

Back Country Horsemen of Kansas Annual Meeting, Pizza Ranch, Emporia, KS

Feb. 11, 2023, 28 members present and 1 guest

Meeting called to order at 12:02 pm by President Stephanie Huss

1. Approval of Minutes was tabled while copy circulated to attendees. Later Bill Racy moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Melissa. Motion passed.
2. Treasurer's Report provided by Sheila Watkins
 - a. Beginning balance was \$8,800.76; current balance \$7,098.75
3. National Committee Reports
 - a. Public Lands by Jim Thomas; there are concerns about some areas of Corp of Engineers property allowing equestrians and others not.
 - b. Expansion by Diana Skinner; each member is encouraged to get one person to join BCHKS each year; national member benefits need to be promoted better and Diana requested that each chapter send her a list of their officers.
 - c. Marketing and Media by Pattie Stalder; promotional items celebrating the 50th anniversary of BCHA are available at BCHA.org.
 - d. Volunteer Hours by Cheryl Thomas; the Executive Director of American Trails stated at recent Sunflower Trails event that Kansas is well recognized nationally for being proactive in creating and promoting our trails.
 - i. Cheryl passed out volunteer hours reports.
 - ii. Diana Skinner shared that she met with a representative of the Blue River Trail in Marysville at the Sunflower event. Horses are not allowed on that trail Diana suggested we host a ride – the rep said she would take it to the committee.
 - iii. Diana Skinner will be one of seven speakers at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference on Feb. 13 & 14 where 600 Fish and Game employees from across the Midwest will be in attendance.
 - iv. John Leighty mentioned the Spark Grant which allotted \$30 million to Kansas, the due date is 2/27/23.
4. State Committee Reports
 - a. 501c3 Committee by Sheila Watkins; our 501c3 status is in full effect meaning all donations are tax deductible. For tax purposes our legal name is now Kansas Back Country Horsemen.
 - b. Volunteer Hours Report; provided earlier under National Committee Reports
5. Chapter Reports
 - a. Sunflower – six miles of Overbrook trail have been completed.
 - b. Big Hill –they will be applying for a grant to paint pens; they are hosting an AERC ride on April 29 & 30.
 - c. Tuttle Creek – annual ride will be held on June 2; working with park manager to install pens and develop an equestrian loop.
 - d. Chisholm Trail – workday scheduled for May 20.
6. Old Business
 - a. Flint Hills Ride at Allegawaho Park – Jim and Cheryl Thomas were there but no one else attended.
7. New Business

- a. Monthly Newsletter – will be sent via email every month using Constant Contact.
 - b. National Meeting in MT – Diana Skinner will represent Kansas. Jim and Cheryl Thomas will also attend in unofficial capacity.
 - c. EquiFest – March 16-19, BCHKS will have a booth manned by volunteers. There are new hours and entry fees for evening rodeo. www.equifestofks.com . Erin Glassman is working with the KHC Foundation and would appreciate donations for the Silent Auction, either new or used.
 - d. Fill the Campground Campaign – Laura and Kyle Smyth have organized this event which will begin with a ride and camping at Milford State Park on May 6 & 7. You must call the park directly to make reservations. There are only 9 horse sites. Other locations may include Historic Scott Lake, Pomona, Big Hill, El Dorado and Hillsdale but dates are not yet confirmed. Flyers and info will be available at EquiFest.
 - i. It was noted that Best of America by Horseback will hold rides at both Hillsdale and Eisenhower in Sept. this year.
 - e. Sunflower State Trails Appreciation Day Event – BCHKS had a booth at this annual event held at the capitol building in Topeka. Members visited with government officials including Lieutenant Governor David Toland, Secretary of Wildlife and Parks Brad Loveless and KS State Parks Director Linda Lanterman.
8. Other Discussions
- a. Grant applications with BCHA close March 15th. Grant amounts are up to \$1000. BCHKS grant applications are accepted May 1st thru 31st. Grant amounts are up to \$500.
 - b. Workhorse Awards were given to Bill Racy of Big Hill Chapter, Pattie Stalder and Kent Wassenberg of Tuttle Creek Chapter, Stephanie Huss of Saddle Ridge and Ed Jarvis and Kenny Patterson of Sunflower Chapter.
 - c. John Leighty moved to allow the two new chapters to keep all their dues in 2023 in order to increase their chapter funds. Discussion followed which included that these 2 chapters already kept the state portion of their dues for 2022; John withdrew his motion.
9. Announcement of new officers
- a. President – Stephanie Huss; Vice President – Laura Smyth; Secretary - Pattie Stalder; Treasurer – Sheila Watkins; National Director – Pattie Stalder; Alternate National Director – Kyle Smyth.
10. Motion to Adjourn
- a. Diana Skinner moved to adjourn, seconded by Sheila Watkins
 - b. Motion passed
 - c. Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm