



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 23, 2026, at 5:00 PST

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

Meeting ID: 884 0342 4683

Passcode: 505942

Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM Pacific Time

Minutes: May 2026

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

Financial Reports – April & May 2026

April Financials

Accountant corrected the Stifel accounts, these accounts are correct now.

May Financials – New Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Treasurer provided the account balances including checking, saving, CD's and Stifel Investment accounts.

Received our first sponsorship, and other donation amount provided.

Expenses provided from the Budget Vs Actual.

Q: Are we going to pay out any more to the attorneys?

A: Maybe a little more, the trademark has been approved, and attorneys are just finalizing the process.

Motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Other:

Chairman was at the American Horse Council meeting, and he met the CEO of AQHA, and the CEO is looking for something more than a magazine and would like to support BCHA. He is going to set up a meeting with BCHA to see if there is a relationship both parties can work out. Discussed the AHC Award Randy Rasmussen received.

There is a push by certain organizations, AHC has put together a white paper, the push is to reclassify equine as a companion animal instead of stock animal.

AHC talks more about racing, etc. and not trails/public lands.

Q: What would be the reason for the companion animal designation.

A: Just that people believe equine are pets and companion animals.

Public Lands

USFS 2005 Travel Management Rule Campaign: In concert with American Trails and American Hiking Society, crafted and submitted a policy letter to the Chief and Under Secretary stating opposition to the proposed repeal of the Travel Management Rule (TMR). Provided recommendations embraced by the trails community on ways to modernize and update the



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TMR to better meet current needs of motorized and non-motorized trail users alike. Developed TMR talking points for posting on BCHA's website.

USFS Considers Downplaying Volunteers in the Forest Liability Coverage: Crafted key talking points for a pending PNTS letter to Forest Service leadership that demonstrate that liability coverages offered to volunteers under the 1972 Volunteers in the Forests Act is required by multiple acts of Congress and, therefore, not subject to administrative discretion.

Chainsaw Use in Wilderness: As discussed during the May 26 EC zoom, Randy reached out to partners about their views on the Forest Service's Minimum Requirements Decision Guide and whether current agency culture frustrated their efforts to keep trails open in Wilderness. Partners PCTA, CDTC and Pacific NW Trail Association expressed similar frustration and articulated views similar to that found in BCHA's 2019 resolution on the topic. One concern was that any action by the administration to greatly liberalize the use of chainsaws to open/maintain Wilderness trails could lead to further justification for cutting agency wilderness and trails budgets. Sat in on a webinar held by Wilderness Watch and Great Old Broads for Wilderness about the topic and in which webinar participants shared a view that downplays the importance of public access to Wilderness.

Equestrian Legacy Radio: Randy represented BCHA for the monthly airing of Saddle Up America. He discussed BCHA campaigns to prevent repeal of both the 2001 Roadless Rule and the 2005 TMR, and BCHA's support for S.1547, the America the Beautiful Act, which would extend for 7 years the Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF). The show is now available via YouTube, Spotify and other streaming platforms.

BCHA Member Monthly Updates: Prepared updates for BCHA monthly e-news regarding:

- BCH New Mexico's joint opinion piece with a local mountain biking organization, printed in the Santa Fe New Mexican and expressing support for retaining the 2001 Roadless Rule;
- AHC's announcement that BCHA received its annual Champion Award;
- Trail stewardship grants available via the National Forest Foundation and the America the Beautiful Foundation; and
- The new Forest Service Recreation mobile app.

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

- Northwest Trails Roundtable—analyzed House Appropriations Committee draft FY27 budget for federal agencies and bicameral bills to reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund (e.g., S.1547, which currently has 64 cosponsors and is capable of Senate passage while, last week, the House introduced a similar bill).



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- Partnership for the National Trails System—Participated in two PNTS policy forums (open to all members) with Randy taking lead on topics including: 1. Forest Service Travel Management Rule, and 2. USFS proposals to: (a) Prioritize partners not in need of Volunteers in the Forest agreements, and (b) vacate www.independentsector.org labor rates long used by non-profits to calculate in-kind labor contributions.
- Travel Management Core Group— discussion of June 2nd Executive Order (EO) that rescinded two long-standing (50+ years-old) EOs that placed parameters on how federal agencies might minimize the adverse effects of off-road vehicle use. Discussed bearing of the EO on actions taken by the US Forest Service and BLM to amend or repeal their respective Travel Management Rules which are based, in part, on direction contained in the now-rescinded EOs.

Committee Updates

Fundraising: Working on a video by a professional videographer to be paid by a donor. 30 second who we are and what we do, a longer video we will be able to submit to potential sponsors, businesses, etc. Will be doing drone footage of boots on the ground. Working with a potential sponsor for the 2027 National Board Meeting.

Past Chairs: Public Lands and Sawyers. Discussion on saw training and the future of BCHA. Approached by the Bob Marshall Wilderness wanted to pay dues as a member of BCHA, but why do they want to do that when they are so much bigger than BCHA. They are just trying to figure out what BCHA is doing all the time. Sawyer Chair asked him what they are afraid of, and they answered chainsaws in the wilderness. They don't have any chainsaws in their organization. They believe the USDA is going to take chainsaw certification away and only certify paid employees.

Saw Chair believes we are missing an opportunity to partner with the wilderness groups; they are looking for skillsets such as chainsaw and crosscut. They are always looking for people to come in and do this work. BCHA is set up with our current saw structure to take over FS curriculum and provide training. If we stop sawyer training, it will hurt BCHA. Suggesting opening more doors for BCHA by offering our services to other groups, such as wilderness groups. This would be operated at the National level, chase grants for this to help people attend trainings. BCHA is in the right position to do this.

Q: What do the fees some states charge cover in saw training? It is at cost and not making a profit, correct?

A: A couple states have a full-time trainer/sawyer.



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Currently, it is unrealistic to charge a fee/tuition because FS offers it for free. This can be re-evaluated if the FS saw program ends. We have the models in place, just need to set up the platform on a national level, not much different than setting up grants, etc. Providing training only, not going in and doing the work.

BCHA must be ready to move forward with this if the USDA and FS stop sawyer training.

Chairman stated he doesn't see any downside in being prepared.

Comment that this is a good idea because it is a bad idea, dangerous to go into the woods with someone who has not had saw training.

Mark, Sherry and Darrell to put together the model.

It would go through the Partnership Committee. Report back on this next month.

Updates from the Chairman

Heather is getting together a committee to look at the membership resolution presented at the 2026 National Board Meeting.

Next EC Meeting: July 28th, 2026

National Director Call Tomorrow Night.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:17PM Pacific

Attendance Required: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Latifia Rodriguez, Heather Schultz, Keith Holley, Heather Cox, Jim Allen

Absent: Darrell Wallace (Excused), Greg Schatz

Staff: Michelle Wade