

**Back Country Horsemen of Missouri
Eighteenth Annual Membership Meeting
Brushy Creek Lodge & Resort
Black, Missouri**

**Minutes
November 2, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: Annual Membership Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Becki Krueger, on November 2, 2019. The meeting was held at Brushy Creek Lodge & Resort in Black, Missouri.

INTRODUCTIONS: President Becki Krueger made introductions.

Board Members present: Sherry Copeland, Maury Mertz, John Stewart, Larry Dishman, Lynette Miller, Paula Hull and Candace Hale.

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

Absentees: Treasurer, Jane Doskal, excused

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. Not present was Membership Coordinator Karen Mertz.

Chapter Leaders present: Robin Vaughan, Brownfield; Martha Yates, Cuivre River; Robert Phillips, Heartland; Kathy LaRue, Indian Trails; Bill Brunner & Bill Winkelmann, Mountain Riders; Becki Krueger, NEMO; Gary Garner & Ray Maynard, River Springs; Maury Mertz, South Central; and Larry Dishman, Tri Lakes.

Activities President, Becki Krueger, announced that Robin Vaughan, Service Committee, would give a presentation on "Volunteer Hours: Let's Get it Recorded Correctly" after the meeting.

John Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members.

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Secretary, Susan Maynard, briefly reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and announced that all reports and the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting are available for viewing. Motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the 2018 minutes. Motion passed. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as posted. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.

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

STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT: Board of Directors Chairman Maury Mertz reported that BCHMO is in good shape. Although our membership and fundraising 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.

Our Public Lands Committee members each work with an agency to help preserve and promote the use of these trails. There is a high turnover of personnel in these agencies, and its a fulltime job to keep up with who is responsible for what, and to keep everyone informed.

Membership declined 10% this past year. Maury asked that we all try to invite one person to go to our meetings or socials so they might decide to become members. Becki Krueger and Darrel Vaughn will be available to help you if needed.

NATIONAL DIRECTORS REPORT: Sherry and Marsha Copeland reported on the National BCHA meeting. Sherry explained there are two National Directors in each member state. She and Becki are the Directors for BCHMO. Nationally there are 32 State organizations serving 198 Chapters serving 11,000 members. Missouri has 12 Chapters. Sherry Copeland also serves as BCHA vice chairman.

National Committees include the following Missouri members:

Education Committee: Marsha Copeland

Fundraiser Committee: Becki Krueger

Hours Committee: Robin Vaughn

AdHoc member: Maury Mertz

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION AND EXPANSION: Marsha Copeland reported that, as the Committee is made up of each Chapter Leaders or their appointees, each member is to keep it's chapter informed on all issues that pertain to them, BCHMO and BCHA.

As the only glaring issues on the State level has been for Chapter members to comment on issues, in writing, on their computers, starting in 2020 the ONSR will be releasing the alternatives on their Roads & Trails Plan for the Upper Current River. We should all be aware and get involved by responding to the Public Comment Period.

During 2019, the issues needing comments were as follows:

1. The need for Congress to fund the Land & Water Conservation Program. It provides funding on both national and local levels.
2. The opposition to mountain bikes was vital.
3. The comments on the restriction for visitors to National Parks, etc. were extremely important as it was aimed at foot traffic, but horses were also included. Horses were not the problem.

One of the biggest problems this year, as far as our riding trails go, has been E-bikes.

BCHA has developed a live webinar that trains members who want to become more involved in the organization. "Training for chapter leaders, board members, treasurers and secretaries." This information is still available on the BCHA website.

Education: The Committee created a BCHMO Chapter Guide, and the Committee, along with the Publications Committee made it available to all Chapter Leaders.

The Committee also made up a flyer to use when talking to others about who and what we are. It is also on our website so anyone can use it.

Expansion: Along with Education, this committee combs the state in areas that do not already have chapters. This is very difficult to do in that many people are interested, but finding someone to lead is tough. No new chapters were formed this year.

PUBLIC LANDS: Sherry Copeland reported the following: In general the Committee invited 15 Land Managers to a ride held on June 24 - 11 managers attended; LAD Foundation approved installation of a pipe fence at Bluff School - TMI or other funding to be determined.

US Forest Service: Changes in personnel included Ed Sherman, retired; Joe Kowalski, relocated; Cody Lundsford, District Ranger at Ava/Cassville District; Clint Davis new District Ranger at Salem District; Mark Twain NF Supervisor, Sherri Schwanke, has temporary assignment at Region 9 in Milwaukee, WI area. MOU for Ozark Trail Council is being reformatted. USFS gave very short notice to anyone training for the Chain Saw Certification or Recertification. They will try to have additional classes next year. Members met with the new owner of Slabtown Horse Camp to support their contacting and working with the USFS for proper permitting.

BCHA and The Wilderness Society filed suit against USFS on the Tahoe National Forest allowing E-Bikes on non-motorized trails.

National Park Service: Ozark National Scenic Riverways - continued working to get other partners to support designated trail system layout. The Roads and Trails Management Plan should be out for public comments in early December, continuing coordination with LAD Foundation, big Creek Trailride and others. Also met with them to propose trails to include in this Plan. Alternatives should be out for public comment April 2020.

The Committee will be submitting a proposal for a grant to Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for the making of a trail system similar to the ONSR proposed trail system. The Program will give us advisory and support services.

The Committee met with US Army Corp of Engineers reps about the Berry Bend Equestrian Campground. The closing of the Campground is entirely for economic reasons. The Equestrian Trails and Day Use facilities would remain open. Public Comment period expected in October.

DNR Missouri State Parks: MOU has been updated; Cuivre River State Park will be holding an equestrian open house in June, and has asked BCHMO to assist and propose ideas to reach everyone who rides there; they are supporting Johnson Shut Ins' opening the equestrian campground to everyone; and participated in a Cuivre River "Thank You" event for YCC completion of work on equestrian trails there.

The Committee participated in the annual Partnership Roundtable for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

PUBLICATIONS & PROMOTIONS: Paula Hull reported the Committee members had published four 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.

They have submitted three BCHMO articles to Back Country Horsemen of America newsletter. These articles appeared in the Winter 2019, Spring 2019 and Fall 2010 issues.

They worked with the Education Committee to develop a new Chapter Guidelines booklet.

They are now contacting retailers asking for Missouri items to be included in gift bags for the BCHA National Directors Meeting in April of 2020.

SERVICE: Robin Vaughan, Committee Chair reported she had completed all 2019 reports and submitted them to the various agencies. She received appreciation notices from the MDC and the US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District.

The Committee contacted the 12 Chapters to submit their VHRs in with their annual meeting report.

They consolidated all volunteer hour reports into one report containing hours from January 1 - October 28. Total value of all hours \$293,243.27. This value is down \$13,377.37 from this time last year, and \$57,693.98 will be needed by year's end to equal that of 2018.

The Committee has been searching camping locations at Kansas City for the 2020 BCHA National Directors meeting and brochures for greeting packets.

SECRETARY:

Sent request to IRS to correct their online Tax Exempt list to Back Country Horsemen of Missouri.
Sent an Application for Reinstatement to the Missouri Secretary of State.

CHAPTER REPORTS:

At-Large Members: No report

Brownfield Chapter:

- Annual meeting to reorganize, share 2018 accomplishments and determine dates for 2019 projects.
- Many hours dedicated to cleaning up after severe storms and tornados to their areas.
- Fun ride at Cole Creek for National Trails Day.
- Darrel Vaughan attended the chainsaw certification class.

Cuivre River Chapter:

- Annual organization meeting
- Received Americorp grant
- Celebrated Public Lands Day

Heartland Chapter: No report

Indian Trails Chapter:

- Held two youth events
- Assisted St. Clair Saddle Club with Camp Quality
- Maintained Baker Cemetery
- Participated in Customer Appreciation Day at Golden Horseshoe Tack Shop

Mountain Riders Chapter:

- Aided Forest Service in locating feral hog activity
- Cleared approximately five miles of trails

NEMO Chapter:

- Cleaned stall barn at Frank Russell campground and did general maintenance
- Dismantled handicap ramp and painted new hitching rails
- Worked with US Army Corps of Engineers and Missouri Department of Conservation

Ridge Runners Chapter:

- Worked to recruit new members
- Installed new hitching rails at the Wrangler Trailhead
- Holding raffle to purchase two mounting blocks
- Two members attended chain saw certification class
- Chapter members represented BCHMO in the West Plains Christmas Parade

River Springs Chapter:

- Gary Garner and Ray Maynard were elected Co-chairs at the organizational meeting
- Gary & Ruth Garner and Maury Mertz represented BCHMOO at the Echo Bluff's Trails meeting
- Attended Big Creek Clean-Up Ride
- Worked on Wrangler Trail Head improvements including campsites with gravel pads, fire rings, picnic tables and highlines
- Cleaned up the Lazy C Equestrian Campground for Public Lands Day

South Central Chapter:

- Celebrated Public Lands Day by clearing approximately 14 miles of trails
- Held an Annual Food Drive
- Now have 51 members

Tornado Ridge Chapter:

- Permanent signage project at Flag Spring Conservation Area is underway
- Hitching post project for the Wire Road Conservation Area has been approved

Trail's End Chapter:

- Installed hitching posts at the Katy Trail Head
- Participated in the Sedalia Chamber Christmas Parade
- Supported the 110th Bomb Squadron Family Day
- Dale & Liz Yelton and Staci Harrison received the Forestry Division Dept. of Conservation Partner of the Year award
- Installed final hitching post and cleared brush at McAdoo Trail
- Planted 600 seedlings at Big Buffalo Creek
- Joined in the MO State Fair Opening Day Parade

Tri Lakes Chapter:

- Did 24 hours of basic labor, 363 hours of skilled labor, 88 hours using power equipment and 5 hours of heavy equipment
- Chapter members attended all state events

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: Becki Krueger

Vice-President: Darrel Vaughan

Secretary: Susan Maynard

Treasurer: Jane Dosal

Full Term Board Member: Vicki Clark - get younger people involved

Full Term Board Member: Maury Mertz - increase strength of BCHMO

MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Lynette Miller provided 2020 Calendar Dates:

Upper Current River Clean-Up at Big Creek; March 15-17

Ed Copeland Memorial Clean Up & Member Appreciation Ride at Brushy Creek; June 20-23

Land Manager Ride: June 24

Annual Meeting at Brushy Creek: November 2nd

National Board Meeting will be hosted by BCHMO in Kansas City in April 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

President called for adjournment. Motion was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Maynard

BCHMO Secretary