**Sunflower BCHKS 4th Quarter Meeting
Four Corners Restaurant, Scranton
December 29, 2021
1pm**

Meeting brought to order at 1:14pm by President Rosie Sweeten.

**Attendance**: Rosie Sweeten, Diana Skinner, Sheila Watkins, Tyler Gestl, Jim & Cheryl Thomas, Georgia Hollis, Susan Lechtenberg, Guest Damon Fingerhut.

**Minutes**: Motion to dispense with reading of minutes made and passed.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Diana Skinner reported that there had been no change in balance since last meeting. Existing balance: $3,754.05.

**Old Business**:

* Santa Fe Trail Ride - Diana provided a report on the September 18 Flint Hills Trail Ride that celebrated the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail. It was a successful event with good planning, lots of community support, assistance from KDWP, and dedicated volunteers. Over 50 riders enjoyed the 10-mile ride and included a rider leading a pack horse and a carriage. There was a lot of positive feedback following the ride with several requests to make it an annual event. Copies of the followup article and photos will be available for the BCHKS Annual Meeting and for the Equifest booth.
* BCHKS led flashlights are being distributed to those paying 2022 dues. The flashlights will not be mailed but will be available for pickup at BCHKS meetings, events, and the Equifest booth.
* The new BCHKS Tuttle Creek Chapter is active with quarterly meetings and work days. A meeting has been held with the state park manager to discuss future plans for campground improvements.

**New Business**:

* Sunflower Chapter officers may serve an additional one-year term. President Rosie Sweeten, VP Tyler Gestl, and Treasurer Diana Skinner have agreed to stay in office for one more year. Cheryl Thomas accepted the nomination for Secretary. The slate of officers will be voted on at the first quarterly meeting of 2022. Rosie will schedule the first quarter meeting in February. Locations for the meeting were discussed.
* Equifest Booth, March 18-20, Salina – Pattie Stalder will chair the booth at Equifest; a signup sheet for workers will be available at the BCHKS Annual Meeting, January 22. Georgia Hollis volunteered to help at the booth. Diana has submitted the paperwork to Justine at the KHC; Sheila has submitted the $75 check for electricity for the weekend.
* Rosie reviewed the new Trails Advocate level of membership that allows membership in both BCHKS and KHC with one payment. There is a KHC discount for joining both organizations through the Trails Advocate level, and membership includes $1M in Equine Liability Insurance through KHC.

**Trail Reports**:

* Pomona – Jim reported for Susan Johnson. Ken and Susan have not been on the trails since the 80 mph windstorm went through. Anticipating trees down and welcome any help with clearing trails.
* Perry – Cheryl reported for Jo Turner.
	+ Park Manager Michelle Campbell retired effective December 1; her replacement has not been named yet.
	+ 2022 reservations for Wild Horse Campground will continue to be made by calling the office directly, 785-246-3449.
	+ The obstacle course, across from the Day Parking area, is complete with a variety of obstacles. Most of the materials were donated or salvaged. AHCA is planning an event for 2022.
	+ Park Staff is installing new split rail fence along entrance to Wild Horse Campground.
	+ A mounting block has been installed at Day Use area.
	+ Four new overflow pens have been set up at the north end of the campground.
	+ Even though the Annual Labor Day Fundraiser trail ride was rained out, the dinner and auction were still held. Of the $5,532 raised, $1,320 was paid to the caterer, leaving a net total of $4,212 for the Friends of Perry account. Next year’s annual benefit is scheduled for September 3.
	+ The 2nd Annual Moonlight Ride and Chili/Pie Supper was very successful with 40-50 riders. Next year’s event is scheduled for October 1, 2022.
	+ Regular trail and campground maintenance continues throughout the year.
	+ Cowboy Crossroads Church hosts a weekly ride every Thursday, weather permitting.
	+ New signs have been added by the Corps of Engineers at Thompsonville marking the equestrian parking area and horse crossings on the road.
* Eisenhower State Park –
	+ Jim and Cheryl reported lots of trees down on the trail following the 80 mph windstorm of a few weeks ago. Trees have been left weakened by the flooding of the past few years, and high winds are breaking and uprooting them.
	+ The fall benefit ride raised $3,245 for the Friends of ESP Horse account. New screenings were added to pens at West Point Campground. Jim has completed marking the new 1.5 mile Teddy Trail that extends north from Cowboy Camp, connecting with orange and blue trails at north end of park. It’s designated with white markers and follows a creek through the woods.
	+ Park Manager Dale Schweiger has recently retired. It is hoped that Ted Craig will move up to the park manager position.
	+ New for 2022 – West Point Campground sites on the north side of the equestrian campground loop will be restricted to horse camper reservations by calling the park office, 785-528-4102.
	+ Landon Trail – Rosie reported that the trail looks good. She is aware of one place with a tree down on the trail and will try to get that cleared. Screenings are in place from Overbrook to Michigan Valley. Rosie rides the trail regularly and will let others know when she plans to goes out, leaving from the Overbrook trailhead.
	+ Flint Hills Trail – FB reports that the trail has been cleared following the wind storms.
	+ Rockhaven Trails, Clinton Lake – Diana reported that trail conditions aren’t too bad following some trail clearing work. Conditions are similar to the other lakes with flood damaged trees weakened and coming down in high winds. The orange trail still needs a lot of work. She is available to work about any time and welcomes company!

Diana reported that BCHA is hosting free webinars. The next is scheduled for February 5 with the topic, Public Lands & Partnerships. She will provide info on how to register.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Submitted by Cheryl Thomas.