



These are DRAFT minutes and not public until approved.

Meeting called to order at 8:30AM, Monday, April 14, 2025

Honor Guard

Roll Call: Taken by Treasurer

Misson Statement Read by Vice Chairman

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the minutes without the August 2024 meeting minutes, seconded.

*****Motion amended to pull out the January and February 2025 minutes and the August 2024 meeting minutes for discussion after, seconded. All in favor.***

Departed Members Memorial

National Directors opportunity to talk about deceased members for the last year.

State of BCHA presented by Chairman

Began with a video about Roland Cheek who passed away this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Chapter Support Grants Committee – Connie Long, Chair**
 - This year the committee received outstanding applications.
 - Donations are how Chapter Support Grants receive their funds.
 - We had limited funds this year.

The recipients of Chapter Support Grants for 2025....



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Chapter Name	Amount
Pecos Chapter of NM	\$750
Wasatch Front Chapter	\$1,000
Heart of the Rockies	\$1,000
Bitter Root BCH	\$750
East Tennessee	\$1,000

Education Committee – Colleen Fisk, Chair

- Presented the Light on the Land Brochure
- The committee will be sending out a survey to see what members are interested in learning more about.
- Presented the 1st Light on the Land Video

Expansion Committee – Dana Chambers & Misty Valdez, Co-Chairs

- See the slide on the bcha.org website
- Hit on numbers 6 & 7

Marketing & Media Committee– Craig Ferdig, Chair

- Website Changes
- They work with all committees for updates and new information
- Goals for 2025-2026
 - Website Updates
 - Light on the Land Update in all materials
 - Focus on Sawyer Program
 - More promotion for Sawyer Program
 - There is a page for Sawyer on the website.
 - More Sponsors
 - Looking for fundraising
 - Marketing efforts
 - Weekly updates to Chapter Locator (Remember to highlight your updates in yellow)
- National Director Only site is working

Nomination Committee – Mark Himmel, Chair



LIGHT ON THE LAND

- Positions open are Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Non-Director and Director
- As of today, the persons running are...
 - Chairman – Craig Ferdig
 - Vice Chairman – Latifia Rodriguez
 - Treasurer – Heather Schultz
 - Director – Jim Allen
 - Non-Director – Greg Schatz

Bureau of Land Management – Jennifer (Jenni) Alexander

- Collateral duty subject matter pack stock and equestrian use.
- BLM has two subject matter experts.
- Map showed, all of the yellow is BLM.
 - Interactive map at www.blm.gov and click on “visit”.
- She would like to gather information on equestrian facilities.

Partnership Committee – Sherry Copeland, Chair

American Horse Council (AHC)

Governance Policy stipulates we must be a participant with AHC.

- Randy serves as Chairman of AHC Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee – Quarterly meeting

Committee members: BCHA, AQHA, Kansas HC, AERC, ELCR, Colorado HC – Underserved 2-3:1 vs other committee

- Randy (and/or BCHA Chair) participates in the AHC annual meeting held in June, in Washington D.C.
- Weekly communication with AHC President and/or Staff

Accomplishments:

- At BCHA's request, AHC met with staff of Sen. Lee (UT) to express concern about his Bikes-in-Wilderness bill and offered to circulate a letter of opposition to the bill and would encourage the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and state horse councils to sign on.
- Assisted BCHA in negotiating language of Biking on Long-Distance Trails (BOLT) Act between committee staff of the House Natural Resources



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Committee and People For Bikes. The bill became law and included the language changes requested by BCHA.

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)

PNTS is a convener of Hike the Hill and National Trails Workshop. *More detailed information will be presented on Tuesday.*

Participation:

- Randy serves as Chairman of PNTS Membership Committee – Quarterly meetings
- Randy serves on the Advocacy & Policy Committee – Monthly meetings
- Randy and BCHA Chairman and BCHA Vice Chair participates in Hike the Hill – Annually
- Randy usually attends National Trails Workshop – Annually
- Regular (often weekly) communication with Executive Director and/or Staff

Accomplishments:

- BCHA is the only equine-related member organization
- As participant in Hike the Hill, BCHA gains added access with agency leadership and congressional committee staff
- BCHA input is sought on annual appropriations requests to Congress regarding priority funding needs of the federal land management agencies.

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)

NWSA co-convenes the National Wilderness Workshop

Participation:

- Randy serves as BCHA representative on the Trail Stewardship Partner grant team - Annually
- BCHA is the only equine organization among the grant review team for Trail Stewardship Partner grants

Accomplishments:

- Funding Opportunities:
 - Wilderness Stewardship Performance Partnership Grant
 - National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Grant
 - Grow Wild Grant Program

American Trails



American Trails convenes the International Trails Conference - Biannually

Participation:

- Jim Allen (BCHSD) serves as BCHA representative evaluating and scoring the Legacy Trails Grants - Annually
- Randy represents BCHA on its Trails Move People Coalition – Inactive for the past year

Accomplishments:

- Funding Opportunities:
- Legacy Trails Grants

Leave No Trace (LNT)

BCHA is disappointed to see LNT has removed the horse from the widely accepted Yield sign

Participation:

- BCHA maintains relationship with LNT and facilitates LNT Master Stock Training certification services
- There are LNT Master Stock Trainers across BCHA membership
- LNT is complementary to BCHA Light On The Land

Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT)

CRT is the only entity that lobbies for the enhancement and expansion for the Recreational Trails Program and convenes the annual RTP Awards Ceremony on Capitol Hill.

Participation:

- Randy serves as BCHA representative on Board of Directors – Monthly
- BCHA is the only equine organization that regularly participates in strategy and planning related meetings –As needed

Accomplishments:

- Bipartisan introduction in Congress of the RTP Full Funding Act – if passed, will more than triple the amount of RTP funding
- Funding Opportunities – RTP Grants independently administered by each participating State (currently CT and IN do not participate)



LIGHT ON THE LAND

- Budget fee requested: \$500.00

American Hiking Society (AHS)

American Hiking Society convenes Hike the Hill and is lead in developing appropriations request documentation.

Participation:

- Randy maintains regular contact and communication with counterparts concerning issues such as the trail's community annual appropriations request, pending threats associated with e-bike use on horse/hike trails and threats to the Wilderness Act that would authorize bike use.

Accomplishments:

- Annual appropriations request amended to include specific language suggested by BCHA.

International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)

Participation:

- Randy served on the IMBA Steering Committee for Trails are Common Ground campaign organized to share information about proper trail etiquette – recently dwindled out.

Accomplishments:

- Supports BCHA position of bikes not allowed in Wilderness

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)

Participation:

- Randy interacts with ELCR Executive Director largely through AHC Recreation, Trails and Land Use Committee
- Occasionally ELCR and BCHA share and co-host webinars

The Wilderness Society (TWS)

Participation:

- Communication is dependent on the status of on-going issues



Accomplishments:

- Key supporter against Bikes-in-Wilderness bill
- Supports BCHA ongoing work against E-Bike use on otherwise non-motorized trails
- Continues to support BCHA as lead against authorization of E-Bike use on non-motorized trails in the absence of stakeholder engagement and environmental analysis

Corporate and Business Partners

- Legacy Radio: They allow us to go on the radio and talk once a month.
- Trailmeister: Verified by the areas land manager.

Federal Agency Partners

2025-2026 Goals

With the changing situations with the agencies, we will be tasked with compiling data and materials about the agencies to convey to BCHA.

- Compile information, materials, and data on partner Agencies structures, operational directives & documents
- Support Chapters and States in initiating & developing Partnerships
- Continue collaboration and diversify participation with identified organizations
- Review & evaluate new proposed Partnership & Benefit opportunities
- Facilitate & coordinate Partnership activities and event representation as required

Proposed Partnership Budget Request

• American Horse Council	2,650.00
• Partnership for the National Trail System	250.00
• National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance	270.00
• Leave No Trace	150.00
• American Trails	250.00
• Coalition for Recreational Trails	500.00
• Hike the Hill Participation*	<u>2,600.00</u>



- Total \$6670.00

This is up to the National Directors to determine where they want the funds to go. Last year Randy spent about 60% of his time with partners.

Public Lands – Brad Pollman, Chair

- Brad works with the structure of Public Lands with BCHA.
- We do recognize where communication needs some improvement
- We must be flexible
- It is important to have a positive attitude to have a positive outcome with all the changes this year.
- We will need to be working closer with our agency partners.
- Presented the Public Lands Reps from each region.

Volunteer Hours – John Chepulis, Chair

- Hours are due by the end of January.
- Check the webpage for updates, changing often.
- The committee is discussing providing just the hours.
- Using the dollars looks like the Forest Service doesn't need any help.
- Long form and short form available.
- Suggested to just have one form.
- Discussion on the forms function
- Double Diamond Award had 5 applicants this year and they were all great.
- The award will be presented on Wednesday night during the banquet.



Backcountry Horsemen of America

2024 Volunteer Hours Report

All States

Date Range (Oct 2023-Sept 2024) or (Jan-Dec 2024)

Basic Hours	68860
Skilled Hours	35305
Non-Trail Hours	64730
Travel Time	39393
Total Hours	208288

Total Miles Traveled 995404

Power Equip Hours	8372
Heavy Equip Hours	29909
Total Equip Hours	37909

Total Stock Days 12112

Total Donations \$666,182.75

Wilderness Trail Miles	3388*
Other Trail Miles	9810*
National Scenic Trail Miles	43**
Total Miles Cleared	13241

Youth Committee – Greg Schatz, Chair

- Thanked everyone for the continued support of the youth committee.
- Raised \$10,000 toward youth grants during the auction last year and will have the opportunity to do it again on Wednesday night.
- Remember to send reports describing how you used the youth grant funds.
- Youth grant information is on the bcha.org website.
- Thank you to everyone promoting youth in your chapters and states.
- Introduced Ally and Ahdelle, they work with the youth committee.

Treasurer Report – Kathy Young, Treasurer



LIGHT ON THE LAND

March 2025 Financial Report

- Balance Sheet
 - Provided current assets including...
 - Checking and Savings
 - Investment accounts: invested amount and value provided.
 - Accounts Receivable
 - CD's – Interest accrued in March for one of the CDs.
 - Total Assets provided
 - Liabilities and equities provided.
- Budget Vs Actuals
 - Membership Dues were less than budgeted, the \$5 donation dues made up the difference.
 - Donations came in higher than budgeted
 - Interest income was higher than expected
 - Expenditure
 - Administration General
 - Public Lands advisor – on track
 - General travel, light on the land, professional services, etc. total provided
 - Committee expenses provided.
 - Total expenditures provided.
 - Other revenue, including the Hurricane Relief fund provided.

Projections for April

- Dues were under budget
- Donations came higher
- Sponsors and advocacy are lower than budget
- National Board Meeting income
- Interest income came in higher
- Travel and National Board meeting expense came in higher
- Professional Services is for trademarks for BCHA name.
- Light on the Land did not have a budget.

Executive Administrator Report



Michelle Wade-Albro gave an overview of what the Executive Administrator does.

Director of Public Lands & Recreation Report

Randy Rasmussen talked regarding his position and upcoming information. Senate and Bills and Federal funding.

Contract Review presented by Craig Ferdig, Vice Chairman

*****Motion to approve Michelle's contract, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Treasurer Report Acceptance

*****Motion to accept the financial report through March and projections through April. Seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

Proposed Budget Presentation

The treasurer provided the draft budget for discussion on Wednesday. Went over line by line.

Governance Policy Review

A review has indicated all aspects are in accordance with the governance policy. Recommended to clean up or edit the resources references throughout the document. These are highlighted in yellow throughout the folder.

*****Motion to make the edits in yellow, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.***

New Business

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. August has been added to the website.
*****Motion to accept the Executive Committee Minutes, seconded. All in favor none.***

Discussion on the investment accounts, questions on the fees, the accounts BCHA is invested in and the yields written in the minutes.

*****Motion to approve the January and February minutes, seconded, All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.***



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Meeting adjourned at 3:10PM, Monday April 14, 2025

Meeting called to order at 7:40AM Wednesday April 16, 2025

Strategic Business Plan: This is on the website and each committee updates as they progress.

Unfinished business: Michelle went over how the National Board Meeting budget works.

Nominations (1) called from the floor for position of Chairman:

Vice Chairman

Treasurer

Non-Director

Director

No nominations from the floor.

Craig Ferdig running for Chairman position speech.

Latifia Rodriguez running for Vice Chairman speech.

Heather Schultz running for Treasurer speech

Greg Schatz running for non-Director speech

Jim Allen running for Director speech (3rd term)

Call for any unfinished business:

Q: What requirements are there for someone who might be considering running for the EC in the future and what are the time commitments?

A: Experience, time in BCHA, and the commitment for officers is probably an extra hour a month.

How did the states who went through the Natural Disasters fare, how did they prepare and deal with the aftermath?

Asking as an individual and as a chapter.

North Carolina provided what they did. What they are worrying about is getting the chapters what they need to help get trails open, cleared and recreated.

Discussion continued through states as to what they need and suggestions.



LIGHT ON THE LAND

For events: Have a designated safety officer.

Fires in California, working with different groups from moving hazardous waste to working trails. Make yourself available to help in any way we can.

Kansas: 2019-thousand-year flood, trails never came back in an area.

New Mexico: Extreme drought.

Indiana: Trees are old and dying, storm comes, and the trees go over. Some trails do not open after 3 or more years due to storm. Tornadoes. Need chainsaw certification. But not devastated like some other states. Indian Forest Alliance fights at every corner to stop the Forest Service from working in the forests.

Missouri: Flooding and ice storms.

Kentucky: Rains and Flooding, tornadoes. Suggestion that if you need to evacuate your livestock, work with arena's who have disaster plans in your area.

Oregon: Prepared disaster plan on how to evacuate livestock with the county and fire; partnership. They are on the board on the equine disaster with the state.

South Carolina: Hurricanes. They have a network in the communities who will help.

Arizona: Fires are the biggest problem

Alabama: Tornadoes, hard to evacuate with little to no warning.

Georgia: Tornadoes, wind, fire

Texas: Fire, mostly on private ranches. State parks have their own program you need to go through.

Tennessee: Flood, people were unreachable due to down phone lines and cell towers.

Alaska: Fires

Colorado: Fires. Training people to safely pack supplies, tools, and personnel to remote areas to help rebuild the forests and infrastructures.

Montana: Fires and straight-line winds

Utilize the minimal tool requirement, please reach out to the regional public lands and then reach out to Brad Pollman, National Public Lands and they will help you with this.

Hurricane Relief Funds: This was given to states to help rebuild trails.

Take the first chair letter in June and designate Relief Funds for future disasters.

Motion to allow states to use as they deem necessary



LIGHT ON THE LAND

BCHA would award the state too, and the state would submit to the chapters in need.

Motion to start an emergency relief fund where the funds may be used outside the mission statement, and the June Chair letter will address the disaster funds.

Motion RESINDED.

Discussion:

- These funds should be kept within the mission statement
- The EC should be the entity to disperse the funds.
- Further discussion as to what the states did with the funds for Hurricane Helene.
- In the event there are no disasters, this account will roll over year after year.
- Next year to have a resolution for the disaster funds

Amendment to the motion suggestion; keep it to the mission statement.

First motion rescinded.

*****Motion to establish a disaster fund, it will align with mission statement. The first chair letter to start this fund and then allow the Chairman to establish a committee to disburse the funds. Seconded. Motion passed.***

Is there an amount on this fund and where do we get the money to establish this fund. Donations establish the funds.

Question Called.

Vote – Cease discussion.

In favor: All

Opposed 0

Proposed Budget Questions & Answers

Budget is a living, working document

Treasurer went over each line item



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Partnership line item: Suggested to include Back Country Hunters and Anglers to partner with, cost approximately \$250.

Motion to develop a formal partnership with Back Country Hunters and Anglers.

Seconded. Rescinded until further discussion on partnerships.

Partnership Recommendation

*Back Country Hunters and Anglers \$250

*Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Maybe we should remove LNT. Further discussion regarding if LNT has left equine. Research suggests that we are not on their website.

*Public Lands Foundation is a national membership organization.

Education: What is the increased cost for? Videos for Light on the Land.

Comments: Have more detail regarding the cost of videos to make this simpler.

Bank Fees – Why is there no budget. These fees are blank because they are included in Administration General.

Fundraising: Do we need a line for fundraising expenses?

Income: Chapter Support Grants, why is it only at \$2500 when we brought in over \$7,000? We don't base this on the previous year's income. Same with miscellaneous income.

Public Lands Travel: Why a lower budget? We don't intend for Randy to have as much travel.

General Travel:

Suggestion to leave travel at \$8000.

Comment: If expenses increase, we must find new ways to raise income.

Comment: There is only so much money in the room, and we are including a new fundraiser for disaster, we need to think about this.

Do we have a fundraising committee? No that is under the Executive Committee.

Partnerships



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Back Country Hunters & Anglers: They are set up just like BCHA and their mission aligns very closely with BCHA.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Concentrates solely on wildlife management and research. Worked on Elk reintroduction. They were not very successful in reintroduction except for their limited equestrian access.

Public Lands Foundation: Mostly Bureau of Land Management. Suggested this would be a bit redundant in comparison to who we already work with.

Public Lands Alliance: Connect Strengthen Represent. The sole purpose is to advance their members. Suggested, a formal partnership is necessary.

Proposed Budget

*****Motion to round the partnership committee budget up to \$7000 we join Back Country Hunters & Anglers, and we drop our membership to Leave No Trace. Seconded.***

Vote:

Yes: 35 Votes

No: 13 Votes

Discussion:

Not sure we should not partner with Leave No Trace.

Since they took equestrian off signage, we should not belong to LNT.

Call for question:

Yes: All in favor

No: None Opposed

*****Motion to accept the budget as presented with the changes made, seconded.***

Yes: All in favor

No: None opposed.

Nominations from the floor called three times

Non-Director: Greg Schatz, no nominations from the floor.



LIGHT ON THE LAND

Director: Jim Allen, no nominations from the floor.

Treasurer: Heather Schultz, no nominations from the floor.

Vice Chairman: Latifia Rodriguez, no other nominations from the floor.

Chairman: Craig Ferdig, no other nominations from the floor.

***Motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation, seconded.*

Vote:

Yes - all in favor

No - None opposed.

State Accomplishments

Each state was provided with the opportunity to give an update on what their state has accomplished in the last year and what they have coming up.

2026 National Board Meeting

***Motion to approve the National Board Meeting in 2026, location Kansas City, MO. Seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at 3:10PM