

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 6/9/2021 6:00 PM | Meeting location Zoom

Meeting called by	Doug Dexter	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Dave Imler, Cheryl Roth, Matt Rehani, Nat Williams ...
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	Others?

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Doug mentioned that we have a new highway cleanup coordinator, Matt Rehani.

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Discussion No changes

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to minutes* | Presenter *Cindi deCapiteau*

Discussion No changes

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

Discussion No changes

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

Vicki is writing an article for a national newsletter. Her article reports on everything that's going on, but she needs to know what is printable and what is not.

Action items

Person(s) responsible

Review Vicki's newsletter text and provide feedback

Doug, Dave, Gerry

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

Nothing new to report from the state.

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

Melissa is getting great feedback on the trail work the Gila chapter has completed this year. There's more to be done, of course. Melissa mentioned a project (begun in May) to finish the trail on Gilita Creek (which was subsequently cancelled because of the Johnson Fire, raging away a few miles to the southeast of Willow Creek campground, where staging for the project was going to happen).

Melissa will send out a schedule for post-monsoon work (September/October) out in a few weeks. Mickey is organizing food for these projects.

Action items

Person responsible

Prepare and distribute fall trail project schedule

Melissa Green

Agenda topic *Review of USFS 3-year Contract* | Presenter *Dave Imler*

Dave mentions that the chapter has been authorized to receive funds for a three-year grant from the US Forest Service.

Gerry added that under the terms of the agreement, we do what we need to do and submit appropriate information for reimbursement. The only hang-up is that the agreement covers work only in the Gila Wilderness (the back country) and can't be applied outside the wilderness.

Melissa mused that next year's funding requests should be structured for front country trails. Even though the current agreement will be worked over the next three years, it is possible to have more than one agreement at the same time; therefore, as soon as the USFS knows money will be available, the chapter can apply for that.

Doug verified his assumption that that the agreement allows the chapter to pay an independent contractor (which it does).

We're happy to support the amount of work Melissa is getting done: 5500 volunteer hours since first of the year, which amounts to 137 work weeks, given a 40-hour week

Agenda topic *Independent contractor agreement* | Presenter *Gerry Engel, Dave Imler*

If anybody want to see the agreement GBCH has entered into with Melissa Green, contact Doug by email and he will get it to you.

Agenda topic *Announcements*

The Internet in which this Zoom meeting was conducted behaved most irresponsibly, resulting in information missing from the secretary's ears. Here, however, are her sketchy notes. She doesn't know who said or asked these things, but here is what seems to have transpired:

- Involve others at Grant County fair.
- Age limit on the people you would accept to use horses (for purposes unknown)? Eighteen, Doug thinks, but he will research that.
- Gerry: At any gathering where there's horse people or hikers, we should have a booth so we can make direct contact with people. And keep doing what we're doing with Facebook and stuff and even if we get someone who does one major project a year, if a lot of people do that
- Vicki: 4H people are 18-20 and might be interested in doing a community service project. Vicki will check this out.
- Gerry: If we had parents who came along, you could have folks younger than 18.
- Melissa will be happy to help put together materials (for something).
- Gerry: A couple of years ago, the Gila chapter provided photos to the Forest Service for a poster that highlighted our work. The poster was useful and it would be helpful to update it.
- Nat: do we have insurance that covers non volunteers under these projects? Gerry responded that the chapter's medical insurance covers non-members but (some other policy) doesn't. The Volunteer Agreement (apparently) covers volunteers under the USFS's various policies and procedures.

- Doug mentioned that Watts Hall (where our meetings are usually (pre-COVID) held) wants to know the dates we want to use a meeting room at the facility. Doug has contacted WNMU about meeting space and (apparently) we are approved to use a room there. Doug has a key to a door that leads to an elevator. There is potential for face-to-face meetings.

Action items

Person responsible

Find out the age limit for people to use horses.

Doug Dexter

Find out if 4H is interested in working on trails as a community service project.

Vicki Dowd