# Back Country Horsemen of America

### **National Directors Meeting Notes**

June 26, 2024, at 5:00PM. PST Zoom Video/Call

### Welcome introduction from the Chairman.

The meeting started at 5:04PM. Introduction from the Chairman. Chairman went over the Executive Committee Meeting last night.

### **Financials**

- Balance Sheet 1<sup>st</sup> month of the fiscal year.
  - The treasurer provided the bank account balances, investment account (only show the amount invested) investment values provided, and the CD balances.
  - Total Assets provided.
  - o Liabilities and description of the liabilities provided.
- Budget vs. Acutual
  - o On target with the budget passed during the National Board Meeting.

Asked if there were any questions on financials, no questions were presented.

### **Public Lands**

The chairman and public lands director attended the American Horse Council annual meeting in Washington DC.

AHC and partners included Volunteer Drivers Tax bill in their asks/visits Congress during Capitol Hill visits.

Randy and Mark discussed the events of the week and who they were able to talk to, including Sen. Klobuchar's office on the tax bill and Sen. (Chairman) Wyden of the Finance Committee. Unlikely that tax bill would advance this year, but important to Senator for next year. Sen. Merkley's office suggested that trails coalition request data on FS hiring/retention/housing challenges in lieu of his asking for a Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) investigation, which could take 2+ years. Mark met with MT congressional delegation and both he and Randy met with a senior BLM recreation official to discuss e-bike authorizations and recreation-related appropriations.

Bikes in Wilderness Bill has been submitted again (S.4561). Click Link Below to Review

https://www.lee.senate.gov/2024/6/lee-introduces-trio-of-bills-defending-access-to-public-lands Although unlikely to pass this Congress, we must continue to sound off on its dangerous precedent.

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See the links to the documents below.

**Economic Impact** 

Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Farm Credit

Habitation License to Operate Thrive and Equine Welfare Slides

Legislative and Regulatory Update Slides

**Equine Assisted Services Slides** 

UHC and EWDC 2024 Annual Meeting Slides

Regulatory Playbook Slides

Regulatory Issues Panel Discussion Manure Management

### **Updates:**

- Adding additional emails to the email list. We are only able to use a primary email per family at this time. (One email per family).
- Membership: How are chapters/states doing with their membership? States suggested at the National Board meeting they would be able to increase membership to justify the dues increase to the budget.
- Montana: Lower in membership but too soon to tell how the year will end up.
- Wyoming: Suggested that some chapters are being rude to potential and new members, please be kind to new members.
- North Carolina: A private survey was sent to find out why members are not joining or renewing. The majority state they don't due to bikes overrunning the trails, not seeing BCH as doing much to help, and bickering.
- Colorado is adding a chapter, but a couple chapters are struggling.
- Iowa: Membership down, people just don't know who they are or what they do. No national forests. In a monthly meeting with Iowa DNR.
- Alaska: A modest increase in membership.

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- Georgia: Non-members are seeking a fun group of riding activities all the time and not necessarily trail work.
- Illinois: Worked with the forest service and other groups which got their name out there and created recognition for what they are doing. Don't be afraid to reach out to hiker groups, for example to work with them. And host or attend other events by other organizations.
- We do have funds for youth grants if you are targeting youth to get involved.
- Missouri: Put on a program for the Core of Engineers and passed out information on BCHA to people from different states. Some were asking how they can get a chapter in their state.

### **Boot Poll**

52% No, 26% yes, 22% I might

# Youth Grant Program

Youth Grants are still available, please let your chapters know to apply.

The meeting ended at 5:43PM Pacific Time. Next meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at 5:00PM Pacific Time