**BCHKS Sunflower Annual Meeting
Green Acres Restaurant, Vassar
January 17, 2021, 1 pm**

Call to order by President Rosie Sweeten at 1pm.

Minutes approved from February 8, 2020, meeting. Minutes from today’s meeting will be posted on the *Sunflower Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Kansas* Facebook page.

Treasurer’s Report was reviewed by Diana. Current balance $2,595.82. Treasurer’s Report was approved.

**Lake Reports:**

Perry State Park – Diana referred to the summary of 2020 projects and work completed posted by Jo Turner.

Clinton Lake – Diana reported on several work days. Screenings were purchased and spread in pens, new markers purchased through BCHA grant are being posted on trails, a picnic table was added to the Homestead area, and the shade shelter was moved to the pens at the south end. Work has been started on reclaiming and clearing the orange trail, which suffered significant damage in the 2019 flooding. High winds have toppled some large trees on blue and yellow trails, and chainsaws will be needed to clear them.

Pomona – Several work days and debris cleanup on trails that were underwater most of 2019. The far west loop needs significant clearing; the trails on the south side need clearing and marking.

Eisenhower State Park – Work days cleared debris from trails that were under water in 2019. Screenings have been added to about half of the pens. Work continues on the Teddy Trail, which will connect Cowboy Camp to the blue trail on the north. Sunflower BCHKS members assisted with hosting and guiding the Best of America by Horseback ride in June.

Landon Trail – Sunflower BCHKS members joined hikers and cyclists on several work days extending the Landon Trail to the south toward Michigan Valley.

**National Director Report** (Diana):

* The BCHA Annual Meeting will be held in Kansas City in April. There is no charge to attend and sit in on meetings. Registration is charged for meetings involving meals. Dates and topics will be posted. Hot topics continue to be (1) sharing trails with e-bikes and (2) non-equestrian campers in equestrian campgrounds.
* The BCHA grant application period is open Jan. 1-March 15. These grants are awarded in amounts from $100-$1,000 and are easy to apply for. BCHKS has received several in the past. Go to bcha.org/grants/ to find the online application.
* At a recent Kansas Trails Council board meeting, Diana and Jim shared the summary of BCHKS volunteer trail work hours for 2020. KTC continues to be impressed by the volunteer contributions equestrians are making on Kansas public trails and have offered assistance with big projects.

**Old Business**:

Updated information from the park ranger at Rockhaven Park is that the campground will remain open. Diana will schedule several Fill the Campground weekends during 2021.

Trail markers purchased through a BCHA grant last year are being used at Clinton, Eisenhower, and Thompsonville. Diana is considering purchasing additional markers with arrows from BCHKS funds to be used wherever needed.

FLAT Reception in Lawrence and Sunflower Trails Appreciation Days both canceled for 2021.

Santa Fe Trail Celebration – BCHKS will host a trail ride on September 18 on the Flint Hills Trail from Bushong to Council Grove in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. Several activities are scheduled in Council Grove that weekend in conjunction with the Voices of the Wind Pageant. BCHKS will serve breakfast to trail ride participants at the Bushong trailhead and help transport trailers to the end of the trail in Council Grove. There will be no charge for the ride; free will donations will be accepted to offset costs for breakfast and fuel for trailer transport.

A Venmo account has been set up for BCHKS.

**New Business**:

Stephanie Huss will plan the BCHKS booth at Equifest and will be asking for volunteer help at the booth. A motion was made and approved to order promotional pens for Equifest giveaways. The pens will be imprinted with BCHKS and the website on them. Cheryl will ensure that trail books are provided for the booth.

Motion approved to keep the current slate of Sunflower officers for 2021. Tyler Gestl announced plans to run for Sunflower president in 2022.

2021 BCHKS officers will be elected at the annual meeting in February. Proposed ballot: Stephanie Huss, Chair; Marsha Hayes, Vice Chair; Erin Glassman, Secretary, and Sheila Watkins, Treasurer, still have a year in their terms. One of the two national director positions is open; Joyce Adams is a possible candidate, with Angie Valentine-Rohlman as Alternate.

BCHKS bylaws have been updated and will be approved at the state meeting. It’s likely the state board meeting will be conducted by zoom.

Adjourned at 2pm.