



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28th, 2024, at 5:00 PST

Zoom: [Click here to access meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 826 5123 7781 Passcode: 259098

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:14PM

Agenda

A few items about saw training will be added.

Minutes: Approve April 2024 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Stifel Investments

- Curtis Finnicum from Stifel Investment provided a portfolio review.
- Just now starting to see some account growth, the last few years have been really hard with the rates rising, looking forward to interest rates being cut. Tried to be more conservative and focus on income.
- Provided an overview of the types of investments.
 - Fixed incomes; A lot of this in high yield.
 - High Yields
 - Preferreds
 - US Large Cap Equity.
 - Multi Asset Equity Class
- Performance is increasing, recovering from the multiple times Feds raised interest rates.

Financial Reports – April 2024

Treasurer presented the April 2024 financial reports.

The fiscal year ended at the end of April.

Balance Sheet

Bank account including CD balances provided.

Liabilities including credit card, Equisure and total current liabilities provided.

Budget vs. Actual

At the end of the fiscal year, we are right on target.

Some of the expenditures were lower.

End of year net operating revenue provided.

Discussion: The investment account balances for the fiscal year end. The balance sheet reflects the invested amount, not the value.

Motion to approve the April financials as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

Randy sent the public lands report to EC to be read in his absence.



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Letter to Congress on Enhanced Funding for Recreation

BCHA joined partners, led by the Outdoor Alliance, in an appropriations request to Congress to fully fund both BLM and US Forest Service recreation programs in Fiscal Year 2025. The coalition request seeks \$100 million for BLM Recreation Resources Management and \$70 million for USFS Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness, with a commensurate increase to National Forest System salaries and expenses.

The letter provides ample justification of the need for these budget increases. It also points out that funding currently available via the Great American Outdoors Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act represent long-needed investments to maintain agency recreational facilities, yet the letter points out that these short-term funding streams must not be considered a substitute for fully funding these agencies year-in, year-out.

The letter sent to House appropriators can be found [here](#).

The letter to Senate appropriators can be found [here](#).

NWSA Forest Service Trail Grants

BCHA was represented among a six-organization grant review team that scored 48 grant applications submitted for the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance's (NWSA's) annual Trail Stewardship Partner Program. This year, the grant program awarded 16 non-profit organizations a total of \$215,000 intended primarily to address the Forest Service trail maintenance backlog. Two BCH chapters were awarded grants this cycle (CA San Joaquin-Sierra Unit, CA Sierra Freepackers Unit).

Two 2024 grant recipients, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation and New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, included innovative funding mechanisms to reimburse pack support provided by BCHA volunteers.

The grant program began in 2017 and is a direct result of BCHA's five-year effort to shape and see enacted into law the 2016 National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (Trails Act).

During the last eight years, the grant program has awarded a total of \$2.3 million to trail steward organizations.

Committee Updates

The education committee had a call last week, first call. They discussed numerous topics and got a little bit into Light on Land. A pack trip using Light on the Land having a pack trip in the Bob (Montana) by Mack and Connie Long.



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Chapter Support Grants, Current chairman is Connie Long. There are too many people on the committee, they have 7 and there should be only 5.

Youth Membership Scholarship

Greg Schatz sent out a white paper regarding the youth membership scholarship.

What are we trying to accomplish with this we don't already have covered? To offset the cost of membership.

After lengthy discussion, Greg withdrew this proposal.

Suggested that maybe this can be done in a different way such as using the mileage to increase the fun for young people to come to projects. The goal is a good one but come up with better tools to use it for.

Updates from the Chairman

Smoke Elser Book "Hush on the Land", Smoke did a book reading in Great Falls and they gained two members who were at the reading. Smoke asked if it was ok if he did zoom meetings to BCH members, wants to limit it to about 25 people on the call because he likes to have conversations during the call. Discussion: this would be a good idea.

We are going to move forward with this.

Saw Training: Mark was at the Northern Rockies doing saw training. Wilderness skills in two places in the US. Montana and Northern Carolina. 150 in attendance and 51 came for crosscut training. OSHA stated all sawing needs to wear a hard hat, but they don't recognize crosscut saw. So, the question is do you need to wear a hard hat during crosscut sawing. Do they recognize axes? No, OSHA does not recognize an ax. Further discussion on how the training went for the week.

Michelle asked to leave the meeting, 😞

Next Meeting: June 25th, 2024

National Directors Call Tomorrow June 26th, 2024

Adjourn

In attendance: Mark Himmel, Kathy Young, Jim Allen, Brad Pollman, Sherry Copeland, Greg Schatz, Heather Cox, Dana Chambers, Craig Ferdig

Absent: Randy Rasmussen

Staff: Michelle Wade