Back Country Horsemen of America, Kansas

Minutes from fall meeting 11/4/17

Meeting called to order by Chair Diana Skinner at 1206.

Attended by Diana Skinner, Pat Lysinger, Cheryl Thomas, Jim Thomas, Ted Craig, Steve Lindsey, Priscilla Lindsey and Erin Glassman. Minutes recorded by Erin Glassman

No old minutes available to read.

Treasurer report: Steve Lindsey. Rec’d $500 Donation from disbanding of the Saddle Ridge club from Paola with request of funds being used towards Hillsdale Lake.

$3303.99 in balance, available funds $1240.61 due to funds set aside for the $500 on Hillsdale donation, $243 for sign account, $570 for Tri-trails and a grant for Scott Lake of $750. Steve set a long term goal of being able to help our national board members with more expenses than just the registration fees for attending national BCHA convention.

Regional Reports:

Southeast given by Steve Lindsey—Big Hill’s grant for work on shelter house and corrals at north and south parks has gone through the system and more work should be done over the winter with a lot of help from Susan Searle, Marsha and David Hayes and Bill Racy.

Southcentral by Erin Glassman—Talk has been made for some trails at Cheney lake and Steve Lindsey has met with the park manager to discuss that. Further meetings are required. People from Pawnee Prairie have made more requests to Steve regarding their trails—no current BCHK membership from this group and decisions have been made by Wichita management agencies; discussion made that at this point it would not be a good allocation of resources to do any further groundwork at this park.

West by Pat Lysinger—parts of Scott Lake trails are covered in trees and discussion was made to try to get a work day together to reopen trails. Work on a horse camp there is on hold at this time. A meeting was held with the Grasslands manager Lance Bower with the USFS and a serious evaluation of trails and facilities was made and has been turned over to consideration with the recreation department. They have also received a $50,000 grant from national Parks and some of it will be dedicated to horse trails. It may not be a quick action due to having an interim director in place; Steve and Priscilla Lindsey were able to attend a partner group luncheon and make connection with several important figures in grassland management both locally and nationally, many of whom were familiar with BCHA.

North Central by Priscilla Lindsey/Steve Lindsey and Erin Glassman—A lot of work has been done by BCHK members Olivia Huddleston and Kira and Luc Valentin, will urge that hours are recorded and submitted. Richard and Tracy McIntosh held a benefit ride at Kanopolis and have raised funds for more pens there. Erin has spent some volunteer time at Kanopolis; due to heavy traffic continued problem areas exist and plans are made to do a trail survey and identify problem areas and create a project list to hold more work days next year.

Northeast by Diana Skinner and Cheryl Thomas—Clinton Lake’s fundraiser benefit ride was the last weekend of Sept and brought in around $2000; they had lots of windstorms and over 300 hours of labor was put in at the park despite Diana’s injuries. An appreciation dinner was held for workers. Next year’s benefit will be held the 2nd weekend of April and plans are made to send some of the funding to BCHK. Perry Lake has had tons of work done and has a very active friends group. Of note, the USACOE has turned over all horse trail management to Michelle with the State park. Eisenhower made $5600 from its benefit ride and its auction was a big money raiser. Ted Craig discussed the Rail Trail and that there are some areas that have been improved, but those are patchy. Currently work is being done near Admire and they have received around $2 million dollars to continue on improvements. He sees the possibility of it becoming a state park and encouraged horse people to attend meetings in order not to get shut out of the trail system.

Cheryl Thomas said that the new Kansas trails guide should be done by Equifest 2018. Trails at Lacygne are in good shape but need to be marked.

Old Business: bylaw changes were discussed regarding regional representatives and changing from one rep and one alternate to two representatives. It was discussed that we should leave the elections on alternating years for each of those. Steve Lindsey discussed changing from a regional model to one of multiple chapters within the state to reflect areas that had trails more closely and to hopefully promote increased membership and participation. Chapters would need to be set up with bylaws; Steve thought that the change would not make a significant impact on the state organization. It would take 25 people to form a chapter. Erin Glassman suggesting cutting the number of regions to two (east and west) from the current six to simplify. Discussion was made to have spotlight postings on Facebook about the benefits of membership along with a spotlight of our state trails to help encourage membership; face to face recruitment was also discussed.

Steve Lindsey discussed ordering more high-vis safety vests, a dozen will cost around $250, for advertising and safety visibility. Diana Skinner called for a motion, made by Jim Thomas and was seconded by Erin Glassman. All were in favor by vote and the motion passed.

Volunteer hours need to be turned into Marleen.

New business: Equifest booth—Steve has contracted the booth for the same location as last year and he will manage the booth.

Elections for officers are coming up; Erin Glassman will run for Chair, Diana Skinner will run for Vice Chair. Steve will continue to hold the Treasurer position and if Marleen Parker is ok with retaining the Secretary position, the ballot will be as such. Erin and Diana will work on nominating people for the regional directorships. Current Regional directors are: SE Susan Searle and Marsha Hayes, SC Erin Glassman and Kate Jacob, NE Cheryl Thomas and Carol Retzer, NW Pat Lysinger and Tamara Andre, NC Priscilla Lindsey and Marla Stucky, SW Joyce Adams and Debbie Payne.

Annual meeting will be held the 3rd weekend of March and Erin Glassman volunteered to organize it. Ideas were discussed for a few venues as well as having an entertaining speaker.

Discussion was made on having a ride on the Rail to Trail starting at Carol Retzers and inviting upper management to gain horse riders perspectives.

Ken and Susan Johnson have requested help at Pomona Lake and it was discussed that they need to identify projects and then set up work days with specific tasks, much like Diana Skinner has her work days set up.

Reminder was made to sign up BCHK for the annual Dillon’s benefit money.

Call for motion for adjournment made by Diana Skinner, motion made by Steve Lindsey and seconded by Jim Thomas. Voted unanimously for approval by attendees.