



National Director Meeting

The meeting began with introductions and administrative updates. The meeting host noted good attendance with 46 participants and outlined the agenda, which included financial reports, committee updates, and discussions about membership tracking and safety training.

May 2026 Financial Report Presentation

The May 2026 financial report showing total assets across multiple accounts including checking, grants, Legacy, savings, and legal accounts. The organization received sponsorship from EOC Environmental Group as their first corporate sponsorship and paid various expenses including a youth grant and trademark fees. The net revenue for May 2026 was provided and clarified that the balance sheet increases were due to new donations being deposited into existing accounts.

Washington DC Partnership Updates

Randy and Craig reported on their recent trip to Washington DC for the American Horse Council's annual meeting, where they met with the CEO of American Quarter Horse Association to discuss potential partnership opportunities. They also met with the Undersecretary of Agriculture regarding the Forest Service travel management rule, learning that while the rule will not be completely repealed as initially proposed, there are plans to improve it with better mapping and smartphone compatibility. The group discussed the progress of the America the Beautiful Act, which has passed committees in both House and Senate and aims for floor votes by July 4th, along with a new America the Beautiful Foundation offering grants up to \$12.5 million for trail stewardship projects through 2027.

BCHA Advocacy and Grants Updates

Randy received an award for advocacy at the American Horse Council meeting in DC, where he highlighted BCHA's volunteer efforts and generated interest in the organization. The meeting with the American Horse Council CEO was positive, with plans to set up future discussions about potential collaboration. The group discussed a new requirement from the Department of Agriculture regarding the use of independent sector rates for calculating professional labor in grants, which will require each organization to develop their own regional rates.



BCHA Video and Expansion Updates

BCHA Vice Chairman reported progress on a new professional video project that will include drone footage and interviews, targeting completion by end of July or beginning of August. The team also updated their flyer to reflect 25 volunteer hours and is working on corporate sponsorships. Misty provided an update on expansion efforts, noting discussions with potential new states including Oklahoma, Michigan, West Virginia, and Iowa.

Education Committee Survey Results

Colleen reported that the Education Committee survey received 148 responses and identified three key focus areas: recruiting youth members, supporting members with policy advocacy and trail maintenance skills, and highlighting the importance of horses on public lands. The committee plans to collaborate with Lexi on creating short videos about BCHA and will work with Mac to record and improve the quality of educational presentations. Mark provided updates on partnerships and public lands initiatives, noting that BCHA is proactively setting up strategies for the Sawyer program and identifying local guidance counselors for three key areas to take ownership of public lands management.

BCHA Membership and Safety Updates

BCHA National requested that all members send membership data and trends to Michelle for September projections, as they are approaching the timeline for this reporting. BCHA National also announced that the Forest Service is requiring equine safety courses for trail volunteers, and asked members to report on their experience with this requirement. Heather called for volunteers to help with a new membership committee tasked with examining different states' membership processes and creating resources for best practices. The group discussed the Forest Service equine safety curriculum, which covers basic horse handling and safety topics, and agreed to share the course information through the newsletter once a link is obtained.

Equine Safety Course Requirement

BCHA National discussed a new equine safety course requirement being pushed by the Forest Service, explaining that while it may not currently be mandatory, taking the course proactively could prepare members for potential future requirements. Mark and others clarified that the



course is easy to complete and teach, with certification valid for three years, and Montana has created documentation cards to help verify certification. The group agreed to share examples of the Montana course materials and cards to help other states standardize their approach to the requirement.

BCHA Organization and Training Discussion

A L questioned BCHA National about his definition of a bottom-up organization and expressed concerns about BCHA National's previous conversation with a member that created issues in A L's state. BCHA National apologized for the unintended consequences and clarified that he responds to direct member outreach while maintaining neutrality. The group discussed horse safety training requirements, with Rod and others noting that different documents exist and training may be required every three years for Forest Service employees. Jim raised concerns about a new stewardship agreement between the Forest Service and seven Sioux nations for managing the Black Elk Wilderness Area, which BCHA National noted as a potential new area for engagement.

BCHA National Meeting Discussion

BCHA National discussed a previous situation involving a financial dispute at McClellan Campground in Alabama, where they took a neutral stance but later became involved in a public dispute with Scott over the issue. The conversation then shifted to discussing SAW program funding, where BCHA National agreed to support writing a letter to reinstate funding for sawyer training programs, emphasizing the need to recoup costs for the program to be sustainable.