



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Final

September 22, 2025, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 817 5603 0264 Passcode: 568627

Welcome & Introductions

Called to order at 5:01PM Pacific Time

Agenda

Chairman went over the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Minutes: August 2025

Any discussion regarding the meeting minutes for August, no discussion.

Motion to accept the August 2025 minutes as presented, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Financial Reports – August 2025

Balance Sheet

- Treasurer provided the balances of all accounts.
- Line 1500 is the 2027 National Board Meeting deposit.
- Stifel account values provided.
- Youth grants paid out were provided.

Budget Vs. Actual

- Public Lands travel has increased due to the PNTS event coming up. PNTS will pay up to \$1500 in travel expenses. Randy commented the trip may be a couple hundred dollars more than what PNTS will pay. PNTS will mail a check payable to BCHA to reimburse, and the remainder will come out of Randy's travel budget.
- CD's – They will renew at the end of the month.
- Discussion: There may be some high yield savings account that matches the CD rates.
- Treasurer will look into high yield saving account and if a good deal is present, we will forward the information to the EC.
- Donation income provided.

Motion to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

Randy will be providing a public Lands report on the 15th of each month.

Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service Roadless Rule Withdrawal: After two discussions with BCHA Public Lands regional co-chairs and as directed by the chairman, Randy crafted a public comment letter in response to the Secretary of Agriculture's announcement to eliminate the US Forest Service Roadless Rule. The Rule currently protects about 58 million acres of national forest lands from most new road building and commercial timber harvesting, although it includes exceptions particularly for forest



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restoration and wildfire prevention and remediation efforts. The Secretary's announcement kicked off a 3-week public comment period as per the agency's Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on the proposal.

Chairman commented he wants to support partners but also wants BCHA to stand out, be unique. This is the direction he has been giving to Randy.

BCHA's comment letter emphasized that current Roadless Areas provide exceptional backcountry recreational opportunities and requested that the pending EIS analyze alternatives to outright scrapping of the Rule. BCHA also signed onto a coalition letter crafted, and to be submitted, by The Wilderness Society that invoked additional issues in its request to largely leave the Roadless Rule intact.

American Horse Council: On behalf of BCHA, Randy chairs AHC's Recreation, Trails & Land Use Committee. He and AHC convened their quarterly meeting, which included Randy updating committee members on BCHA actions including the US Forest Service Roadless Rule and updates on important bills in Congress, including the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act and the America the Beautiful Act (which would extend for seven more years funding for deferred maintenance of public land assets, including trails, for all federal land agencies). Randy informed committee members that he may soon be calling upon them and all state horse councils to contact their senators to support these important bills.

At the request of AHC, Randy shared BCHA's public comment letter regarding the Roadless Rule to committee members, some of whom plan to submit their own organization's comments. He asked committee members not copy BCHA's text verbatim **in their own** comment letters but, instead, use it as an example of how to shape their own scoping comments and convey their expectations regarding the EIS process.

2025 Travel Management rules regarding motorized vehicles on non-motorized roads. Randy will be attending the meeting.

Coalition Zoom Meetings: Randy represented BCHA in the following coalition zoom meetings:

- PNTS Advocacy & Policy Committee—discussion included the following topics: Reorganization of the USDA, Rescission of FS Roadless Rule and the Appalachian Trail Centennial Act.
- PNTS Advocacy & Policy Committee, All-Member Forum—the committee conducts quarterly forum that is open to all PNTS members with updates on key issues being



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addressed by the committee. Randy was tasked to speak about recent rollbacks to the Forest Service and DOI NEPA regulations.

- Coalition for Recreational Trails—advancement of RTP Full Funding Act.

BLM Pilot Program

Vice Chairman discussed a brief meeting in Colorado to do a mockup of trails for BLM; they have a free app that was designed by parks and agriculture. They have sent a survey to chapter to see who has BLM land in their area. Trying to decide which chapter will take on the inventory of trails. They can map, take notes, pictures and load it into the app and keep it private.

Also working on how to build on this and a structure going forward.

Comment: When BLM approached us with this it was a big deal, we have narrowed it down to this pilot program where we document what worked and what didn't. What won't and will work in other locations.

Question: Who decided in the impact study by AHC decided not to use certain states. Colorado did not do a survey and wondered if it was the state horse council or whether it was AHC not to use some states.

Answer: There was a fee that states had to pay to get in on the report, so it is possible Colorado did not pay that fee.

Committee Updates

- Committee Chair meeting last week.
- Volunteer Hours
 - Long form had been updated and available to use to submit volunteer hours.
- Media & Marketing
 - Dana wants to get back into the marketing side of M&M.
- Fundraising
 - Working on corporate sponsors
- Partnership
 - Saw training is scheduled for the beginning of November in Missouri, Mark Twain National Forest and lodging at the Brushy Creek Equine Campground.
 - 18 sawyers attending and expecting more coming in for B level training.
 - Spoke with Region 8/9 program manager this morning on the training details.
 - We have reciprocity with the parks to use USFS saw training in parts of the country, we would like the two agencies to use the same curriculum. The central area has agreed to chase this for the moment.
- Museum



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Motion to spend \$15,000 from savings towards the \$25,000 level on Forest service Museum Sponsorship Partnerships/ Environmentalism. Seconded. 8 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion passed.

- BCHMT will be donating \$10,000 towards remaining balance on \$25,000 level Partnerships/ environmentalism sponsorship.
- It was asked for a friendly amendment for BCHA to spend an additional \$10,000 towards the Partnerships/ environmentalism Sponsorship, BCHA would then be sole sponsor of our \$25,000 sponsorship BCHMT would then be a \$10,000 sponsor only.
- Further discussion on the amendment to the museum sponsorship and the concerns about who is going to be making the decision on the information presented in the BCH exhibit.
- There will still be one exhibit, and it will start with the Flathead chapter. There will be short videos concentrating on how BCHA works with the Forest Service.
- The museum is ahead of schedule for construction, now looking to open the beginning of Spring. This is information from the museum as of this morning.
- Suggested to have a document that this is a BCHA sponsored project, this should not be one state vs. another, we are all BCHA. Possibly add it to the Governance Policy.

Updates from the Chairman

We will be pushing for people to provide emails when the membership lists come in. Creating a subcommittee to put together the history of BCHA.

Other comments or questions

Do we have articles or data on the impact of horses on trails? Per Randy, it is on the website.

Next EC Meeting: October 28th, 2025

National Director Call tomorrow night.

Adjourn 6:48PM Pacific Time

In Attendance: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Latifia Rodriguez, Heather Schultz, Greg Schatz, Jim Allen, Brad Pollman, Heather Cox, Darrel Wallace

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Meeting URL:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81756030264?pwd=7wIzZnGvCbPZ5movtscyxDgtlb1abV.1>