



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT

January 28th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

Zoom: [Click here to access meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 896 3743 9335 Passcode: 824941

TOPIC

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM

Agenda

Minutes: November and December 2024 Minutes

Motion to accept the November and December minutes as presented, motion seconded, All in favor, None opposed. Motion passed.

Financial Reports – November and December 2024

- **November Financials**

- Bank account balances provided.
- Total current and other assets provided.
- November Liabilities provided.
- Total Equity provided and total liabilities and equity provided.
- The investment account fees came out in November.

- **December Financials**

- Total bank accounts provided
- Other Account receivable provided, other assets and total assets provided.
- Value of the investment accounts as of December 31, 2024, provided.
- Liabilities and equity provided.

Motion to approve the Treasurer report as presented, motion seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Detail sheet is getting big, so it is becoming harder to email. Does the EC still want to receive the detailed report? Just send the details for the previous month.

US Bank fees are a little high, we are looking into it to see if they can change the account type to lower or drop fees. If not, we may look for another banking institution.

Stifel, expense is beginning to rise somewhat. Possible change of investment company. We are going to ask Stifel to be on the EC call in February. Ask Stifel for an annual yield to be brought to the meeting they attend. Per year end statement the yields are 6.03% for Legacy and 5.50% for Legal.

Public Lands

Lake Tahoe Basin Large-Scale E-Bike Proposal – High on the list of “What does BCHA do for its chapters?”, Randy will participate Friday in the Forest Service’s objections resolution meeting for this far-ranging e-bike proposal. It would authorize Class 1 e-bike use on over 140 miles of currently non-motorized trails on national forest lands in the Tahoe Basin. Among many



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shortcomings, the agency's Environmental Assessment fails to adequately address potential conflicts posed by e-bike use and their greater speeds to equestrians, resultant safety issues, and the displacement of equestrian users from the trail system. BCHA's public comment letters and formal objections have put us in a strong position if the EC chooses to take legal action. Doing so might be necessary, as other national forests (beyond CA/NV) would no doubt replicate such an approach to e-bike use if left unchallenged.

New Congress and Administration – The 119th Congress kicked off this month. In terms of committees of jurisdiction related to BCHA's mission, the leadership is shaping up as follows:

- House Natural Resources Committee – continued to be chaired by Rep. Westerman (Arkansas). The new Federal Lands Subcommittee will be chaired by Rep. Tiffany (Wisconsin). Our state horse council allies have connected Randy with their members in Chairman Tiffany's state, who we will coordinate to build a relationship with the Chairman.
- Senate Energy & Natural Resources (ENR) Committee – will now be chaired by Sen. Lee (Utah), who apparently will also chair its subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining [this might change].

The nominee for Secretary of Agriculture, which oversees the US Forest Service, is Brooke Rollins (from Texas). Her background includes work with FFA and 4H, so might have some insights into animal husbandry and recreational horseback riding.

The nominee for Secretary of Interior is (former South Dakota Governor) Doug Burgum. He claims to be a horseback rider and helped to establish his state's office of outdoor recreation. Upcoming Hike the Hill (Feb. 23-27) – Randy, Mark and Craig will participate and represent BCHA. Each has scheduled meetings with their respective representatives and senators (OR, MT, AZ). The broader coalition with meeting with agency leaders, although Chief Moore of the USFS will be out of the country. Randy will lead pre-Hike the Hill briefings for the coalition on the topics of the pending Volunteer Drivers Tax Appreciation Act and to demonstrate opposition for bills that would weaken the Wilderness Act, including Sen. Lee's expected reintroduction of his Bikes in Wilderness bill. Now that he is Chairman of ENR, we can expect hearings on the bill and added momentum for its passage. Other topics of discussion include the pending RTP Full Funding Act and the need to prevent mass transfer of federal public lands to states (i.e., keep public lands in public hands).

Hike the Hill: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig and Randy Rasmussen are attending in person in Washington DC. February 23-26, 2025. Mark scheduled a meeting with Senator Tim Sheehy directly. But they can't talk about the budget at this time.



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Committee Updates

Marketing & Media

The Committee Chair meeting is on February 4th, 2025.

2026 National Board Meeting

We have a potential venue, Hyatt Regency Greenville. However, we would need to hold the meeting the very first week of May. (May 3rd – 6th, 2026)

Updates from the Chairman

- **Saw-** Put a call out to BCH states for interest in having a training call to answer questions. Some responses and asked to include Forest Service who can't get saw training.
- **Legacy** – Questions from members asking why we are asking for donations when we have these funds sitting there. Suggested, we need to open Legacy soon to help cover costs in the next couple of years. Open it for administration use only. Donations have come in and we did ok. Seems like we hit a plateau on donations this year. 100% of the Legacy money was donated specifically to Legacy, not for immediate use. We need to reach half a million-dollar threshold to be able to use it. Proposed this at the last national board meeting to raise dues \$10 and that was denied, instead approved a \$5 increase. States ask what BCHA does for them, we have a list in progress. States and chapters need to be reminded they are not exempt from bad things happening and how BCHA DOES help them. Suggested that part of the disconnect is the boots on the ground don't understand what Legacy is. National Directors need to communicate these things with their members. At the end of February, we will know what our dues are and we will know if we are going to skim through until next year. Randy will be sending a list of what he does to incorporate into the sheet Michelle is working on.
Michigan: Michigan had stopped being a BCHA member and we were told they were folding. Recently found out that they are still up and running as Back Country Horsemen of Pigeon River. Stating again, what does BCHA do for us? However, on their Facebook page they state, "We are an affiliate of Back Country Horsemen of America" but they said they were disbanding, and they don't pay dues.
- **Elections** – We have interested persons for each position open this year.
- **February EC & ND Meeting:** Mark and Craig will be out of town for this meeting, asked if the EC is inclined to move the meeting up a week (February 18, 2025). The Executive Committee approved moving the meeting to February 18th for EC and the 19th for National Director Call.
- **LAS Contract** – Asked Michelle and Randy to leave the meeting.



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Next Meeting: February 18th. 2025

National Directors Call Tomorrow January 29th, 2024

Adjourn

In Attendance: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Kathy Young, Sherry Copeland, Greg Schatz, Jim Allen, Brad Pollman, Dana Chambers, Heather Cox

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Meeting URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89637439335?pwd=pMOyB3HuGO6Uxtl0ZaQMbKPaFnqZal.1>