

**Back Country Horsemen of Missouri  
Nineteen<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting  
Golden Hills Trail Rides  
Brentwood, Missouri**

**Minutes  
November 7, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Becki Krueger, on November 7, 2020. The meeting was held at Golden Hills Trail Rides, Brentwood, Missouri

**INTRODUCTIONS:** President Becki Krueger made introductions.

**Board Members** present: Sherry Copeland, Maury Mertz, John Stewart, Larry Dishman, Vicki Clark, Paula Hull and Candace Hale.

**Officers** present: President, Becki Krueger; Vice President, Darrel Vaughan; Treasurer, Jane Doskal and Secretary, Susan Maynard.

**Committee Chairs** present: Publications, Paula Hull; Service, Robin Vaughan; Education, Marsha Copeland; Web Administration, John Stewart and Ray Maynard; Public Lands, Maury Mertz, Sherry Copeland, Marsha Copeland and Membership Coordinator Shannon Stewart.

**Chapter Leaders** present: Robin Vaughan, Brownfield; Martha Yates, Cuivre River; Mary Lamar, Heartland; Billie Patton, Indian Trails; Bill Brunner & Bill Winkelmann, Mountain Riders; Becki Krueger, NEMO; Sharon Bailey, Ridge Runners; Candace Hale & Ray Maynard, River Springs; Maury Mertz and Carol Hildebrand, South Central; Jodi Hess-Schlup, Tornado Ridge; Staci Harrison, Trail's End and Larry Dishman, Tri Lakes.

**Activities** President, Becki Krueger, announced that there would be a Chapter Leader Round Table and John Stewart would give a presentation "What Knot.....Do I Use?" after the meeting.

John Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer and memorial.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members.

**MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Secretary, Susan Maynard announced that all reports and the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting were available for viewing. Motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the 2019 minutes. Motion passed. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.

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

**STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT:** Board of Directors Chairman Maury Mertz reported that BCHMO is in excellent shape. Although our membership and fundraising at the state level are down, our leaders remain dedicated to our success. We have 12 local chapters who work with various land managers to develop worthwhile projects for the state's equestrian trails. These chapters contributed work hours worth \$291,311. This during which they couldn't work in groups due to COVID-19, but as individuals.

Becki Krueger has created a Strategic Plan comprised of three goals - better communications, membership growth and state-wide recognition.

Our members each have a voice and a skill that our group needs to keep all the equestrian trails open.

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT:** Sherry Copeland reported on the National BCHA meeting. Due to the Corona Virus, the meeting was held Virtually. Sherry, as Vice Chairman of BCHA, attends all Committee meetings. Nationally there are 31 State organizations and one Affiliate Organization serving 205 Chapters serving 14,000 members. Missouri has 12 Chapters.

We have two National Directors and one Alternate National Director: Sherry and Marsha Copeland and Becky Krueger. They participate in the monthly National Director's calls.

Website Access: Login with Username and Password is no longer required. One-time submittal of record email address will be required to access documents, etc. via shared drive. Go to: BCHA.org; More About BCHA; Volunteering; BCHA Shared Drive Access Request.

Our two National Directors will be hosting a FaceBook+ Fundraiser for their birthdays. The State with the largest combined total will receive two Registration fees for the 2021 National Board Meeting.

A simplified Volunteer Hours Reporting Form is under review and will be implemented for 2021 reporting.

Other Issues (actively being addressed and/or in motion):

- E Bikes on non-motorized trails
- Non-Equestrian use of Equestrian Only Campgrounds
- Sawyer Education, Logistics & Assistance
- Investment of Legacy Fund assets
- Membership Communication and Donor Management Software

National Committees include the following Missouri members:

Expansion Committee: Becky Krueger

Education Committee: Marsha Copeland

Public Lands Committee: Becki Krueger, Maury Mertz & Darrel Vaughn

Hours Committee: Robin Vaughn

AdHoc (Membership) member: Martha Copeland

We will be hosting the 2021 National Director's Meeting in Kansas City, MO as was planned in 2020.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION AND EXPANSION:** Marsha Copeland reported that the year 2020 has been difficult in that so many of the usual events that BCHMO would have been involved in, and been able to tell others about what we do, had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marsha is Chairman of the BCHMO Education Committee and is also on the National Education Committee. Since she's been on the National Committee she has been astounded at the amount of Education information on the BCHA website. Anything you need to know about trail riding, trail ethics, packing, how to develop your chapter, how to get started in getting money for a project, and much more is there.

Because of the Pandemic, the 2020 National Board Meeting was held virtually. Due to the huge success of that meeting, another virtual type webinar will be held November 9th through the 12th.

Topics included will be fundraising; how to use the Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA); how to reach more young people to become members and membership growth and retention; and how to deal with Public Land issues on the chapter, state and national levels.

She has a question for us - What do you want to know so she can address it in the Education article of the newsletter or talk to you directly?

## **PUBLIC LANDS:**

### **National Forest Service:**

- 10 Chainsaw Certifications or Re-Certifications have been issued for 2020
- Darrel Vaughn, Marsha Copeland and Maury Mertz attended two virtual Collaborative Engagement Meetings
- Tray Hall and Chris Woods have been filling in for Cory Roegner as he has left the MTNF.
- Maury and Darrel made public comments for the renewal of the Brushy Creek Lodge and Resort special use permit
- Comments were also made regarding the five-year strategic recreational plan

### **Ozark National Scenic Riverways and L-A-D Foundation:**

- Jason Lott has been named permanent Superintendent
- Legal issues have delayed the Roads and Trails Plan
- November 2020 is the release date of the trail maps for public comment

### **Corps of Engineers:**

- Mark Twain Lakes campgrounds and trails are open, but not for groups
- All work done is to be on an individual basis, all due to COVID-19

### **Missouri State Parks:**

- Been in contact with the Agency regarding the Rock Island Trail, and trail development in Bryant Creek and Ozark Mountain State Park
- We are involved in the reprinting of the Equestrian Guide

### **Missouri Department of Conservation:**

- There are now eight regions in the MDC
- When the Pandemic is over, meetings will be held with the Regional Managers to get to know them and so the Chapters can help them with their trails

### **Land Managers Ride 2020:**

Cancelled due to COVID

**PUBLICATIONS & PROMOTIONS:** The Committee members have published three quarterly issues of our Back Country Horsemen of Missouri newsletter, emailed monthly issues of the News Flash and made corrections/changes on the master membership list. They have kept our BCHMO Facebook page updated and added a donation button to the Page.

They worked on developing a new BCHMO flyer as part of the Strategic Plan.

The items included in gift bags (received from Missouri retailers) for the BCHMO National Directors Meeting in April of 2020 (held virtually) will be stored and used for the 2021 Meeting.

A new Membership page has been created on the BCHMO website, as well as all pages being updated as new information is received.

A Matching Donation Fundraiser on the BCHMO FaceBook page was established to match a \$1,000 pledge made by a member.

**SERVICE:** Robin Vaughan, Committee Chair reported she had completed all 2020 reports and submitted them to the various agencies.

This year's reports included new categories including Admin Svc, Travel Time/Miles, Power and Heavy Equipment Hours and Stock Used. Work was accomplished by groups and individuals at their convenience while practicing COVID-19 guidelines.

Total value of all 2020 hours was \$291,311.04

2019 hour value was \$293,243.27.

2019 = Basic 441.75 / Skilled 2,193.25 / Recon 260

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

All Chapters and At-Large members submitted VHRs for 2020.

Corps of Engineers & Kansas City District Public Lands	128.25 Hrs.
Mark Twain Lake	258
State Parks	28
Dept. of Conservation	701.5
Ozark Nat'l Scenic Riverways	277
US Forest Service	1,256.5
Wilderness Trail Maintenance	143

## **CHAPTER REPORTS:**

**At-Large Members:** No report

### **Brownfield Chapter:**

- Annual organization meeting
- Worked TMI projects
- Put up electric fencing at Cole Creek for goats
- Two road-sides and several old dump sites were cleaned
- More downed trees removed
- Field trails were brush-hogged
- American Endurance Ride Conference scheduled another ride at Cole Creek for April 24

### **Cuivre River Chapter:**

- National Trail Day trail work done by individual
- Work day attended by two members

### **Heartland Chapter:**

- Basic trail maintenance at Rudolf Bennitt Cons. Area from storm damage
- New signage and well-marked trails for Three Creeks
- Due to vagrancy concerns and loss of law enforcement, Dry Fork Campground is open only for dispersed horse camping. They need ALL our help and support!
- They have partnered with a local mountain bike group to share trails and learn about horses
- Rutherford Bridge project jumped in priority due to rotten planks and a horse stepping through one (no serious injury). It's not officially on USFS inventory so Heartland posted signage and put a warning on their FaceBook page.

### **Indian Trails Chapter:**

- Maintained Baker Cemetery
- Individuals worked on three trail systems: Little Indian Creek, Meremac & Long Ridge

### **Mountain Riders Chapter:**

- Completed seven projects in the Mark Twain National Forest
- Located three areas of feral hog activity for the Forest Service in Hercules Glades Wilderness

### **NEMO Chapter:**

- Held annual organizational meeting
- Members worked the Upper Current River Cleanup
- Cut out a new trail for Deer Ridge Cons. Area
- Refurbished picnic tables at the Log Cabin and Hanging Tree locations
- GPSed the new trail for MTL to be ready to add to the new trail maps
- Cleaned the stall barn at Frank Russell Recreation Area
- Cleaned Mt. Pleasant Cemetery

### **Ridge Runners Chapter:**

- Held annual organizational meeting
- Members "adopted" trailheads and are responsible for regular trash pick-up and maintenance
- Placed new concrete mounting blocks at the Blue Hole and Braddock Lake trailheads
- Cut back brush to open up trailhead parking
- Widened out an older trail
- Cleaned up a former campground across from the trailhead at Noblett Lake for additional parking
- Cleaned and picked up trash at Horton Trailhead and obtained new hitching rails for it

### **River Springs Chapter:**

- Held organizational meeting
- Worked on Whites Creek Trail
- Five members worked on the Between the Rivers Section of the Ozark Trail
- Worked on Lake Wapappello Trail, Blue Ridge Trail, Whites Creek Trail
- Completed TMI project at Irish Wilderness
- Trail maintenance on numerous other trails that were clogged from storm damage

### **South Central Chapter:**

- Held four group work days including mowing of trailheads, spreading gravel on parking lots and around outhouses, and trail clipping and clearing
- Celebrated Public Lands Day with the Brownfield Chapter by clearing 14 miles of trails

### **Tornado Ridge Chapter:**

- Riding all their trails to trim/clean/clear section by section
- Looking forward to working with JR Rhodes at the Piney Creek Wilderness
- No meetings since March

### **Trail's End Chapter:**

- Nothing to report due to weather/COVID-19

### **Tri Lakes Chapter:**

- Held their annual organizational meeting
- Were awarded a BCHA grant to install a pipe fence around the historic Bluff School on the Current River. It will help prevent unwanted activity and vandalism at the school
- Members made up seven + mounting blocks for other Chapters

- Individuals are still maintaining trails, clearing and trimming as they ride

**ELECTIONS:** The Nominating Committee prepared a slate of names for officers and board members. There was a call for nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations ceased. Motion made and seconded to elect the slate of nominees by acclamation. No opposing votes, nominees were elected.

**ELECTION RESULTS:**

President: Darrel Vaughn

Vice-President: Robert Phillips

Secretary: Kathy Jaeger

Treasurer: Jane Doskal

Full Term Board Member: Becki Krueger

Full Term Board Member: Ray Maynard

Full Term Board Member: Larry Dishman

Board members completing their term in 2021 - Vicki Clark, Sherry Copeland, Paula Hull, and Maury Mertz.

**MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2021 Calendar of Events Dates:

- March Upper Current River BGH March 20
- Ozark Spring Roundup March 26-28
- National Board Meeting at Kansas City April 25 – 28
- Earth Day April 22
- National Trails Day June 5
- Ed Copeland Memorial Cleanup Ride June 10-11
- Brushy Creek Membership Fun Ride June 12-13
- Land Managers Ride June 14
- National Public Lands Day September 25
- Annual Membership Meeting November 6<sup>th</sup> location TBD.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President called for adjournment. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Maynard

BCHMO Secretary