**SUNFLOWER CHAPTER BCHKS ANNUAL MEETING
12:30 pm, February 8, 2020
Green Acres Restaurant, Vassar**

Meeting was brought to order by President Diana Skinner. Minutes from the January 26, 2019, were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Beginning balance $1,108.13 Sheila Watkins, Treasurer
 2019 Dues +1,370.00
 Merch Sales +67.00
 Clinton Benefit +1,128.00
 Donation +50.00
 Printing -392.16
 State/Natl Dues Pmt -610.00

 Ending balance $2,720.97

Treasurer’s Report approved.

Lake Reports:

Perry State Park – Dewayne Burgess reported that there is some final work to be done on the bathroom and shelter house. Hoping to get water repaired next week. The septic field needs finishing, and plans are to build a fire ring and a concrete pad for a large donated grill. Jo Turner shared a draft of the Perry Shelter House Dedication Event, June 6. After discussion, plans for that day will include a registration fee that will cover catered lunch and help offset concrete costs. It was also decided to make this a one-day event, eliminating the need to provide Sunday am breakfast. A BCHKS meeting will be scheduled after the event schedule. Work days will be scheduled, and Ed Jarvis added that the trails are currently closed due to muddy conditions.

Clinton Lake – Diana reported that the campground fared well following last summer’s flooding. Some of the trails were under water until December 15. The lower orange trail will probably not be reopened this year due to debris and damage and is being relocated in some places. Priority maintenance will be on the upper blue and middle yellow trails. A grant has been submitted to BCHA for new all-weather (and squirrel proof) trail markers. Those grants will not be announced until late March or April. MODTRA has a ride scheduled for April and wanted trail markers in place; Diana spent $500 for 1,000 markers and will be reimbursed if the grant is approved. If the grant is not approved, Sunflower BCHKS will be asked to cover the purchase. MODTRA reps will help put the markers up. Diana has learned from the Corps of Engineers that Rockhaven Park may be closed if occupancy doesn’t increase. The Corps shows an occupancy rate of 6% for the past several years and wants it up to 20%. Another consideration would be finding someone to take over management/ maintenance of the campground. They will be making some changes to Rockhaven by reducing the number of campsites. All reservations will go through reservation.gov; that site is currently being updated and not ready for use yet. The camping fee will be increased slightly. Diana encouraged equestrians to support this park to keep it open. Berry Bend, Truman Lake, Missouri, was the only other federal equestrian campground in this Corp’s district, and it was closed last year. Trails and day parking would remain open. Work days will be scheduled.

Pomona Lake – Ken & Susan Johnson reported that trails are wet and muddy but came through the flooding in fairly good shape. There is debris on the lower trails, but it’s small enough to provide a mulch-like surface. They have discovered glass bottles buried beneath the mulch. Markers will need to be replaced. Ken plans to get out on the trails as much as possible in the next few weeks to prepare for the Meals on Wheels Ride, April 4, and would welcome help. The Corps has talked about organizing a work day on the trails, but nothing specific has been scheduled.

Pomona State Park – Ted Craig, Asst Manager of Eisenhower and Pomona State Parks, reported that a campground is under construction at Pomona State Park for users of the Flint Hills Trail and will include 5 equestrian sites with pens. There are still some issues with easement connecting a trail from the state park to the FHT trailhead; the shoulder along K368 Hwy may be widened to accommodate trail users. A KHC/BCHKS ride is scheduled for April 25; riders will meet at Pomona State Park and ride a section of the Flint Hills Trail.

Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake – Ted Craig and Jim Thomas reported that lower trails were under water most of the summer, and one of the crossings needs rebuilt. There are funds available to add two additional permanent pens to West Point; Ted also continues to purchase additional panels each year for temporary pens for large events. RFD-TV *Best of America by Horseback* has a weekend ride scheduled for June 19-21. The event will be televised for viewing at a future date. Anyone who does not get RFD-TV can go to the *Best of America by Horseback* website to view programs.

Flint Hills and Landon Trails – continue to be issues with trails being used and damaged while muddy. Rosie Sweeten asked about having signs made to post at trailheads. It was felt that educating trail users through social media continues to raise awareness, and that posting signs probably would not prevent those few irresponsible trail users from misusing the trail.

Old Business:

* Cheryl Thomas shared the 2019 Summary of Volunteer Work Hours. Hours are turned in to BCHA, and Jim shares them with public lands managers in Kansas.
* Diana asked for thoughts on setting up a Sunflower BCHKS Facebook page. After discussion, news and work days will continue to be shared on the BCHKS page as well as other local pages for each lake.
* The BCHA National Meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO, April 20-22, at the Embassy Suites near the airport. Diana doesn’t think there is any cost to attend meetings only; there would be a registration fee for meetings that include a meal. She will share more info as it becomes available.

New Business:

* Diana reminded members to get 2020 dues paid to Sunflower Chapter BCHKS. She challenged each member to get a friend to join.
* Kansas Horse Council and BCHKS will host a Friday evening welcome and meal at the *Best of America by Horseback* ride at Eisenhower, June 19. Sunflower chapter members are encouraged to attend Friday evening to visit and promote Kansas trail riding. Tentative plans include providing a taco bar and desserts.
* Equifest of Kansas, March 6-8, Salina. BCHKS will have a booth; members attending would be welcome to spend a little time helping at the booth.
* Rockhaven Benefit Ride will be Saturday, May 2. Attendees are welcome to spend weekend; organized rides, meal, and activities will be Saturday. The quarterly Sunflower Chapter BCHKS meeting will be Friday evening.
* Sunflower Trails Appreciation Day, State Capitol, Jan 30. Several Sunflower chapter members represented BCHKS with opportunities to visit and network with other trail associations and organizations across the state.
* The 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail will be celebrated in 2021. There was discussion of a possible promotional trail ride.
* Election of Officers - all positions are expiring. Diana asked for nominations. Thank you to the following for volunteering for a 2020 office: Rosie Sweeten, President; Tyler Gestl, Vice President; Diana Skinner, Treasurer; Jim Thomas, Secretary. Sheila Watkins will run for state treasurer for 2020.
* Kathy Rakestraw asked if it was permissible to take atv with cart out on trails for cleanup and maintenance. It is usually allowed on scheduled work days or with permission of park manager.
* Discussion on purchasing a brush cutter/clearing saw, similar to Rockhaven’s triminator, for use by Sunflower Chapter. Motion made and seconded to allow up to $500 for purchase of the machine and safety equipment. Continued discussion included replenishing treasury as funds are spent and where equipment would be housed. Sheila suggested having a Sunflower BCHKS benefit ride/event every year rotating to the various lakes in our chapter. Ken Johnson offered to keep the equipment at Pomona. Delbert Skinner suggested replacing the existing blade with carbide. After discussion, the motion passed to allow $500 for the purchase of the brush cutter and safety equipment. Diana and Jim will check with Mike Goodwin, Kansas Trails Council, for advice on where to purchase.
* Diana suggested taking a look at the Wisconsin BCHA page for ideas for events to promote BCHA.
* Kathy Rakestraw, Ada Eldridge, Amy Bermudez offered to serve as a Sunflower Chapter Activity Committee and will plan an event at Rockhaven.
* Be watching for work day postings on Facebook.

Meeting adjourned.