**Sunflower BCHKS 1st Quarter Meeting
TJ’s Bar & Grill, Overbrook
February 12, 2022, 1 PM**

Attendance: Dewayne & Jo Turner Burgess, Tyler Gestl, Mary Heberling, Saundra Hiller, Ed Jarvis, Gary & Sandi Pope, Diana Skinner, Rosie Sweeten, Jim & Cheryl Thomas, Bonnie Warner, Sheila Watkins

Meeting brought to order at 1pm by Rosie Sweeten.

Minutes of the December 29 meeting had one correction regarding officer elections: all offices are up for election. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Beginning balance: $3,754.05
 Dues + 195.00
 Printing on vests - 176.30

 Ending balance: $3,772.75 as of February 12, 2022

**Lake Reports:**

* Perry State Park/Perry Lake – Ed will schedule work days to start cleaning up debris left behind as lake level has dropped. Dewayne and Jo will schedule a gathering in April to welcome the new park manager.
* Clinton Lake – Trails looking good, but any windstorms can bring down limbs and trees. Diana has scheduled the annual benefit ride for the weekend of April 30. Campground will open April 1.
* Pomona Lake – no report
* Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake – Jim & Cheryl continue to replace steel fence posts with trail markers that were purchased with a BCHA grant. Equestrian campers wanting to make reservations at West Point should contact the park office directly.
* Landon Trail – there is a work day scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 10am, at the parking lot on 53rd Street just south of Topeka. Cleanup of trash and other dumped items and clearing of brush will be the primary focus in preparation for gravel being brought in to level out the parking lot.

**National Director’s Report:**

Diana reviewed topics from the January meeting.

* BCHA has a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Forest Service. MOU’s do need to be updated periodically. There is also a MOU with the US Army Corps of Engineers, which Diana felt was instrumental in keeping the Rockhaven Campground open at Clinton.
* The BCHA website will soon have an Incident Reporting Form that can be used to report non-stock campers using equestrian (stock) campsites. Mainly applies to USFS currently, but can be a good way to keep record of incidents in other public campgrounds.
* There will be a significant amount of funds available through the Build Back Better program that will be used for trails and other recreational opportunities throughout the country. Probably won’t see much benefit in Kansas.
* BCHA monthly e-mail blast – Diana encouraged members to open these emails, and see what might be of interest. The current email includes Frank Buchman’s report on our BCHKS annual meeting in Council Grove last month.
* BCHA continues to work to prohibit e-bikes on public trails and has been successful in not allowing e-bikes on USFS trails. We will probably encounter them on some Kansas trails, eg Landon Trail and Flint Hills Trail, and continued education about safe trail sharing will be important.

**Old Business:**

* Member Incentive Award – Members’ names are entered into an annual drawing for recruiting new BCHKS members. Jim Thomas was the 2021 winner.
* Trails Advocate Membership – The new combined BCHKS/Kansas Horse Council membership is proving to be a successful recruiting tool for both organizations.
* 2022 Equifest of Kansas, March 18-20, Salina – Pattie Stalder will chair the BCHKS booth at Equifest and would welcome volunteers to spend some time at the booth. backdoor@bluevalley.net

**New Business:**

* BCHA grant deadline is March 15. These grants are easy to apply for, and BCHKS has received several in past years.
* BCHKS Lindsey Grant – Application period follows the BCHA grant deadline and can be awarded in amounts from $100-$500. Info on both grants is available on the BCHKS website.
* Diana is applying for a Lindsey Grant to help with replacing tires on the 4-wheeler that is used on Clinton trail work. She asked for matching funds from the Sunflower Chapter to help meet this expense. Motion passed to match any funds awarded through the Lindsey Grant with funds from the Sunflower Chapter for tires for the 4-wheeler.
* The new BCHKS website is up and ready for review, bchkansas.com. Please let Diana know of any corrections or additions you would like to see.
* 501c3 Status – BCHKS was originally formed as a 501c3; it recently came to the attention of the current board that the 501c3 status had not been kept current. A committee of Saundra Hiller, John Leighty, and Sheila Watkins was formed to research the possibility of regaining that status or starting over with the whole process. They are still researching the best direction to go.
* Nebraska Trails Expo, March 12-13, Chance Ridge Event Center, Elkhorn (just west of Omaha) – Jim and Cheryl will host a BCHKS/KHC informational booth.

**Events:**

* April 30 - Clinton Benefit Ride Weekend
* June 10-12 – KHC Ride at the Little Barn Ranch (Jim & Marti Sheetz), Medicine Lodge
* Sept 3 – Perry State Park Annual Benefit Ride
* Oct 1 – Perry Moonlight Ride with chili/pie feed
* Oct 7-9 – Eisenhower State Park Annual Benefit Ride
* Guided rides every Thursday on Perry Trails. Follow Let’s Ride-Perry Lake on Facebook.

Stay tuned for more events as they are scheduled.

**2022 Election of Officers:**

 Nominations: Pres - Tyler Gestl
 Vice-Pres – Rosie Sweeten
 Secretary – Cheryl Thomas
 Treasurer – Saundra Hiller

 Motion for unanimous ballot. Motion passed.

Next meeting of Sunflower BCHKS will be held at the Rockhaven Benefit Ride at Clinton Lake, April 29.

Meeting adjourned at 2pm.