

### Meeting began at 5:01PM

#### Financial Report

- o Account balances provided.
- Investment account values and fees provided.
- o Donations provided.
- Museum donations Pending a couple checks coming in the mail, we have met our goal.
- Dues notices are going out on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mid-year budget projections provided pending membership dues income.

### **Public Lands**

Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Travel Management Rule (TMR)

Withdrawal: There are no major developments on this topic the past month (see Mid-October Public Lands Report on the origins and importance of this new and critical issue). The new Chief of the Forest Service confirmed that his agency would soon be initiating a rulemaking process to repeal the TMR. Randy participated in biweekly zoom meetings with the coalition that is preparing a public campaign in defense of the TMR. He has joined their communications subgroup and will continue to promote and underscore the message concerning trail conflict and horseback rider safety associated with motorized uses on trails.

Border Lands Conservation (Devastation) Act (S.2967): As introduced by Utah's Senator Lee in October, this bill represents a threat to all national parks and Wilderness areas located up to or more than 100 miles from either the Canadian or Mexican border. It would amend the 1964 Wilderness Act to allow for the Department of Homeland Security to conduct patrols using motorized vehicles, including cars, airplanes and boats, and "deploy tactical infrastructure," which the bill defines as "infrastructure for the detection of illegal southern border and northern border crossing, including observation points, remote video surveillance



systems, motion sensors, vehicle barriers, fences, roads, bridges, drainage and detection devices."

If passed, the bill would threaten millions of federal acres along both US borders, in order to protect those lands from what Sen. Lee describes as "environmental destruction" resulting from illegal immigration. The legislation defines "covered federal land" as any federal land "located in a unit, or in a portion of a unit, or within 1 or more parcels of land that shares an exterior boundary with the southern border or northern border." Conceivably, that could include the entire Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, for example, despite any record of, need or ability of access by illegal immigrants. The bill currently has eight Senate co-sponsors.

Partnership for the National Trails System, National Trails Workshop: Randy traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to represent BCHA in this annual workshop. Workshop participants discussed threats to the National Trails System, including critical "gaps" where congressionally designated national scenic and historic trails traverse state and private lands, and how work with private landowners and local/state governments has yielded positive benefits for trails via agreements to facilitate public access or construct workarounds that allow for contiguous passage by trail users.

PNTS provided a scholarship, furnished by the <u>Foundation for America's Public</u> <u>Lands</u>, of up to \$1,500 for BCHA travel costs related to the workshop (i.e., airfare, conference hotel, meals, etc.).

Minnesota has signed a MOU with the DNRC.

#### Committees

**Saw** – Chaiman thanked Mark for all of his efforts on the sawyer program. Michelle will be inputting the sawyer information into the USFS database. During the Missouri training, 19 attended with multiple certifications. USFS was very impressed with how the saw training ran.



The next training will take place in Colorado, but the exact location has not been determined.

**Museum** – There will be a sign in front by the corral with our information on it. They will also hand out brochures for BCHA. There will be a group of people who will work on the brochure specifically for the museum.

**Fundraising** – The Giving Tuesday "Giving Trails Day" began today, Giving Tuesday is December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please push this out beyond our membership, forward to all your contacts. Donations are going toward operations. If you have a short video, please send them to Tif to use in the Giving Tuesday eblasts.

**Volunteer Hours** – Put hours that are related to things like replacing toilet paper rolls should go under recon. Scenic trails have been added to the report so please report on those hours.

**Education** – National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance has asked Colleen to do a webinar on "Light on the Land".

**Chapter Support Grant –** The chapter support grants will be open the beginning of January.

**Youth Grants** – There has not been many applications, reminder to National Directors to get their chapters to apply for them.

#### **National Board Meeting**

There will be some cuts to the budget. The EC voted to remove food for volunteers, non-director expenses and committee chair expenses. We are looking at cost-cutting avenues for future events, a sustainable plan.

The budget cuts will not balance this budget but bring them closer to where it should be.

Comment: In the past, we attempted to make the NBM a wash, money out, money in. This is tough to do anymore. We would like the National Directors to discuss at the next meeting a new line item in the budget for BCHA expense in addition to NBM expense line item.



**Meetings –** No National Director Call in December. Next meeting is January 28, 2026.