

**BCHA Executive Committee Conference Call  
Minutes – January 12, 2016 – 9:00 Pacific Time**

*\*MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed*

Participants: Alan Hill CA, Roy Cornett KY, Tom Thomas NC, Mack Long MT, Chuck Miller MT, Freddy Dunn UT, Randy Rasmussen, Darrell Wallace WA, Don Saner WY, Jim McGarvey ED

**MSP to accept minutes of the December call as presented.**

**Treasurer**, Freddy Dunn – Reviewed Profit-Loss Budget to Actual for all 2015. Still in the black. Reviewed Budget to Actual January through December and Profit-Loss compared to 2014.

**ProForma**, Jim McGarvey – Discussed. December donations exceeded expectations.

**Freddy to withhold motion to accept Treasurer’s Report until she gets one more piece of info.**

**Chairman’s Report**, Don Saner

- Freddy: Association Management Company (AMC) Search – Committee made a recommendation on their preference for one of the three AMCs interviewed via video conferencing—all were accredited. Our chief criteria in assessing them were getting assistance with membership, expansion and sustainable funding. The final choice was quite clear: Association Resources, Inc., from Connecticut, staff of 29, including several horse people, have non-profits as clients, easily handled our questions, honest. Next steps: negotiate contract. They could start around March.
- **AMC Discussion:** Mack: What is duration of contract? Jim: TBD with input from the EC. Freddy: There will be 90-day opt-out if things not working well; ideally a two-year contract. Alan: Extra cost for tasks beyond scope of their contract? Freddy: Contract to be very specific about tasks to be part of their monthly rate, hourly rate to be listed in contract for tasks beyond those listed. Jim: Sherry Jennings brought a lot to the table and helped BCHA in a huge way.

**MSP to accept Association Resources of Hartford, Connecticut, as BCHA’s Association Management Company.** Chairman to bring in Doug Bechan of BCHA Contract Committee.

- Mack and Connie Long’s invitation for BCHA to offer another scholarship for a youth packing clinic. Question of how or whether to pay recipient’s travel expenses. Will consult with Mylon Filkins of BCHA Foundation.

**MSP to accept Chair’s Report.**

**Executive Director**, Jim McGarvey

In Washington DC – has appointments lined up.

- **Joe Meade, USFS, Response to BCHA Letter:** He is focusing on the trails, which may have been prompted in part by letter from BCHA. Will offer BCHA assistance moving forward.
- **Buffalo Soldiers:** 100-mile walk/ride from San Francisco to Yosemite NP to commemorate the Buffalo Soldiers ride from the Presidio to the park. Jim reached out to Elwood York of USFS to offer equestrian participation.
- **NETC** – Planning committee call tomorrow.

- **Crescendo Interactive estate planning** – Jim wants to propose that BCHA join their program. Will visit with an Atlanta-based client of theirs next week. Will also attend Feb. 23 event in Atlanta regarding multi-channel marketing.  
**MSP to accept ED report.**

#### **Director, Public Lands & Recreation Report, Randy Rasmussen**

- **Takeover of Malheur NWR:** National issue on everyone's mind. What, if any, position does BCHA want to articulate at this time? Issue of Hammonds' sentencing by judge is not necessarily central or related to the Bundy's recent push to see federal lands transferred to private individuals. Discussion ensued with differing opinions. EC consensus was that entering the fray at this time could be a no-win situation; not cut-and-dry. Minority opinions expressed that the issues could easily be articulated and opposition to the public land giveaway is core to BCHA mission.
- **BLM MOU** – Received official signed version. First task is to develop a Top 20 trails list to promote on BLM website (similar to what they have now for mnt. bikes). Randy will consult with EC and TWS on criteria and expect to query BCH chapters for nominations of existing designated trails. Alan: Could we promote proposed trails? Randy: Probably not at this step, but will have opportunities within the scope of the MOU to develop strategies to promote new trails.
- **Chairman Bishop (House Natural Resources) Field Hearing in SW Utah:** Rumored to be January 22<sup>nd</sup> but yet to show on committee calendar. Freddy part of coalition defending BLM planning effort for National Conservation Area to avoid highway being designated through Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, which was designated by Congress in 2009. The area offers beautiful winter riding opportunities for horsemen. Randy to assist Freddy in preparing BCHA testimony and/or letters to the editor of local (St. George) papers. Will coordinate messaging with local coalition.
- **NPS Planning Efforts:** Lots of comment letters due in next month or two: Yosemite WSP scoping comments due by Jan. 29; Mt. Rainier WSP scoping comment deadline extended 3 weeks to Feb. 22; Grand Canyon draft Backcountry Mgt. Plan comments due by March 4 (Randy working with BCH AZ, an opportunity for at least one new horse trail); Grand Teton Moose-Wilson draft corridor plan comments due by Jan. 30.
- **National Board Meeting speakers list:** Not comfortable at this time that we can provide a number of good guest speakers like we did in Sacramento. Invitations to NPS and USFS wilderness folks kindly accepted, but they are not in position yet to confirm. Did hear back from a contact at USF&WS that we might invite. Need suggestions on BLM personnel to invite (already invited new NV state director). Will follow up with Senator Heller staff while in DC next month. Alan: Consider inviting USFS and non-profit partners working the PCT and CDT.
- **Hike the Hill** – Will be in DC week of February 7. Coordinating with Ben P. of AHC on Senate outreach targets related to Forest trails bill.
- **PNTS Strategic Plan:** PNTS director Gary W. reached out to partners, including Randy, for input on first stages of their strategic plan. Good hour-long discussion. Feel like a valued partner.  
**MSP to accept Director's report.**

#### **Public Liaison Report, Alan Hill**

**Buffalo Soldiers 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Yosemite:** Late summer 2016. Big deal with NPS and Yosemite Supt. as Buffalo Soldiers were primary patrol of that park for many years. BCH CA supportive of helping with logistics of reenactment event, including use of pack stock.

**Saw Certification for Pacific Crest Trail:** BCH CA has chainsaw certifier for our own volunteers (but not cross-cut). USFS signed him up to be sole chainsaw certifier for (non-wilderness) portions of PCT in CA, OR, WA.

**Advocacy Partners listed on BCHA website:** Needs to be passed onto our AMC.

**Professional Trail Builders Association:** Don spoke with Mike McGlenn to ask that he reach out to PTBA president (both in Bellingham, WA). Will bring Alan into that conversation.

**MSP to accept Public Liaison report.**

Roy: NETC conference will be in Raleigh, NC, July 8-11, 2016.

**MSP to adjourn 10:44 p.m. (PDT)**

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Rasmussen

#### **Acronyms Used**

AHC – American Horse Council

AMC – Association Management Company

BCH – Back Country Horsemen

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CDT – Continental Divide Trail

EC – Executive Committee

ED – Executive Director

MSP – Motion made, seconded and passed

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

NETC – National Equestrian Trails Conference

NBM – National Board Meeting

NP – National Park

NPS – National Park Service

NWR – National Wildlife Refuge

PCT – Pacific Crest Trail

PNTS – Partnership for the National Trails System

PST – Pacific Standard Time

PTBA – Professional Trail Builders Association

TBD – To Be Determined

TWS – The Wilderness Society

USFS – US Forest Service