

Big Hill BCHKS chapter meeting

January 26, 2025

Logan Park, Cherryvale, KS

Call to Order - Bill Racy, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 3:10pm. Bobbie Barton, President, was not in attendance. A sign-in sheet was present for members to sign. Twelve members were in attendance. Bill stated that he received messages from five members to cast their votes by proxy. Those members were Ron and Ginger Slabaugh, Joe and Sondra Harris, and Susan Searles. Jennifer witnessed the messages that Bill received.

Minutes from previous meeting – Secretary, Jennifer Carnahan

The May 5, 2024, meeting minutes were presented. Motion made and seconded for approval of the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – John Scammey

The current balance is \$2755.69. John stated that our chapter received a donation from Tim Searles memorial in the amount of \$1735.00. Motion made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Vice President Report – Bill Racy

Bill and Donna attended the Annual BCHKS meeting on January 25, 2025. Bill reported that the total volunteer hours reported for 2024 BCHKS were equivalent to \$356,892. He will share that information with Chris Hammerschmidt, Corp manager. A summary of the 2024 BCHKS volunteer hours was passed around for review. This summary included a breakdown of equipment, stock use, and donations, as well as 2024 trail and campground improvements. Members were encouraged to keep track of their volunteer hours and report them to Donna along with photos of any work/improvements done.

Old Business

1. **Trails** – Bill reported that Marsha and David Hayes are working on building more mounting blocks. Bill will check in with them on the status. Priscilla Lindsey reported the possibility of new trail construction. This trail would leave the current Timber Hill trailhead and travel south for about 3.5 miles toward the Mound Valley campground. This has been submitted to Chris

Hammerschmidt and is currently awaiting approval from the Tulsa District Corp of Engineers. No trail construction will begin until we are notified by Chris. Discussion was held regarding the status of the Elk City horse trail and that a lot of work is needed to get that trail cleared. A reminder was made to speak with Chris prior to any workdays being held at Elk City.

2. Grant status – Big Hill BCHKS was awarded a \$200.00 grant June 15, 2024, from the BCHKS grant committee. The grant money was used by Bill to purchase new tires for the DR mower.

New Business

1. Projects – Members Joe and Sondra Harris have scheduled a fall cleanup weekend for Labor Day weekend 2025. More information will be provided at the upcoming meetings as we get closer to that date. Bill suggested (per Susan) that the \$1735.00 from the Tim Searles memorial donation be used for a partial cover of the horse pens of the North (Dennis) camp. The Heartland Range Riders have also donated \$500.00 to this project. Bill will get a bid for covering 26'x50', which is half of the existing pens.
2. 501(c)(3) renewal - Our 2025 chapter renewal is due. The biennial renewal fee is \$80.00. Donna will mail everything in. Motion made and seconded to renew our 501(c)(3). Motion passed.
3. Tshirt orders - Bill suggested that we allow \$300.00 and form a subcommittee for tshirt orders. Susan and Donna will preorder various sizes of shirts to have available for sale at any upcoming rides. Donna will check on the availability of tshirts in women's fit and styles of hats. Motion to form a subcommittee and allow \$300.00 for ordering made and seconded. Motion passed.
4. BCHA national grant application – Bill will apply for a grant to fix the cables on the mower that is used to clear trails.
5. Best of America by Horseback – Del Shields is planning a ride at Big Hill in October 2025. The exact date is TBD. Bill stated that he and Donna will plan meals for Friday and Saturday and that some funds will also be provided by BCHKS to purchase food. This will be held at the Cherryvale (South) Horse Camp. More details will be provided.

Other Business

1. The following 2025 officers were voted for and approved. Bill Racy, president, John Scammey, vice president, Susan Searles, treasurer, Jennifer Carnahan continue as secretary.
2. Priscilla Lindsey reported that there are a few dead cedar trees that need to be cut down on the East side of the lake and North side of the bridge.
3. Discussion was held to have more chapter meetings and to post the meeting day/time on the Big Hill Lake Riders facebook page with a photo attached for better visualization and notification.
4. Equifest of KS is March 21-23. Four hours of volunteering at the event will get free admittance for the day.

Volunteer Hours Report – Donna Marotta

Please submit any volunteer hours. Donna will submit our total hours quarterly to Cheryl Thomas, State Volunteer Hours Coordinator. Send photos of any trail work and workers to Donna.

The next meeting day/time will be March 30 at the Cherryvale Horse Camp shelter at 1pm with a ride to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm (motion made, seconded, passed).

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Carnahan, BHBCHKS Secretary