

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 11/11/2020 6:00 PM | Meeting location Online via Zoom

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Judy Brown Lawson, Rawlings Lemon, Mickey Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

No changes to the agenda.

Agenda topic Additions or changes to minutes | Presenter Doug Dexter

GBCH meetings have been delayed while we figured out how to meet in these times of deadly virus, so we have no minutes to discuss or vote on.

Agenda topic Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

When last we met (at the end of March), we had a bank balance of \$9,244.42. Since then we have paid state and national dues and distributed money for mileage reimbursements. The chapter received some donations, including \$4,000 from Heart of the Gila. We have made adjustments as a result of cancelling the NATRC ride, some of which involved returning funds to donors who supported the ride. We will also receive a check to refund insurance premiums for coverage we did not use because the ride was cancelled.

So today's balance is \$10,576.32. If anybody needs more detail, please call Dave and he will send the check register so you can take a look at it.

The Gila chapter's membership actual count is 59.

Agenda topic Public Service/Communications | Presenter Gerry Engel

Public lands grant issue. Melissa Green, who coordinated cooperative trail work for Heart of the Gila (HOTG), has resigned from that organization and will be working with the Gila chapter now.

With Melissa on board, we will apply for grant money from various sources. At the moment, there is a National Forest Foundation grant (due January 15, 2021) and we will put in for it.

Heart of the Gila donated \$4,000 dollar to GBCH. The sum represents money HOTG received from other donors to support Melissa's trail activities. The Forest Foundation money is awarded as a cash-match grant. The matching funds cannot take the form of in-kind things (like labor)—it must be matched with cash. Gerry and Melissa propose that GBCH uses that \$4K and apply it toward the Forest Foundation proposal. In addition, Gerry also proposed

that the GBCH add \$1,000 from our own accounts for a total of \$10,000 to support trail work. Gerry made a motion to that effect.

Doug asked for comments from the members present, but nobody had anything to say, so he called for a vote to use the HOTG money and an additional \$1,000 as an application basis for grant money from the National Forest Foundation. A unanimous affirmative vote ensued.

Public Lands Action Overseer (because “Public Lands Chair” sounds stupid). The state BCH authorities have surfaced, to wit: Every BCHNM chapter should appoint a capable soul to coordinate and oversee information and action relating to public lands. Gerry has been doing a lot of that with forest plan comments, Quiet Skies over the Gila (NO to the US Air Force regarding F-15 training flights in our expansive back yard), etc. and is willing to continue. Doug commented that Gerry is the right person to do it, and who was gonna disagree about that? Melissa extended an offer to help Gerry with his public lands duties. She also offered to help with other coordination stuff that Gerry’s been doing. This is a good thing because both Gerry and Melissa know how to operate with the Forest Service. So Gerry Engel is the public lands chair for the Gila BCH chapter.

Agenda topic *GCSAR Activity* | **Presenter** *Laurie Wlosinski*

Search and rescue in Grant County hasn’t been busy for the last three weeks, although there was a high level of SAR activity elsewhere in New Mexico.

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

The last BCHNM meeting was in September (or late August). It was a Cisco Webex meeting, annoying because people were having difficulty hearing. No minutes have been released from that meeting. Mickey noted that a state meeting is scheduled for this coming Saturday, but having heard of no further developments, she assumes the next meeting will probably be in January..

Agenda topic *Agreement to electronic meetings going forward* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Doug asked for a show of hands in favor of using Zoom to conduct GBCH meetings of the membership and board of directors. The favorable vote was unanimous, so meetings will be held online for the foreseeable future.

Agenda topic *Officer elections* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

A while back, Doug distributed a list of the 2020 officer and committee chair positions. He asked tonight if anybody had an inclination to take on one of the leadership roles in place of the current officeholder. With characteristic enthusiasm, no changes were floated. Doug requested a motion to accept the current slate of officers for 2021. The motion was made by Joan Bacon and seconded by Laurie Wlosinski. A unanimous show of hands in favor sealed the fate of your hapless officers for another year.

Agenda topic *Membership applications and dues payment* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Obviously, these are challenging times for individuals to exchange information and money. Several ideas are bobbing around about how to re-up members and collect dues. This function mostly occurs at the chapter’s Christmas party and everybody knows what’s up with that this year. One option discussed is to send out the application form in an email and have folks fill it out, enclose a check, and mail it to the chapter’s post office box. Other options were discussed, but the group settled on the initial proposal while we figure out how to take care of this in more elegant ways.

One flaw in the selected strategy is that respondents must, as Dave Imler pointed out, have some means to print, sign, and mail the application back. How do we know everybody's going to be able to do that? Doug said that people who couldn't deal with that could contact him and he'd help get it done. Gerry noted that when he sets up the email, he can mention that if there's some reason they can't handle the mail-back strategy, they should text or email reply back to let us know and we can pick up the application. Doug added that for anybody who can't print the application, we can mail one to them.

For future development of dues payment strategies, Melissa suggested using a Google form for the application. You retrieve the form by way of a link to it online and fill it out. You type your name in a specific place to serve as an electronic signature. Google forwards all the responses to a designated destination, where the completed applications can be printed for paper files or stored online.

The discussion ran out of steam and everybody agreed to have the application distributed by email and sent back by snail mail, with offers of alternative return mechanisms.

In response to Doug's query, Dave reported that 2021 dues are \$30 for a single membership and \$40 for a family. Dave also noted that all we do with the dues money we receive is pass it along to the state and national; we keep very little of it for the chapter. Doug will work with Gerry and Jean on the cover letter and let you guys see it before we send it out.

Action items

Person responsible

Work with Gerry and Jean on the cover letter for 2021 membership request.

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *National Trail Days* | Presenter *Gerry Engel*

Gerry suggested that we update the chapter website so that we can receive donations online. Doug asked Dave if this fundraising approach would cause any issue with 501c3 regulations. Dave answered, "Not as far as I know."

Action items

Person responsible

Investigate online donation possibilities

Cindi deCapiteau

Agenda topic *Membership Survey* | Presenter *Cindi deCapiteau*

In November, we distributed a survey (via email) that asked for information about barriers members face when they think about riding out for a chapter trail project. To date, Cindi has received only six responses, but expects more to come in. So far, the issues are as we expected: Members have jobs. Some are not confident with their sawyer skills. Melissa mentioned that she is happy to do a trails training if that would help the less-than-confident.

Agenda topic *Sawyer certifications, first aid* | Presenter *Gerry Engel*

And speaking of sawyers, the enduring need to maintain Forest Service certification as sawyers and providers of first aid is in a state of dormancy (no doubt temporary). Gerry has spoken with Ty Oliver, the Forest Service's crosscut saw coordinator, who asserts that the Forest Service held with the Forest Service is extending certifications because of the coronavirus. So if you've been certified in the past, you're ok for now. Officials for the state Forest Service are cheerful about helping with training, but Gerry is kinda sure now that with the increase in COVID-19 cases, there won't be much demand. Nevertheless, Gerry will keep trying to get some first aid training.

Agenda topic *Announcements*

Cheryl Roth asked for confirmation of the notion that GBCH business meetings will occur online until further notice. Doug responded that it's probably a good idea and he will propose it in an email to the chairs. If the response is positive, that's how we will proceed.

Gerry passionately expressed his thought that online is the proper strategy, because otherwise we're going to fall apart as a group if we don't stay in touch with the members. Doug mused, "I think if that if this meeting is any indication, we already fell apart, so ok." Gerry also suggested that members who are present at tonight's meeting should talk to other members and tell them this is actually a good way to connect and it's not hard to do. Doug agreed and offered to reach out to a few members who didn't join tonight and invite them to come on board.

Action items

Person responsible

Contact members with invitation to join online chapter meetings Doug Dexter

Meeting adjourned and everybody's screen went dark.