

Back Country Horsemen of America
Synopsis of Minutes – National Board Meeting – April 24-29, 2006 – San Diego CA

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

President Merlyn Huso called the Back Country Horsemen of America National Board Meeting to order in San Diego, California on April 24, 2006 at 9:10 a.m. at the Handlery Hotel and Resort. Val Johnson (ID) spoke of the 20 year anniversary since BCH joined together (Montana, Idaho, California, Washington), of our loss of Lloyd Fagerland and Charles Wheat.

Roll Call – Ottie Otterstein (CO) called the roll and declared a quorum. State Organizations present: AZ (Jim Higgs, Tony Van Rooy), CA (Jerry Ledbetter, Michael Murphy), CO (Ottie Otterstein, Larry Zauberis), ID (Val Johnson, Raenette Didier), IL (Susan Miller), MT (Ken Ausk, Chuck Miller), NV (Chuck Vickery, Dennis Lattin), NM (Nick Martinez, JoAnn Van Der Geest), OR (Phil Hufstader, Becky Wolf), UT (Terry Morrison), WA (Bob Shonka, Mike Reedy), WY (Don Saner, Linda Serdiuk). Affiliates: IN (Susan Miller), SC (Gene Wood), VA (David Wojick). Officers and Committee Chairs: Chair Merlyn Huso (C), Vice Chair Mike Reedy, Treasurer Ottie Otterstein, Past Chair/Public Lands Steve Didier (PC), Public Liaison Alan Hill (PL), Wilderness Chair Ann Lange (WC). Staff: Executive Secretary Peg Greiwe (ES). Not represented: Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee. Committee Chairs not present: Affiliations/Partnership Mylon Filkins DVM (AP).

MSP to accept the minutes of the 2005 NBM from Park City UT as printed.

Treasurer's Report – Ottie Otterstein (CO) reviewed the 2005 Actual to Budget and 2006 to Date Actual to Budget along with the Balance Sheets for 2005 and 2006.

MSP to accept the Treasurer's Report as given.

Applications for Affiliate Organizations – Peg Greiwe (ES) presented the two affiliate applications.

MSP to accept the affiliate applications of Southern Appalachian TN and Middle & South Georgia.

FINAL REPORTS:

- **Audit** – Ottie Otterstein (CO), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM), Randy Darling (WA), Merlyn Huso (C), Mike Reedy (WA), Peg Greiwe (ES)
MSP to accept the audit committee report that the financial records of BCHA appear to be in good order.
- **Affiliations/Partnerships**, Alan Hill (PL) – Pass on Bear Awareness at this time.
MSP to accept the Affiliations Committee recommendation to spend \$1800 on membership in AHC, Coalition for Recreation Trails, American Trails, Partnership for National Trails, National Recreational Trails Training Partnership.
- **Indiana Resolution**
MSP to rescind the Indiana resolution from 2005. (Motion made by original maker Susan Miller IN.)
- **Policy Committee**, Val Johnson (ID), Susan Miller (IN), Don Saner (WY), David Wojick (VA) - BCHA has a Constitution not a set of by-laws nor a policy manual. Actions of the board since 1986 are our "policy manual".
MSP that the listed changes stipulated by Val Johnson be made in the Organizational Handbook, including the establishment of a \$150 application fee: page 17 – remove "An affiliate is permitted one voting delegate on the BCHA NBD and remove "Note"; "Step 3. Create a membership – 15 members required for an affiliate. State organization must have 30 members with no less than 15 members in any one chapter or unit". Page 18 – delete in Step 6 "or the fee required by your state for chapters." And strike "note".
- **Harris Connect**, Merlyn Huso (C)
MSP to participate with Harris Connect in publishing a directory for BCHA.
- **Executive Director**, Val Johnson (ID), Mike Reedy (WA), Alan Hill (PL), Merlyn Huso (C), Steve Didier (PC), Chuck Miller (MT), Linda Serdiuk (WY), Jim Higgs (AZ).
MSP that we turn the question of the Executive Director search over to the Strategic Planning Committee and that the committee seek and select a grant writer and/or fund raiser and/or management consultant to obtain professional help in grant writing and other revenue enhancing possibilities.
- **Contract Review Committee** – Merlyn Huso (C), Mike Reedy (WA), Ken Ausk (MT), Peg Greiwe (ES)
MSP to approve the report of Contract Review Committee: renew Executive Secretary Contract with Peg's Executive Services at approximately a 4% increase through April 30, 2007; enter into contract with Dennis Dailey, Wilderness Services for up to \$5000 including advertising exchange for one year; enter into contract with Washington Media Services, Inc., to serve as Newsletter Editor for one year.

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, Steve Didier (PC), Chuck Miller (MT), Betty Jean Keele (OR), Jim & Gayle Higgs (AZ), Ken Ausk (MT), Linda Serdiuk (WY), Phil Hufstader (OR), Ruth Gerson (CA), Ann Lange (WC), Randy Darling (WA), Ottie Otterstein (CO), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM), Michael Murphy (CA).

Right to Ride/Influencing Legislation Strategy (5781/HR 586)

- Original number, i.e., letter, phone call, email, chapter level contact (take letter to chapter meeting and have everyone sign, then mail – change the letter somewhat so it is original. Can be mailed in one envelope. Do not send to Washington DC, send to local office. Need to get others to write letters who recreate in other ways. Need to get letters in because it will be over on 12/31 and then we have to start all over again. (letter samples on bchw.org and aqha.org); send letter to Senator Craig, Conrad Burns, your senator.
- Press release or letter stating BCHA's position
- "Dear Colleague" letter for senators to send to their friends
- Economics (Power of the Horse)
- Follow up, follow up, follow up!
- Could change title.

MSP to combine the Wilderness and Public Lands committees with the Wilderness Committee's being a sub-committee of the Public Lands Committee.

RESOLUTIONS

- MSP to adopt the BCH NM Resolution of Preserving the Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest, NM, as corrected by the Public Lands Committee.
- MSP to accept the Wyoming BCH Resolution To Oppose the Sale or Transfer of Public Lands Managed by the US FS and the BLM.
- MSP to accept the 2006 BCHI Resolution Regarding Sell-Off of National Forest Lands.
- MSP to adopt the new combined resolution Opposing the Sale or Transfer of Public Lands Managed by the USFS and BLM by moving the 5th "Whereas" from the Idaho resolution to the Wyoming resolution as the final "Whereas" (WHEREAS: The Forest Service has very limited authority to sell parcels of National Forest System land (Small Tracts Act, Townsite Act Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act), Congress would have to pass, and the President would have to sign, legislation to enact an authority for general land conveyances of this nature.)

MSP to accept the Public Lands Report.

Education Committee, Jerry Ledbetter (CA) Susan Miller (IN), Phil & Lauri Hufstader (OR), Steve Didier (PC), Wayne Pitrat (AZ), Linda Serdiuk (WY), Becky Wolf (OR), Betty Jean Keele (OR), Randy Darling (WA), David Room (CA)

MSP to accept in concept the BCHA Training Program to be developed and managed by the BCHA Education Committee. The program will be a partnership with The Center for Outdoor Ethics, Wildlands Training Center and state members of BCHA.

Establish flexible program to meet the needs of member states to educate stock users on LNT principles and practices.

Masters classes where needed in states selected by BCHA. Classes held by Wildlands Training Center (Nine Mile) in sites selected by BCHA.

State master train LNT Trainers.

LNT Trainers hold LNT Awareness workshops. All elements follow CODE Guidelines.

MSP to approve the programs as presented by Education Committee of BCHA, i.e., "What is BCHA" program on CD

Public Liaison Committee, Alan Hill (PL)

MSP to accept report of Public Liaison.

Ways & Means, Michael Murphy (CA), Terry Morrison (UT), Ottie Otterstein (CO), Raenette Didier (ID), Gayle Higgs (AZ), Tony Van Rooy (AZ), Ruth Gerson (CA), Larry Zauberis (CO)

02 Compost - 1/8 page ad in exchange for donation for each sold; changes to Spur program; work with potential sponsors; encourage states, chapters/units, affiliates to follow-up on renewals. Passed the envelope.

MSP to accept the Ways & Means Committee Report.

Media Committee, Ottie Otterstein (CO), David Wojick (VA), Larry Zauberis (CO), Randy Darling (WA), Tony & Mary van Rooy (AZ), Raenette Didier (ID), Michael Murphy (CA), Chuck and Carol Vickrey (NV), Don Saner (WY), Linda & Chip Herzog (CA), Ruth Gerson (CA), Susan Miller (IN).

Logo: update trademark, add category.

Newsletter: New Editor will be Washington Media Services, Inc.

Press Releases: continue membership in American Horse Publications. Process: write release, Peg review/format, Kathy Hubbell edit, submit to AHP. List of potential topics created.

Website: Selected articles from newsletter on site; access to officers continue to be funneled through "contact us" button.

Parade of States (promote for 2007 Prescott meeting), Traveling Display (continue), Guidebook (reprinted)

Logo contest

MSP to pursue the possibility of changing the national logo under the auspices of the Media Committee and provide the resulting entries at the 2007 board meeting.

MSP to approve the report of the Media Committee.

2006-2007 Budget, Mike Reedy (WA), Ottie Otterstein (CO), Ann Lange (WC), Lauri Hufstader (OR), Peg Greiwe (ES)

MSP to approve the 2006 budget as presented.

MSP to accept the 2007 budget as presented.

Wilderness Committee, Ann Lange (WC)

BCHA Science Committee – Dennis Dailey, Mylon Filkins DVM (AP) and Gene Wood (SC) flesh out a committee.

MSP to approve the Wilderness Committee Report.

Nominations Committee, Randy Darling (WA), Terry Morrison (UT), Gayle Higgs (AZ)

Chair – Merlyn Huso (C)

Vice Chair – Mike Reedy (WA)

Treasurer – Ottie Otterstein (CO), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM)

MSP that the secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Merlyn Huso as Chair and Mike Reedy as Vice Chair.

Paper ballots were cast and counted for Treasurer. JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM) was elected.

2009 National Board Meeting

MSP to accept the offer of BCH WA to host the 2009 NBM at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend WA.

Volunteer Hours, Nick Martinez (NM), Randy Darling (WA), Susan Miller (IN), Chuck & Carol Vickrey (NV), Jim Buchanan (AZ), Jim Higgs (AZ), JoAnn Van Der Geest (NM) – missing 3 states; changed some aspects. Updated values: trail work \$15/hr; skilled \$25/hr; Education \$15/hr; Administration \$15/hr; mileage to \$.40/mile for personal; stock hauling \$.80/mile; \$100/day stock use; will try to get disk out to everyone within two weeks. Start collecting hours as of Nov 31st. Preliminary Value for 2005 - \$3,354,645. More info will come out in couple weeks from Nick Martinez (NM).

MSP to approve new values as provided by Volunteer Hours committee.

MSP to approve the report of the Volunteer Hours committee.

Strategic Planning Committee, Merlyn Huso (C), Mike Reedy (WA), Steve Didier (PC), Alan Hill (PL), Val Johnson (ID), Terry Morrison (UT), Jim & Gayle Higgs (AZ), David Wojick (VA)

MSP that BCHA seek a professional grant writer who is willing to take our success to potential grantors and secure additional funding and accomplish this within six months.

Legal Fund, Steve Didier (PC)

MSP that BCHA do another letter campaign seeking contributions to the Legal Fund.

Animal Identification (NAIS), Mike Reedy (WA) – BCHA does not take a position because NAIS does not fit within our narrow focus and mission statement.

HERO or plans for disaster preparedness for equines – BCHA does not take a position because, while worthwhile, it does not fit within our narrow focus and mission statement.

MSP to adjourn (at 2:20 p.m. April 29, 2006).

PRESENTATIONS:

- Shoshone NF Plan/Economic Survey, Linda Serdiuk (WY) – very informational; may use survey to send out for states use.
- Public Lands Law 101 – Dan Clifford (CA) – excellent PowerPoint presentation; handed out copies.
- Partnership Ride CD of 2005 – Alan Hill (PL) (CD's will be available after FS revisions for \$10).
- Harris Connect – Doug MacDonald – presentation – handed out the proposal and passed around 4 samples of directories.

STATE REPORTS

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming. Representatives not present but reports sent: Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee.