

**Sunflower BCHKS Quarterly Meeting
Perry State Park
September 1, 2023**

Meeting called to order by President Tyler Gestl at 7:05pm.

Minutes from the June 17 quarterly meeting were approved as read.

No change to Treasurer's Report. Current balance \$5,053.38.

National Director Report –

- Diana reported that e-bikes continue to be a hot topic. BCHA is leading the movement to control e-bikes access on public lands. Caution is urged in allowing e-bikes on non-motorized trails. An incident report will be available to report any negative interactions or issues.
- Youth Activity Grants are available through BCHA.
- National Meeting will be held in Casper, Wyoming, March 24-27, 2024.

Public Lands Liaison Report –

- Jim reported on the recent Northeast Regional BCHA Public Lands zoom meeting: There have been comments on Facebook concerned with trail closures in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. The only trails being closed by the US Forest Service are unauthorized trails that have been created near some private equestrian campgrounds.
- Several members of the public lands committee were interested in the BCHKS Fill-the-Campgrounds project this summer and requested more information.

Trail Reports –

- Perry – Ed reported that the tractor and mower are finally repaired and ready for use. Some parts of the Hickory Acres trails are being re-routed away from private property, due to dogs causing problems with riders on the trail along those property lines. Ed encouraged reporting any obstacles on the trail that cannot be ridden around to the park office.
- Clinton – Diana reported on the need for fall/winter work days. There are several trees down on Rockhaven trails, and parts of the orange trail still need to be rebuilt.
- Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake – Jim reported on several new trails north of Cowboy Camp that make use of those wooded areas. A new permanent round pen is nearing completion and will be dedicated to Paul Pingleton. Annual Eisenhower State Park Benefit Ride weekend is October 13-15.
- Pomona – no updates
- Landon Trail – Rosie is planning some fall workdays for trimming. Cheryl reported on issues with the parking area south of Topeka on 53rd St and trash, mattresses, broken furniture, tires being dumped there. Shawnee Co Refuse has been picking up the debris, when notified. The ditch between 53rd St and the parking area has been mowed recently,

and the parking area is now completely visible from the street. Hopefully, this will deter dumping.

Old Business –

- BCHKS Fill-the-Campground Campaign – Completed events include Milford State Park, Blackhawk Horse Camp at Pomona Lake, Lake Scott State Park, and Big Hill Lake. Hillsdale State Park will be Sept 23-24, and El Dorado State Park will be Oct 21-22. Participants are given a BCHA flashlight/key fob with a charm for each event attended.

New Business –

- Diana encouraged more Sunflower Chapter social or fun activities. One suggestion was 2024 Fill-the-Campground weekends at the parks in the Sunflower BCHKS region.
- 2024 Officers – All existing officers will complete their terms at the end of 2023. Elections for 2024 will take place at first quarter meeting of the year.
- American Trails Free Zoom Webinar *Tackling Mud and Erosion on Equestrian Trails*. Jim, Cheryl, Diana attended. Interesting points:
 - Approximately 7M horses in US, and over 3M are used for recreational riding (trail riding).
 - Water is trail enemy #1 – water that runs down trails and water that stands in low areas or rough and uneven areas.
 - Braided trails are the most damaging – trails that are created by going around muddy areas and creating trails off to the sides of existing trail (leads to more trail erosion).
 - Try to make stream crossings in rocky areas to avoid muddy banks on both sides of stream.
 - Geo grids and geo pavers – mud control grids made from 100% recycled plastic, help prevent erosion, interlocking to create stable structure. After BCHKS discussion on how geo grids might help on some of the trails in the Sunflower region, motion was made to purchase geo grids with a maximum expense of \$1,000. Motion passed. The grids will be shared among Perry, Pomona, Clinton, and Eisenhower and evaluated for effectiveness on fixing muddy and swampy areas on the trails.

The next meeting of Sunflower BCHKS will be Friday, October 13, 6pm, at the West Point Equestrian Campground, Eisenhower State Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.