and officers stood fast and everyone stepped up for additional duties as needed. Our present budget is great as we came in under our estimated budget figures. The calendar as was set by the full board was carried out accordingly. A sincere thank you was expressed to all who stepped up and we appreciated all chapter leaders who worked so diligently with their land managers. Great job by everyone who helped us finish this year.

Board Members present: Becki Krueger, Maury Mertz, Paula Hull, and Ray Maynard.

Officers present: Treasurer, Jane Dosal and Secretary, Kathy Jaeger.

Committee Chairs present: Publications, Paula Hull; Service Report given by Paula Hull in absence of Robin Vaughan, Web Administration, Ray Maynard; Public Lands, Maury Mertz, and Acting Membership Coordinator Kathy Jaeger.

Chapter Leaders present: Martha Yates, Cuivre River; Mary Lamar, Heartland; Becki Krueger, NEMO; Ruth Thompson, Ridge Runners; Candace Hale & Ray Maynard, River Springs; Maury Mertz, South Central; and Larry Dishman, Leroy Raymond, Tri Lakes.

Activities Board Chair Becki Krueger, announced there would be a couple of Informational Sessions in the afternoon if not riding, you are welcome to attend. A presentation by Paula Hull in Basic Equine Massage Techniques and Ray Maynard on how to use Trail Mapping software.

John Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer and memoriam.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members.

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Secretary, Kathy Jaeger announced that the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting will be available for viewing shortly as we had to print additional copies. After distribution and chance to review, one correction to the agenda Item III Minutes of the 2020 (not 2019 as typed) a Motion to approve was made and seconded. Minutes were approved.

TREASURER REPORT: Jane Dosal gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to approve report was made and seconded. Treasurer's Report was approved.

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT: Board Chair Becki Krueger discussed the events of this past year. Changes in the board members and officers mid-term certainly provided some challenges but the remaining directors and officers stood fast and everyone stepped up for additional duties as needed. Our financial situation is great as we came in under our estimated budget figures. The calendar executed as it was set by the full board and we were able to carry it out accordingly. A sincere thank you was expressed to all who stepped up and we appreciated all the chapter leaders who worked so diligently with their land managers. Appreciation expressed for a great job by everyone who helped us finish this year.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT: Marsha Copeland announced settling into her position on the National BCHA board and reported on meetings being held virtually utilizing Zoom. She takes this position seriously and feels the importance of being our state representative as well as representative on the National level. She urged everyone to utilize the webinar BCHA 101 where members will be polled for what is wanted. Communication is difficult for a group so large as BCHA but it is so important. We must be sure and submit our opinions on the E-bikes use of the same trails as equine. Membership lists are requested from each state, a very necessary report in our National reporting figures. In the near future, the National association will be updating brochures and will be requesting submissions of local stories and pictures, please respond when this is requested. Trails are Common Ground – BCHA joins with other organizations for Trail Use and it's important that we all practice STOP SPEAK SMILE. Sharing this will encourage others to use the trails with us and educate the non-horse trail users in how to encounter our equine for a positive experience. Chainsaw certifications have been extended to December 2022. Software Evaluation Task Force is in place to search for better methods than the ones currently being used. The 2022 National Board Meeting is scheduled for April 10-13 and will be in person. Marsha as well as Becki are always available to the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION AND EXPANSION: Jane reported on upcoming education opportunities: The Ozark Spring Roundup in Springfield Missouri in March, welcome packets as well as Newsletters keep us connected and the Ozark Trail Skill College was well attended by many BCHMO members as well as other groups.

PUBLIC LANDS:

Maury reported we have five separate Land Groups that we actively work with: the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri Dept of Conservation, Missouri State Parks, Corp of Engineers and the National Forest divisions. Due to the COVID situation, we did not hold a Land Managers Ride this past year. We have been active in discussions over fee changes in many of the parks and our members were great in responding to the proposed trail changes in the ONSR. Approximately 2,000 responses came in from the public and a management firm has been retained to decipher the vast information for recommendation to the forest managers. The Corp of Engineers has not allowed any group organizations to meet due to COVID. The State Parks have been actively working on the Rock Island Trail project with only \$1 million raised for the proposed \$9 million project. The MDC has public comment open in October on the proposed changes in E-Bike usage which BCHMO strongly opposes. Our membership must step up and respond to these open comment periods.

PUBLICATIONS & PROMOTIONS: Paula Hull wished to thank Phyllis Rowe, Ray Maynard and John Stewart for the help they provide in communicating with our membership. If you are not getting our information via Email or regular mail, PLEASE advise us. Newsletters, Action Alerts and printed brochures is how we can keep in touch and hopefully get more individuals interested in membership. Ray does a great job of keeping our Web page updated and we maintain a facebook page too. We have

Amazon Smile for donations to our fund while you shop utilizing them and we have received funds thru facebook as well. Thank you to everyone for their efforts.

SERVICE: Paula Hull reported the service information from January 1 thru October 31, 2021:

Total value of all 2021 hours was \$231,509.19

2020 hour value was \$291,311.04.

2021 = Basic 344.25 / Skilled 1800.75 / Recon 22.2

2020 = Basic 341.25 / Skilled 2,705.25 / Recon 200.4

Not all Chapters or state positions reported VHRs for 2021 and some chapters were minimal.

Becki Thanked everyone for their efforts and appreciates the great turn out and representation.

USFS has requested the completion of a COVID vaccination form and the requirement for an ID with you. This Form is available here at the meeting for Chapter Leaders and will be on our website as well. Announcement - Robin Vaughan is stepping down from this position.

BCHA: Becki announced Sherry Copeland is the new BCHA National Chairperson. Sherry advised she is proud to serve in this capacity and humbled to be the first 2nd generation to hold this position, the 2nd to be East of the Rockies holding the position and only the 2nd female in this position. BCHA 48 years of existence. Change is good and sustainable and is necessary. We are strong leadership leading by example. She recognized both Paula and Marsha for holding dual roles in our state association and on the National level. We are all BCHA – of what is not as important as is our contributions that will make the difference in this organization.

CHAPTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: All Chapters were requested to bring a Tri-Fold Poster of their activities over the past year including pictures and to answer any questions which may be posed during this meeting. Several presented great boards and Becki commended all members, Chapter Leaders, Officers and Board of Directors for a productive year of our contributions. Chapters recognized were: River Springs-Candace Hale, Ridge Runner-Ruth Thompson, Cuivre River-Martha Yates, Heartland-Mary Lamar, Tim & Theresa Anderson, NEMO-Becki Krueger, South Central-Maury Mertz and Tri-Lakes-Larry Dishman and Leroy Raymond.

At-Large Members: No report

Brownfield Chapter:

- Annual organization meeting
- Trail maintenance work performed and lots of mowing
- We contributed information and photos on an article written in Sept 23 publication of the US Forest Service “More Ways to Connect with Nature” for National Public Lands Day promotion
- Additional Hitching rails and Highline poles were added to the Cole Creek Trailhead
- New members welcomed and appreciated by our chapter

Cuivre River Chapter:

- Trails cleaned and cleared with some planning on an eventual reroute
- Honey suckle was cleared from bluff on National Trail Day
- Snickers the horse and several members participated in trunk & treat event

Heartland Chapter:

- 2021 events included a St. Jude Benefit Trail Ride & Auction and a Cowboy for Christ event.
- Continued focus on the Cedar Creek Trail section in conjunction with USFS and mapping of the Smith Creek Loop Trail was done with J.Rhodes from the USFS Trails & Wilderness Specialist
- COMOTA –Columbia Missouri Trails Association is a local mountain bike group interested in getting to know the BCHMO people and has vast knowledge of trail construction

- Although memberships were down, a push to revitalize activity and members is ongoing

Indian Trails Chapter: No written report – a tri-fold poster presented with year’s activities.

Mountain Riders Chapter:

- Members participated in four separate outings - performed clipping, clearing and trash removal on a total of 36.75 miles of trail at Corbitt Potter, the remote trail leading to the cemetery of Curtis Ulysses Merriman, the Glade Top Marsh in the Arrowmen Glade Area and the East Bar K area
- Several other rides had to be cancelled due to weather

NEMO Chapter:

- Held annual organizational meeting
- Members participated in the Upper Current River Cleanup and others worked at the Frank Russell Recreation Area cleaning downfall from campground
- Several members worked with USCOE cutting pvc pipe for fish structures which will be sunk later. Members returned at a later date with trucks/trailers to transport these structures to boats
- Local members assisted in opening the trail from Joanna to Parking Lot 10
- Clean up of trees and trash continued at Deer Ridge Conservation and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery as well as the MTL trail sustained major trail damage from storms in July
- Thank you to the USCOE for large tree removal from storm damage which would have taken us a very long time by saw

Ridge Runners Chapter:

- Welcomed members from West Plains Mountain Bike Club who are helping to maintain trails
- A member helped in the BCHMO booth at the Spring Round-Up
- Placed a picnic table at the Collins Ridge Trailhead as well as a concrete mounting block
- Wrangler Trailhead we added a second picnic table and moved both to the camping area to allow more room for parking, moved the fire pit and replaced a hitching rail
- At the Horton Trailhead, placed a concrete mounting bloc, picnic table, move the sign-in kiosk and cleaned the area up
- Cleaned up, mowing and clipping was performed at Pomona, Wrangler, Blue Hole, Hay Hollow/Braddock Lake, Collins Ridge, Raccoon Holler and Devil’s Backbone
- A couple members met with USFS to evaluate repair work to the erosion on the Ozark Trail

River Springs Chapter:

- Held organizational meeting
- Worked on downed trees in Irish Wilderness, the south connector trail at Lake Wappapello, the Katy Trail west of Greer Spring, the Ozark Trail of Carter County, the Lazy C to Greer Spring
- Members attended Trails Skill College at Brushy Creek Trail maintenance continued throughout the year on numerous trails that had extensive downfall from storm damage

South Central Chapter:

- Held five group work days – 2 at Paddy Creek Wilderness, 1 at Kaintuck Hollow, 1 at Blair Creek section of Ozark trail and our joint work day with the Brownfield Chapter all performing various trail clipping and clearing
- Our chapter is holding steady with a good membership of 53

Tornado Ridge Chapter:

- We continue to clean and maintain trails in our area

Trail's End Chapter:

- We have done nothing since May

Tri Lakes Chapter:

- Supports values, mission and purposes of BCH
- Proud to have members serving on the National level
- Membership participated in Ozark Spring Round Up, Upper Current River Clean Up, Ed Copeland Memorial Clean Up and the Membership Appreciation Ride.
- Individuals are actively maintaining trails, clearing and trimming on the Lead Mine Conservation Area, Compton Hollow Conservation Area, Busiek State Forest, Pleasant Hope Conservation Area, Bolivar Landing, Hulston Mill and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
- The Chapter's first "Pace Race" held on National Trails day was a successful fundraiser and plan to make it an annual event
- Chapter continues to work with Land Managers in "Keeping trails open for All".

ELECTIONS & VOTING:

BY LAWS -Change in By-Laws notification had been sent to all members and discussion was opened. Becki read each proposed change to the attendees.

Article VI: Board of Directors Changes read as proposed. Sherry Copeland inquired why it was necessary. It was explained that a perception of inequality has been felt by various members as the board was heavy with few Chapters being represented. Sherry then asked why not 1 director per Chapter in lieu of limiting to 2 members per Chapter. Maury expressed support of that and advised he would love to see it that way. Both he and Becki advised however we must abide by what has been proposed in the notification to the general membership. Martha Yates spoke in support of the changes and acknowledged the issue of perception with the membership. A motion to close discussion was made, seconded and passed to a vote. A vote was taken with 32 in favor of By Law changes as proposed and 9 opposed – Motion carried.

Article IX: Removal and Recall Changes read as proposed. Sherry Copeland asked for clarification on change – just simplified board action to remove and/or keep a person on by vote of board. A motion was made, seconded to go to a vote and motion passed. A vote was taken with 40 in favor and no opposition. – Motion carried.

Article XI: Meetings and Protocol Changes read as proposed. No discussion so motion was made, seconded and passed to a vote. A vote taken with 36 in favor and no opposition. – Motion carried.

Article XII: Vacancies Board & Officers Changes read as proposed. No discussion so motion made, seconded and passed to a vote. A vote was taken with 32 in favor and no opposition. – Motion carried.

Article XVI: Amendments/Changes Changes read as proposed. Sherry commented there are no By Laws to conflict with the BCHA. Motion was made, seconded and passed to a vote. A vote was taken with 33 in favor and no opposition. – Motion carried.

BCHMO DIRECTORS:

Nominating Committee announced slate of nominees for the open board positions – Maury Mertz (So Central), Lynette Miller (At Large), Mary Lamar (Heartland), Pat Reinebach (NEMO) and Paula Hull (River Springs) . There was a call for nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations ceased for director positions.

BCHMO OFFICERS: Becki announced there had been no interest in the President or Vice President positions but both Jane Doskal and Kathy Jaeger indicated they both would continue in their positions as Treasurer and Secretary, perceptively. Tim Anderson spoke from the group on his interest to be the President for the 2022 year. There was a call for any other nominations from the floor – none received and nominations for the President position ceased. Martha Yates spoke up from the group on her interest in the Vice President position. A call for any other nominations from the floor – none were received, so nominations ceased. All members having indicated interest in a position spoke to the membership. Motion was made and seconded to close elections and go to a vote. Motion passed and 43 votes were cast in favor with no opposing votes.

ELECTION RESULTS:

President: Tim Anderson
Vice-President: Martha Yates
Secretary: Kathy Jaeger
Treasurer: Jane Doskal
Board Member: Pat Reinebach 1 Year term
Board Member: Mary Lamar 1 Year term
Board Member: Paula Hull 2 Year term
Board Member: Maury Mertz 3 Year term
Board Member: Lynette Miller 3 Year term

MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS:

None

CORRECTION TO MINUTES brought up at Annual 2022 meeting -- Questions from the floor by Ruth Thompson and Sherry Copeland – Why is there \$30,000 in our checking account? From Sherry Copeland – Who rec'd the TMI approved funds? Both ladies say this was omitted in the printed minutes and left unanswered. Secretary has noted this correction in the minutes for the 2021 Annual meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

2022 Calendar of Event Dates will be coming out in the Newsletter. Next BCHMO meeting will be on January 17th 2022 10 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant in Rolla, MO – membership is welcome to attend (buy your own meal)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion called for adjournment, seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Jaeger
BCHMO Secretary