



**Executive Committee Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2019**  
**Via Conference Call**

**Members attending:** Darrell Wallace, Sherry Copeland, Mark Himmel, Freddy Dunn, Ginny Grulke, Mike McGlenn,, Tif Rodriguez, Dennis Serpa

**Staff:** Randy Rasmussen, Erica Fearn

**Absent:** Brad Pollman

**Actions taken:**

- ✓ Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and reports. APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to accept the Public Lands & Recreation report. APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to receive and file the April 2019 - Year end report. APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to receive and file the financial report for May 2019. APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to accept the Gap Loan process with the addition “Minutes of the state BCH meeting, acknowledging that they are asking for a loan from BCHA.” APPROVED.
- ✓ Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Back Country Horsemen of America. APPROVED.

**Action Items:**

- Erica to review the certified receipt to confirm IRS received the 990.(190528) Confirmed delivered. Waiting on certified receipt.
- ✓ Kim to send treasurer notes to Sherry for review. (190528)
- Mark to go over Financial Policy in later EC Call. (190528)
- ✓ HQ to create the application and send it to Freddy Dunn to be reviewed. It will then be discussed at the next meeting.(190528)

Topic	Accountable	Topic & Discussion
Welcome	Darrell Wallace, Chairman	Changes & additions to the agenda Memorandum of Understanding was added. Recommendation from Fundraising Committee was added. <a href="#">Public Lands &amp; Recreation Report</a> was removed from the consent agenda and added to the strategic agenda..
	Darrell Wallace	Consent agenda: Minutes of the May Meeting Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Headquarters Report</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Donation Report</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Committee Chair Call Notes</a></li> </ul>



	<p>Ginny Grulke</p>	<p>Thoughts on not having an offsite event? Contribute to reduce costs.  Do not supply coffee &amp; tea during the meeting.  Agenda items in by February 15, 2020. Will assist in increasing the ability for National Board Members to prepare. We can offer calls with NB members to prepare them. Freddy Dunn offered to assist with calls.</p> <p>Plans to look for financial advisor for Legacy funds.  PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A BCHA INVESTMENT POLICY  Submitted by the Fundraising Committee  June 25, 2019</p> <p>Because the Legacy Fund is a long-term and high-value fund, the Legacy committee believes it is best invested with a qualified financial advisor. Doing its due diligence, the Legacy Committee recommends assessing a variety of financial advisors whose approach mirrors that of BCHA’s investment approach.</p> <p>Before the above step can be taken, however, we recommend that the BCHA EC develop an Investment Policy which reflects the degree of risk the EC is comfortable with.</p> <p>The Investment Policy can be very specific; or it can be very general. The policy would then guide any future investments, whether the Legacy Fund or any other fund.</p> <p>We recommend the Investment Policy be developed with an Ad-Hoc Committee consisting of the EC Chair or Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, the Chair of the Legacy Sub-Committee and our Administrator, Erica Fearn; plus other knowledgeable people as needed.</p> <p>We understand that Erica has some templates and examples for Investment Policies to assist the Ad-Hoc Committee.</p> <p>Once the Investment Policy is established, the Ad-Hoc Committee will issue an RFP for a financial advisor, consistent with this policy. Attached are an exhaustive list of questions that might be asked in the</p>
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	Don Saner	RFP. Chairman Wallace will appoint an ad hoc committee before the next meeting.  MOU (attached to the minutes.)
	Parking lot	Next meeting date: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 8 PM ET. Advocacy - update on software Governance Policies Stipulated Policy Review Financial policies, Mark Himmel. Presidents call are the Wednesday after the EC meeting. Committee chairs call are on the third Tuesday. How does the EC keep up with the public lands committee - utilize the committee chairs meeting notes.

**Fundraising Report\*** (\*note: the report will not match financial reports due to end of month credit card processing.)

	<b>February 2019</b>	<b>March 2019</b>	<b>April 2019</b>	<b>May 2019</b>
<b>Trails Forever Fund</b>				
Number of Donors	45	45	45	46
Amount of Donations	\$475	\$485	\$495	\$505
<b>Spur Fund</b>				
Number of Donors	33	6	7	7
Amount of Donations	\$2830.00	\$505	\$1055	\$665
<b>Legacy Fund</b>	\$7,000	\$12,850	\$25,584	\$7013

## **Public Lands & Recreation Update**

**Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness MRDG Analyses** – The Forest Service this month withdrew its approval of a Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG, or “minimum tool” analyses) that included a six-week window for limited chainsaw use to clear trails in the Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas (Colorado). The withdrawal comes after a lawsuit challenging the decision and the agency’s claim that not much work can be accomplished this season given the unusually high snowpack.

BCH CO, with the assistance of BCHA, will continue to work with the Regional Forester’s office to identify solutions to the trail maintenance crisis in southwest Colorado that has been made untenable by ongoing deadfall of spruce beetle-killed trees. A growing rate of downfall and leaning trees solely along trails within the two wilderness areas is estimated at about 9,000 to 10,000 trees each year. Note: BCH CO, along with SW Youth Corps and others are capable of clearing about 5,000 deadfall each season.

**Central Cascades Wilderness Strategies EA** – Randy, Jerry Bentz and BCH Oregon’s new president met with the Deschutes NF Supervisor (in the presence of Congressman Greg Walden) to once again ask the agency why they chose to ignore key standards & guidelines (S&Gs) in their Forest Plans that might have prevented horsemen from being lumped into their proposed quota and Limited Entry Permit System.

Randy spoke one-on-one with the Regional Forester, and Randy, Jerry and Duane spoke with the Region’s Director of Recreation to convey the position that forest staff continue to mislead BCHA/BCHO about the obvious omission of these key S&Gs in the decision making process. BCHA/BCHO insisted that the agency cannot claim, as it is required to do, that the EA decision would be consistent with relevant Forest Plan S&Gs.

**National Park Service General Agreement: Renewal** – Discussed concepts for expanding the General Agreement with the NPS’ equine representative among its Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. With BCHA’s Public Liaison, discussed with NPS the concepts and timeline for renewing BCHA’s 5-year General Agreement with the NPS (which is set to expire in late 2019). Explored options for entering also into a “Service Agreement” that could allow certain reimbursements for BCHA volunteers working in national park units (travel expenses to haul stock, etc.).

**Wilderness Conference, NWSA Board of Directors Committee Work** – As a board member of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) and a member of the National Wilderness Workshop Host Committee, helped plan logistics and craft the public announcement for the forthcoming National Wilderness Workshop (to be held in Bend, Oregon, Oct. 23-26, 2019). Also served as an evaluator for NWSA’s 2019 Boots-on-the-Ground trail grant program, which garnered 60 grant applications.

**Congressional Trails-Related Appropriations (Fiscal Year 2020)** – Worked with coalition partners in our ongoing attempt to secure increased trails-related funding for the US Forest Service and other agencies. Tracked and monitored House of Representative’s Appropriations Committee mark-up and report, which (FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 18 YEARS), would direct the Forest Service to eliminate “cost pools” (i.e., overhead) among all non-fire Forest Service operations. If adopted by the Senate and passed into law

as-is, the elimination of cost pools from the agency's trails budget would result in a \$5.235 million net increase next year. At the same time, BCHA is working with partners in efforts to create greater accountability in how the Forest Service uses its trails budget and to prevent the agency from merging its trails budget into larger forest operations accounts, where such accountability could be absent.

**Headquarters report:**

Committee support - Legacy, Fundraising  
Reviewing risk management/ insurance policies  
Mainspring Update-

**Staff News**

I am happy to introduce and welcome two new staff. Jan Hesketh in finance and Aiden Prior in social media. Jan will be assisting us in getting and keeping Back Country Horsemen's finances straight. Jan worked with me and BCHA when we were at Association Resources. Aiden brings an attention to detail and knowledge of social media. Aiden will be implementing the social media plans for Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association. Kim Testoni has been named Mainspring's Communication Specialist. Kim started at Mainspring as a communications intern. She has been instrumental in creating communications plans for new members and donors, Giving Tuesday plan, and others.

**Summer Events:**

Over the next two months, our staff will be representing our clients at:

- CTWWA Sustainability Workshop
- CTPCA Summer Meeting
- CAES Plant Science Day
- NALP Legislative Conference

**Business Development:**

Mainspring will be two years old July 1. We are pleased to continue to serve the CT Irrigation Contractors Association, CT Environmental Council and Back Country Horsemen of America. Our ideal client is a trade association in/or related to the green industries. We have been thoughtfully pursuing new clients and have made it to the top three finalists for two national one Connecticut association. Referrals are welcome.

### Gap Loan/Bridge Loans to States- APPROVED 6/25/19

BCHA will provide assistance to member states who have a need for a gap/bridge loan (GAP Loan) to allow them to:

1. qualify for a grant
2. fulfill the obligations of an approved grant while waiting for funding

The Gap Loan will be administered and governed through the Treasurer with the approval of the Executive Committee. Loans are available to BCHA states only. The individual loan amount of each grant shall not exceed \$5000. Loan repayment must be made within six months. A loan extension is possible for extenuating circumstances, per approval by the Executive Committee.

BCHA will loan no more than \$30,000 at any given time.

Applications are available on the members only website.

- The state must submit public acknowledgement of awarded grant.
  - A copy of the grant application
  - OR
  - A copy of the grant award letter
- Timeline for grant work and repayment
- Minutes of the state BCH meeting, acknowledging that they are asking for a loan from BCHA.

The process:

1. The state applies [online](#) by completing the Gap Loan Application
2. The Treasurer is immediately notified of the completed application via email
3. The Treasurer includes his/her recommendation at the next Executive Committee meeting
4. The recommendation is noted in the minutes as a motion. The expected repayment date is noted in the motion.
5. The Treasurer notifies the state of the decision
6. Headquarters sends the check to the state treasurer
7. A note is made in the BCHA internal calendar for follow up according to the “expected date of repayment.”

The program description and application can be found at:

<https://bcha.site-ym.com/page/GAPLOAN>