

Sunflower Chapter Annual Meeting
TJ's Main Street Grill, Overbrook
January 27, 2024

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-President Rosie Sweeten at 11:17am. All attendees were asked to sign in.

Minutes from the September 1, 2023, meeting approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Actual report not available. Balance in September was \$4,912.38. Expenses included \$805.26 for geo grids for mud control. Current balance: \$4,107.12. Treasurer's Report was approved.

National Director Report: Diana Skinner will report at the Annual Meeting at 1pm.

Trails Updates:

- Perry – Jo Turner reported on a list of 2024 objectives developed with Park Manager Tristan LaRocque: Continue decommissioning old lagoon and replace with arena; create additional emergency entrances to trail system; new lime in pens; create reservable camping sites in primitive camp area; plant tree at every campsite; add connecting walking trail between new day parking area and bathroom at Hobie Cove area. Ed Jarvis added that there is a walking path to the Hobie Cove area. It was suggested that a 'No Horses Beyond this Point' sign be put up to discourage riding horses to the Hobie Cove area.
- Clinton – Work days will be planned to clear downed trees and to continue rebuilding the Orange Trail. The Clinton Corps of Engineers Park Manager has retired; Diana is not aware of replacement yet.
- Pomona – Rosie Sweeten and Jamie Studebaker reported that trails were in good shape leading up to Thanksgiving. Jamie plans to work on re-opening old Plummer's Creek trail and the old Sycamore Trail.
- Landon Trail – Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy board members are keeping the Overbrook to Michigan Valley mowed and maintained. Cheryl reported that for this next year, the board plans to focus on maintenance and upkeep on existing sections of Landon Trail, as they continue to raise funds and seek grants for completing additional sections.
- Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake – Jim reported that 2024 goals include providing shade for the middle pens in the West Point Campground. An additional overflow pen will be built near the west end of the horse camp area. Jim has received a lot of positive feedback on the new trails to the north. Park Manager Ted Craig added that this winter has been hard on hydrants and water lines. West Point Campground is usually open all winter; currently 5 campsites in the horse area still have functioning water hydrants. Ted also reported that he will be purchasing 2 ADA bathrooms on trailers; they will be available for special events and on loan to other state parks for events.

Old Business:

- National Dues Increase: BCHA is requesting a \$5 increase in national dues. BCHKS currently sends \$15/individual and \$18/family to the national office. There has not been a

dues increase at the national level since 2012. The Sunflower Chapter approved a motion to accept the \$5 dues increase to BCHA, effective 2025.

- Geo Grids – Jim reported that the geo grids ordered were not as expected and would not serve the anticipated purpose of repairing/reinforcing habitually muddy areas on trails. They are being returned, cost will be refunded. He is continuing to research best options.

New Business:

- 2023 Volunteer Hours Report – Cheryl reported on the 2023 Volunteer Hours report sent to BCHA. BCHKS contributed 3,214 hours in 2023, with a value of \$195,655. Since 2014, BCHKS has contributed 29,538 hours, with a value of \$1,902,543! This information is shared with local public land managers, legislators, and KDW&P officials and continues help promote positive partnerships.
- Chapter Support Grants – Application period is open for BCHA Chapter Support Grants until March 1. Grants are available from \$100-\$1,000. Chapter officers can provide assistance with application. BCHKS has received several of these grants in the past.
- BCHKS 10-Year Anniversary – Anniversary celebration will include selling raffle tickets to win a new saddle. Winner will be drawn at the 10th Anniversary Jamboree, April 19-21, Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake. Make campsite reservations by calling 785-528-4102. Winner does not have to be present to win. Raffle tickets are available now. Use the QR Code on the website or contact an officer to purchase tickets.
- Equifest of Kansas, March 14-17, Salina – BCHKS booth will be in main lobby of Tony's Pizza Event Center. Volunteers needed to help with booth, Thursday-Saturday.
- National BCHA Meeting, March 24-27, Casper, WY. Registration is open.
- 2024 Calendar of Events includes (flyers available soon at kansashorsecouncil.com/Events):
 - April 19-21 – BCHKS 10-Year Celebration, Eisenhower State Park
 - April 27-28 – Annual Spring Benefit Ride, Kanopolis State Park
 - August 31 – Annual Perry Benefit Ride Weekend, Perry State Park
 - October 11-13 – Annual Eisenhower State Park Benefit Ride Weekend
 - October 19 – Annual Perry State Park Moonlight Ride and Chili/Pie Supper
- Election of 2024 Sunflower Chapter Officers: Motion passed to accept slate of officers as presented – Dewayne Burgess, President; Jim Thomas; Vice-President; Jamie Studebaker, Secretary; Diana Skinner, Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm.

Cheryl Thomas, Sunflower Chapter Secretary