

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 4/14/2021 6:00 PM | Meeting location Zoom

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Dave Imler, Russ Imler, Micky Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, George Siaveles, Laurie Wlosinski.

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

Doug, suffering from technical difficulty with the Internet connection, asked Dave Imler to run the meeting. Dave called the meeting to order.

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

Gerry Engel requested a new business addition to the agenda regarding the Forest Service volunteer agreement.

Agenda topic *Approval of minutes* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

Minutes from the March 2021 meeting were approved without change.

Agenda topic *Financial & membership report* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

Dave reported a whopping \$13,495 in the chapter's checking account. Expenses paid out for the period are as follows:

- State and national dues and insurance - \$1,376.50
- Post Office box rental - \$146
- Postage - \$33.

An upcoming expense of \$5,000 will occur shortly to pay the matching funds for the grant from Gila Watershed Alliance.

Income consists of a donation of \$300 from John Walton, a trails volunteer, via PayPal.

The Gila chapter now boasts a total of 63 members.

Gerry, who has been nudging last year's unpaid members, said his efforts produced a re-up of two members.

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

Vicki reports that she submitted an article for the national BCHA newsletter in January, but the item did not appear in the current issue.

Vicki also mentioned that photographs submitted for publication need to be more dramatic, something that seems to be achieved by expansive views of scenery from horseback. Her analysis revealed that the national office seems

to prioritize for publication photos from projects like bridges, corrals, and other trail infrastructure. Vicki will contact BCHA to inquire about specifications for the kind of photos they want.

Melissa has produced an article for *Desert Exposure* and Vicki is handling items for *The Independent*.

Action items**Person responsible**

Contact BCHA for photo specifications

Vicki Dowd

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel*

Discussion [Conversation]

Action items**Person responsible****Deadline**

[Topic]

[Presenter]

[Topic]

[Presenter]

Agenda topic *GCSAR Activity* | **Presenter** *Laurie Wlosinski/Russ Imler*

Grant County Search and Rescue has confronted six or so missions in the last 30 days. Of these, four went out into the wilds. Two were resolved with local resources, coordinated by the Incident Commander (Laurie Wlosinski) getting local resources out.

The various missions were an airplane crash, a dementia walkaway, an injured hiker at Jordon Hot springs, a heart attack victim who was choppered out, had a dehydrated hiker in the bootheel on the CDT. Laurie noted added that the 65-year-old heart attack hiker was within a half-mile of a GBCH crew that was working in the area. Melissa saw the chopper.

Agenda topic *BCHNM Update* | **Presenter** *Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon*

Mickey reports that the most significant matter of state BCH interest is the rendezvous, now in the planning stages for roll-out beginning October 24. The event will be held at Ft. Stanton and more information will be forthcoming after the next state meeting in July. Micky urged tonight's Zoomers to attend the rendezvous because Ft. Stanton has beautiful trails.

BCHNM is currently promoting a national fundraiser—an auction from BCHA with donations from state organization.

Maresa Luzier, the public lands chair for BCHNM, is very complimentary about the Gila chapter's website. She's urging everybody to take a look at it.

Also of interest is the Lower Rio Grande chapter's efforts to stay viable. Gerry Engel suggests that the Gila chapter offers to state delegates the opportunity of working on trail projects in the Gila. He noted that the Lower Rio Grande chapter has worked with us before on projects in Railroad Canyon, where we will be working later this year.

Teal Harbing, an equestrian who gives training on wilderness first aid all over the state. Micky suggests that a presentation from her might be a good candidate for a future education segment.

The NM Horse Council is trying to get reorganized and is begging for members, especially members from our part of the state. Dues are around \$20 a year. The Council is trying to stay in close contact with the livestock board to relay information about diseases and stolen animals. A national board meeting will be held April 25-27 via Zoom and Facebook, so anybody can tune in.

Action items

Person responsible

Offer trail clearing project opportunities to delegates from BCHNM and (especially) the Lower Rio Grande Chapter

Mickey, Rawlings

Agenda topic *Programs & Grants* | Presenter *Melissa Green*

Lots of work and the bucks to pay for it are on target for the 2021-22 trail clearing seasons. Under a grant from the National Forest Foundation, some projects are earmarked specifically for the Gila wilderness (but not the Gila National Forest) and will be applied to projects in the north end of the wilderness.

The Gila chapter just applied to the [National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance](#) for \$6,250 for trails outside the wilderness. Melissa expects to have a response to the application by May.

Money from the [Great American Outdoors Act](#) has been awarded, but is stuck somewhere.

The Forest Service asked Gerry if we're interested in doing something with the National Park Service and for the \$1,500 available, Gerry will discuss with the Forest Service what needs to be done. Gerry does know that the grant involves working with one of the youth corps and packing materials to the Cliff Dwellings.

Vicki Dowd reported mournfully that the Gila chapter missed the 2021 deadline to participate in *Give Grandly*, an annual fund drive sponsored by the Grant County Community Foundation sponsors and for which 501(c)3 organizations are eligible. The drive can generate between \$3,000 and \$6,000 because donations are accepted online and by telephone. Although there is a cost of \$60 to participate, the effort produces a great deal of publicity; we need to be on board for next year. Vicki will take care of it next year.

Gerry suggested that, presumably when the time comes in 2022, we need to send something out to all the members urging them to designate the Gila chapter for their contributions. He also noted that Melissa is doing a good job of putting project info online and on Facebook. Gives people a good idea what we're doing.

Action items

Person responsible

Mark the calendar for the next *Give Grandly* deadline.

Vicki Dowd

Remember the impossible task of remembering to send a Give Grandly reminder to all the members.

Gerry Engel

Agenda topic *Trail work update* | Presenter *Melissa Green*

Facebook links and reports are all on the [Gila chapter's website](#) (with links to plenty of photos, so you can see what you might be missing). Exclusive of time for setup work and food prep, we have over 2,000 hours on record—with ninety-seven (*really!* 97) people on the trail with a bunch of logs. We have covered just under 40 miles of trail, during which 227 meals were prepared and presumably consumed.

Agenda topic *Insurance for trail volunteers* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Discussions of insurance for trail work and workers will outlive the planet (although it's not yet clear how the planet's demise will be insured) and continues—for GBCH—to outlive every considered effort at resolution. We seem to be getting closer though.

Gerry imparts that our agreement with the Forest Service says we must provide general liability insurance and medical insurance coverage for our *non-GBCH-member volunteer trail workers*, a new requirement by the Forest Service (arising suddenly from the fact that we have never had such a thing before). Gerry has spoken with an agent (as reported in previous minutes), whose outfit has a policy ("Volunteer Accident" insurance) at a price of

\$300 (assumed to be annual) and covering 100 volunteers. Gerry recommended that we purchase that coverage. Vicki made a corresponding motion and Joan Bacon provided a second. A show-of-hands-on-the-screen vote delivered unanimous approval.

Gerry also requested certification from BCHNM that we have general liability insurance. Mickey says we have that—and Mickey/Rawlings will look up the documentation.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Assemble documentation of BCHNM general liability insurance and provide to (somebody?) with follow-up at next meeting.	Rawlings Lemon	ASAP

Agenda topic *Proposed changes to the GBCH Board structure* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter & Dave Imler*

A notice of proposed Bylaws changes was reported to have been distributed by email. The changes described therein will be discussed and voted on at the May 2021 meeting. (Proposed Bylaws on page X.)

The big picture shows that GBCH needs to establish and elect a “director at large.” Nominations will be opened at the May meeting. If you plan to nominate somebody, please talk to that person in advance. The duties of the position are light—involving whatever the president asks the at-large director to do. Vicki Dowd advises that a candidate ought to be somebody who knows a lot of people, because part of the job is to represent the membership.

One more change proposed for the Bylaws, as reported by Doug Dexter, is that the GBCH Board of Directors, now defined as acting in an advisory role, will now grant to the Board the authority to make decisions instead of relying exclusively on the membership to approve everything. Implicit in this new paradigm is the responsibility of the Board to maintain open communication with the membership.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Follow up to make sure everybody received proposed Bylaws changes	Gerry	4/12/21

Agenda topic *Membership renewal & payments* | **Presenter** *Dave Imler*

Secondary only to insurance in the BCH world of wilderness adventure is the matter of membership renewal, which is complicated by a confusing relationship with the receipt of dues by GBCH (annually) to BCHNM and BCHA (quarterly). Without wading into the weeds on this, Dave recommends a procedure that redefines membership from January 1 to the actual date a member pays up, thereby capturing the quarter during which a member’s dues are assessed.

At the moment, that’s January 1 or thereabouts when dues payments flow in from (mostly) the Christmas party. Members are assessed a full year’s dues when they join. People who join somewhat later in the year (especially late in the year) pay a full year’s dues when they join and again relatively soon on the next January 1. Members in this case are treated unfairly and shouldn’t need to pay dues again until they’ve received a full year of benefits for their money.

Now everybody understands that the new scheme for dues assessments will complicate bookkeeping, but the GBCH treasurer will cheerfully handle all the coordination. Although previous attempts at this business practice produced accounting glitches, Dave maintains that, with proper administration by the treasurer, complications don’t have to arise.

Dave commented that, unless somebody has objections (nobody did) we’ll try it and see what happens.

Gerry added that the new plan will require quarterly updates to the mailing list quarterly. Dave agrees and will send Gerry the info quarterly.

Laurie wondered how people will be notified to pay at the appropriate time. Dodging the matter for the time being, somebody commented that (currently) the anniversary date of only two members fall in the second quarter. Everybody else is in the first quarter.

Action items**Person responsible**

Develop and test new dues anniversary scheme

Dave Imler

Send quarterly membership update reports to Gerry

Dave Imler

Agenda topic *Announcements* |

Adopt-a-Highway: The Gila chapter's highway cleanup coordinator has resigned. We need new person to take this on. The job involves notifying (phone or email works fine) a contact at NMDOT to schedule a cleanup detail (so NMDOT knows when to drive out and pick up the collected trash) and to pick up trash bags from NMDOT. There's also keeping track of who shows up, making sure everybody is properly equipped, and keeping an eye on things during the detail, and reporting back to NMDOT that the work is done.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2021

Action items**Person responsible**

Volunteer as Adopt-a-Highway coordinator

All ya'll

GILA CHAPTER
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO, INC.
BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 This organization shall be called GILA CHAPTER of the BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO, herein after GILA CHAPTER called Chapter and BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO called BCHNM.

Section 2 This Chapter is a Regional Chapter of BCHNM.

Section 3 The Chapter is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 The Chapter shall perpetuate the common sense and responsible use and enjoyment of horses, mules and other livestock in America’s back country and wilderness.

Section 2 The Chapter shall work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational livestock use.

Section 3 The Chapter shall assist various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of public lands.

Section 4.....The Chapter shall work to educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

Section 5.....The Chapter shall foster and encourage the formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Membership in the Chapter is open to all interested persons.

Section 2Application for membership shall be made to the Chapter Treasurer by presentation of application for membership to the Chapter providing name, mailing address, telephone or cell phone number, e-mail address and signed liability release for BCHNM membership records.

Section 3Members in good standing of the Chapter shall also be members of BCHNM and Back Country Horsemen of America.

Section 4 Dues and fees shall be assessed as deemed necessary by the membership.

Section 5.....Membership classifications shall be Individual and Family. Members under the age of eighteen (18) must be part of a family membership and must have a parent or legal guardian present at all Chapter functions.

Section 6.....Individual membership shall refer to one (1) person eighteen (18) years of age or older.

Section 7.....Family membership shall refer to one (1) or two (2) adults in the same household and all the minor children residing under the supervision of the above referred to adults or guardians.

Section 8Members in good standing are those members whose current dues are paid.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Meetings shall be held on a monthly basis to conduct any business of the Chapter, hereinafter called Business Meetings.

Section 2 Each member age eighteen (18) or older, is entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 3 Special meetings of the membership may be scheduled by the President as needed. Notice shall be made in writing or by e-mail to the membership ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4 Any reports that are to be given at a meeting, by Officer, committee, or individual, shall be brought to the attention of the President prior to the start of the meeting.

Section 5..... ~~Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held from time to time, hereinafter called Board Meetings, and will be held at a time and location decided by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Action taken at Board Meetings shall be advisory in nature. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to administer all business activities of the Chapter.~~

Section 6Meetings of the Board of Directors, hereinafter called Board Meetings, shall be held at a time and location decided by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 7.....Attendance at a Board Meeting by a minimum of five (5) Board Members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6 ..8....Attendance at a Business Meeting by a minimum of ten (10) eligible voting members including one (1) Officer of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1 The Chapter shall elect annually the following officers of the Board of Directors: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, ~~and~~ TREASURER, two (2) STATE DIRECTORS and one (1) DIRECTOR –AT-LARGE.

Section 2 The PRESIDENT shall preside at all Business Meetings, shall appoint such committees that may be necessary and appropriate, and shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 3 The VICE-PRESIDENT shall assist the President as needed and is to preside at meetings when the President is absent.

Section 4 The SECRETARY shall record and keep the minutes of Business, Board and Special Meetings.

Section 5 The TREASURER shall keep records of income, expenses, disbursements, and any other financial records required for the operation of Chapter business. The Treasurer shall collect dues and maintain the list of members in good standing.

Section 6 The STATE DIRECTORS shall represent the Chapter at BCHNM quarterly meetings and report BCHNM activities to the Chapter.

Section 7 The DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE shall perform the duties assigned by the President.

Section 6 ~~8~~.....Election of Officers shall be held at the November Business Meeting.

Section 7 ~~9~~.....Elected Officers, except the State Directors, terms shall begin January 1 of each year following the November elections and terminate December 31 of the same year.

Section 8 ~~10~~.....~~So long as the total membership of the Chapter meets the minimum requirements of BCHNM, two (2) members of the Chapter shall be elected, at the November meeting, to serve as State Directors of BCHNM in accordance with the bylaws of BCHNM. The State Directors shall attend the quarterly BCHNM meetings and report back to the Chapter.~~ The State Directors term of office shall be two (2) years beginning January 1 of the year following the November elections and terminating December 31 of the next year.

Section 9 ~~11~~..... Vacancies of an office shall be filled by election at a Business Meeting.

Section ~~10~~.~~12~~... Officers may be removed by a majority vote of members at a Business Meeting. Notification of action to remove an officer must be made at the Business Meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place. Notice shall be made in writing to the officer in question ten (10) days prior to the meeting where action may take place.

ARTICLE VI – HOUSEKEEPING

Section 1 Fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Section 2 Robert's Rules of Order is adopted as a guideline for conducting all meetings. The President may serve as Parliamentarian, or may at his discretion appoint a Parliamentarian. The Decision of the Parliamentarian shall be final in all questions of procedure.

Section 3 Wherever the masculine gender is used herein the feminine shall be deemed included. Wherever the singular form is used herein the plural shall be deemed included to aid in the interpretation to the sense intended.

Section 4 When the President is absent from a Business Meeting the next highest officer in attendance as listed in ARTICLE V will preside.

Section 5.....No part of the net earnings of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)(3).

Section 6.....No substantial part of the activities of the Chapter shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in any campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 7.....Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Chapter shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE VII – BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Section 1 These Bylaws may be amended, repealed, or added to by motion of the membership at any Business Meeting, provided that all proposed changes will be made available in written form, e-mail notification shall be considered written form, to all members of the Chapter 30 days prior to the meeting during which the Amendments are to be voted upon and that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members present is achieved.

ARTICLE VIII – DISSOLUTION

Section 1.....In the event of dissolution of the Chapter, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, to BCHNM provided BCHNM is exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If BCHNM is not exempt, assets shall be distributed to Back Country Horsemen of America for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

BYLAWS APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP ON 03/12/01

BYLAWS UPDATED & APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP ON 11/14/2018

BYLAWS UPDATED & APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP ON 05/13/2021

Doug Dexter-President

Victoria Dowd-Vice President

Cindi deCapiteau-Secretary

David Imler-Treasurer

State Director

State Director

Director-at-large