



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

June 24th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 886 9845 8156 Passcode: 378936

TOPIC

Welcome & Introductions

Call to order at 5:00PM

Dana has been elected National Director therefore she cannot maintain her seat as non-director on the EC. We are in search of a member to fill her seat interim.

Agenda

No changes

Minutes: March 2025 Minutes & May 2025

Chairman has requested financial questions from the National Directors to be emailed before the meeting, so we have the answers ready when research is needed.

March Minutes: Motion to approve the March minutes as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed

May Minutes: Motion to approve the May minutes as presented, seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

Financial Reports – May 2025

The treasurer provided an overview of the financials for May 2025.

The treasurer now has access to US Bank

Balance Sheet

- CDs have no change
 - Stifel – Still working on access to these accounts so no values at this time.
 - Current assets, liabilities, and equity provided.

A new line item, Restricted Disaster Relief Fund

Michelle's monthly fee was previously divided between Accounting/Bookkeeping and Executive Administrator and now the entire monthly fee is on the Executive Administrative line.

Motion to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

Public Lands Sell Off – Assisted several BCH states, including MT, NM, ID and UT by providing draft letters targeted to their representatives in Congress in order to:



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

June 24th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 886 9845 8156 Passcode: 378936

- a. Thank members of the Public Lands Caucus for defeating a proposal in the House of Representatives to sell over 450,000 acres of public land as part of the current budget bill, and
- b. Encourage US senators to oppose a broader plan—the sale of up to 3.3 million acres—of public land in 11 western states, as proposed by Chairman Mike Lee of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee.

BCHA issued action alerts to membership via its monthly email updates and to national directors (on June 11 and on June 19) asking them coordinate an action plan for congressional outreach within their state in order to push back on Senator Lee's proposal. Randy also worked to include BCHA in two sign-on letters from national and regional recreation and conservation organizations calling for action from Senate leadership and the Western Governors Association to oppose large-scale federal land sales.

Equestrian Legacy Radio – Randy used BCHA's monthly opportunity via the airing of *Saddle Up America* to educate host Gary Holt's audience regarding the high stakes associated with Senator Lee's proposal for wide-scale federal land transfer to the states. The show is broadcast via a number of blog podcasting services, including Spotify. Randy's discussion of federal land transfer can be found at: (note: the interview begins at minute 8:20)

https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-equestrian-legacy-radio-254050507/episode/randy-rasmussen-with-back-country-horsemen-of-america-on-equestrian-legacy-radio-282182044?cmp=ios_share&sc=ios_social_share&pr=false

American Horse Council – Randy will be in Washington DC the week of June 23rd to participate in AHC's Annual Issues Forum where he will chair two meetings of AHC's Recreation, Trails and Land Use Committee. The agenda he crafted will weigh heavily on collective actions that can be taken regarding federal land transfer and in demonstrating support for four positive bills in Congress (see agenda on page 2 of this report). While in DC, Randy will meet with members of Oregon's congressional delegation and with the Deputy Director of the National Park Service (see agenda at bottom of page 2).

American Horse Council Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee

June 24, 2025, 3:45 to 4:30 pm (EST)



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

June 24th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 886 9845 8156 Passcode: 378936

Committee Charter: To monitor legislation that may impact access and quality of trails, protect and preserve open space, conservation, recreation and multi-purpose public lands. Identify and prioritize concerns and opportunities, evaluate related information and determine actions or activities that may be appropriate.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| I. | Welcome and Opening Remarks: | Randy Rasmussen |
| II. | Review of the RT&LU Committee minutes | AHC Staff |
| III. | Debrief from ORR presentation on impacts of government | Committee |
| IV. | Discussion downsizing | |
| V. | Update from Trails Summit – Horse Caucus | Justine/Monica |
| VI. | Largescale Sale or Transfer of Fed Public Lands | Randy |
| VII. | E-Bike Update: Tahoe NF and Lake Tahoe Basin Mgt Unit | Randy |
| VIII. | Positive Bills in Congress: | Randy |
| | a. America the Beautiful Act (S.1547) | |
| | b. Recreational Trails Program Full Funding Act (S.811) | |
| | c. Volunteer Drivers Tax Appreciation Act (S.1177/HR 1582) | |
| | d. Public Lands in Public Hands Act (HR 718) | |
| IX. | Other Business | |
| X. | Closed session | |
| XI. | Adjourn | |

National Park Service

June 24, 2025, 12:30 to 1:00 pm (EST)

Proposed Agenda: The need to keep the history and tradition of horseback use in our national parks.

1. Existing NPS and Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) General Agreement - 2023-2028
2. Current Challenges to Stewardship Work in Great Smoky Mountains NP
3. E-Bikes on NPS Trails (examples, Whiskeytown NRA)
4. New NEPA Categorical Exclusions for Bikes and Trails - June 11, 2025



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

June 24th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 886 9845 8156 Passcode: 378936

Committee Updates

A Committee Chair meeting was held last week, a few were unable to make it.

Marketing & Media – Dana Chambers is the new Chair. They are starting to look at standard things such as the website, sponsorship letters.

Chapter Support Grants: Updating Grant applications

Youth Grants: Not a single request yet

Volunteer Hours: Requested each state has a volunteer coordinator so he can put together a meeting to explain and discuss volunteer hours.

Fundraising: Two meetings so far, will be meeting every two weeks initially. Michelle and Tif are working on the sponsorship packet. This is an enthusiastic group with great ideas with big plans. Next call is tomorrow morning.

Education committee: They paid \$1,000 for the education video and the video is great.

Public Lands: Started going over the contact list for all the chairs/co-chairs in each region. In search of a co-chair who is willing to replace the chair.

Partnerships: Mark and Mack have reached out to Back Country Hunters & Anglers but no response from the yet. There have been some issues with them using our BCHA (Copyrighted).

BLM is accepting our Light on the Land and putting it on their website with a link. BLM is also working on a project with John Chepulis. Identifying trails locally, through each state; you will contact your local person, and they will state how they want to identify the trails.

Saw Committee: We are pushing forward with the saw training in the Mark Twain Forest in Missouri, this training will take place in September. There is only one rec person, and the Chair made contact with a region 9 person, and they said yes to our training. Looking to help region 8 and 9. The prices are reasonable.

Forest Service: Things are going to change quickly, they doubted there will be any regional saw program managers going forward. If the regions disappear, we go to the forests or the districts separately.

For BCHA to have their own saw program we would have to go from a volunteer to a cooperator, and then we are into liability insurance.

Updates from the Chairman

- 2027 National Board Meeting & Forward



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

June 24th, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 886 9845 8156 Passcode: 378936

The room rate will go up \$4.00 (four dollars) for 2027 if we stay at the same hotel (Embassy Suites, Airport in Kansas City, MO) as 2026. If we agree to this, they hotel will email the contract for April of 2027. Everything else in the contract is the same as 2026. April 10th-15th, 2027. The contract will be sent to Craig and compare to 2026 and send to the EC for a vote.

Next EC Meeting: July 22nd, 2025

National Director Call tomorrow night.

Adjourn 6:05PM

In Attendance: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Heather Schultz, Latifia Rodriguez, Greg Schatz, Jim Allen, Brad Pollman, Heather Cox

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Meeting URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88698458156?pwd=QMadeA6aba2AqkQCm7HGVJmyXRj4Ow.1>