



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27th, 2024, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 850 4219 4601 Passcode: 565007

Welcome & Introductions

Called to order at 5:02PM Pacific Time

Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

Minutes: Approve July 2024 Minutes

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

Motion passed.

Financial Reports – July 2024

- Financial reports presented by Treasurer/Executive Administrator.
- Provided the Balance sheet and Budget Vs Actual

Financial reports accepted as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

Invitation to assist development of Forest Service trail planning tool

Randy, among other stakeholders within the regional trails community, received an invitation from FS Region 6 (Pacific NW) to provide input on a grant proposal to assist the agency in their development of a “data-driven trails assessment and planning model” that might be applied to the 17 National forests in Oregon and Washington. The proposal, which is due Sept 30, could be used by forest officials to “more effectively plan and manage trails for diverse users taking an integrated approach to physical, ecological, socio-economic factors.” It is unknown if the proposal will secure funding or whether this project, if funded, would serve as a pilot or model to be used in other FS regions in the future.

E-bikes and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), US Forest Service

The LTBMU expects to release soon its Final EA and draft decision for the Basin Wide (e-bike) Trails Assessment, which would authorize the use of Class 1 e-bikes on over 106 miles of currently non-motorized trails that circumnavigate Lake Tahoe and connect lakeside communities. Members of local BCH chapters (both CA and NV) generally do not use the crowded trails located in the Basin, preferring instead to ride in the adjacent high Sierras, its wilderness areas, the Pacific Crest Trail and Tahoe Rim Trail. Nonetheless, the draft EA was highly flawed, biased toward e-bike use, and as such could be used by other national forests as



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27th, 2024, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 850 4219 4601 Passcode: 565007

a model for shoe-horning in e-bike use on non-motorized trails. BCHA will monitor this development and may choose to weigh in with allies who choose to object to the EA's approval.

State of Utah lawsuit to wrestle away ownership of BLM public lands

As noted in an email circulated to EC members on Aug. 23rd, the State of Utah is asking the US Supreme Court to allow the State to control 18.5 million acres of BLM lands (or 34% of land in Utah). Legal scholars state that the lawsuit has virtually no chance of success. *Note: BCHA passed national resolutions in 2015 and 2016 voicing its opposition to the transfer or sale of federal public lands to the states or private entities.*

Bikes in Wilderness bill (S. 4561)

Rod Player secured the approval of all 11 BCH Utah chapter presidents to sign onto a letter to Senator Lee expressing opposition to his bikes-in-wilderness bill. AHC hopes that the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable will sign onto a similar letter or submit one on behalf of their members organizations.

Southern Appalachian Watershed Resiliency project, US Forest Service

Randy Brown did an excellent job coordinating with BCH chapters in the five states where the FS has proposed to update Forest Plans to include emphasis on watershed health and resiliency. Each submitted public comment letters expressing their interest in engaging with the agency to identify trails important to equestrians, including currently unsanctioned "legacy" trails, and to develop an approach to formalize important trails while working with the agency to retire and restore unsustainable trails that threaten watershed health. BCHA intends to hold a series of webinars or workshops to better prepare affected chapters for such dialogue and related actions.

Updates from the Chairman

National Challenge Cost Share: It was passed to the National Forest Service; it was not approved. Trying to figure out how to circle back around, need a pilot program on a smaller scale and Saw training was suggested. They liked that idea, but the location has not been announced at this time. So, the funds may be coming out of the Saw program from the Forest Service.

- SAW- Saw training was in Durango, Colorado in August. This was completely new to Colorado who didn't believe volunteers could accomplish this. Approval from the forest



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

August 27th, 2024, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 850 4219 4601 Passcode: 565007

service was provided. The training was successful with members from several different chapters.

Proposing a sawyer committee. Chairman can see this going further and would like to get a handle on this ahead of time.

- Registration Fees: NBM registration fees are increasing to help cover costs.

Next Meeting: August 27th, 2024

National Directors Call Tomorrow September 26th, 2024

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:15PM Pacific Time

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

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Meeting URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85042194601?pwd=UDLNavDUQkKcSnBDem8QB4LDR71jAX.>