Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 22, 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 5:04PM Pacific Time

Agenda

Review of the agenda provided.

Minutes: August 2026

Motion to approve the minutes with the recommended changes, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Financial Reports – August 2026

Treasurer provided August Balance Sheet and Budget vs. Actual.
All account balances provided including investment accounts and CDs. Total assets provided.
Budget vs. Actuals
Revenue provided, sponsorship income and grant income provided.
Expenditures, the partnerships are over budget due to the $1,000 provided to American Horse Council for their survey. Fundraising will pay $1,000 to cover the AHC survey expense; the funds will be moved from fundraising to partnerships.

Motion to approve the August financials as presented and will look into the $30 transfer to the Legacy bank account. Seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Investment Report/Vote

Chairman provided an update on how the EC member sent out RFPs to different investment companies and received some proposals back. Two were presented to the EC, Baird and Edward Jones. It was stated that there will be no change to the risk levels that are in the BCHA investment policy. Fees are the main concern in comparison to Stifel. Baird was questioned about any additional fees and due to the wording "Minimum" fee and BCHA was told the only fee is the 1%.
Comment: Recommended we can vote to make a change in investment companies, but we do it conditionally and then run it past the National Directors. If there is none or not much opposition, we move forward and if there are a lot of opposition, we put this on hold and further discussion.
Mark motioned to move forward with Baird Investment recommendation, seconded by Latifia.
Further discussion: What are the next steps if there is significant opposition from the National Board? Answer: Pushback will most likely be minimal from the National Directors.
Stated, at the 2026 National Board Meeting was to come up with a recommendation.
No further discussion and repeat the motion.
Motion to move forward with Baird Investment recommendation. Seconded by Latifia. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Public Lands

USFS 2005 Travel Management Rule Campaign: Lead national trails coalition in the development of a detailed public comment letter regarding proposed revisions to the Travel Management Rule. The letter, authored primarily by BCHA, is currently being circulated for sign-on among other allies and trails organizations with a sign-on deadline of September 22nd. BCHA's approach included more than just crafting policy and NEPA related comments in response to the Forest Service proposal and incorporated detailed discussions and strategy sessions with several allies, BCHA officers, and by reviewing and incorporating applicable Forest Service policy and regulations. Key topics raised include:

- **Preserve the Minimization Criteria:** Any new "access-oriented framework" must retain the core intent of the original designation criteria to actively minimize user conflicts and environmental degradation.
- **Protect the Public Review Process (including NEPA):** Clearly define "minor," "iterative," and "clerical" changes so substantive route decisions don't bypass public review, local communities, Tribes, and recreation partners.
- **Safeguard Volunteer Investments:** The agency relies on volunteers to maintain 60% of its trail system. Prioritizing motorized access risks alienating this workforce.
- **Clarify Class 1 E-Bike Designation:** Class 1 e-bikes aren't motorcycles, but they do have a motor. The Draft EIS must detail stakeholder engagement and NEPA analysis for Class 1 e-bike designation, and should not extend motorized exemptions to other e-bike classes.

Objections to Tahoe NF Class 1 E-Bike Authorization: Participated in two virtual objections resolution meetings regarding the forest's third Environmental Assessment to approve yet more—119 miles of—non-motorized trails for use by Class 1 e-bikes (*see August 2026 Public Lands Report for additional background*). Despite offering pointed yet professionally delivered arguments, BCHA's concerns were completely blown off in the forest's final decision. Plus, given recent changes to agency NEPA regulations, the Tahoe NF continues to justify its avoidance of analyzing the cumulative impacts of a half dozen recent and proposed e-bike authorizations on the forest and adjacent USFS-administered Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. To date, these decisions have covered over 415 miles of non-motorized trails.

Coalition Meetings: Randy represented BCHA in the following key and virtual coalition meetings:

- **Northwest Trails Roundtable**—Topics included US Forest Service Travel Mgt Rule revision, Roadless Rule repeal and how we can help each other out.
- **Partnership for the National Trails System**—Participant in Advocacy & Policy Committee meeting, with topics of interest to BCHA including:

- Prospect of Congress enacting a Continuing Resolution for FY'27 funding;
- Forest Service evolving changes in terms & conditions for partnership agreements;
- Rule changes, including FS Travel Mgt Rule revision, Roadless Rule repeal; and
- National Scenic & Historic Trail designation proposals and feasibility studies expected from Congress.

- **Coalition for Recreational Trails**—Discussion included outreach to House and Senate bill sponsor prospects after mid-term elections, with low prospect of moving a bill this session to reauthorize and fully fund the Recreational Trails Program.

Understanding the Travel Management Rule
https://united4trails.org/

Other Discussion on form FS-770-48 Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order.

Committee Updates
Saw- Changes with saw program manager and moving people to manage regions. Mark is expecting to travel to the East to help out.
Asked if we are going to areas or are we going to stay in regions, it was hinted they will stay in areas.
Fundraising: Received REI grant, working on the John Deere drawing and finalizing the video.

Updates from the Chairman
AQHA is moving forward with our agreement and working with youth committee for trail etiquette and safety.

Misty is using letters for the RR and TMR for engagement with potential members.

Next EC Meeting: October 27, 2026
National Director Call Tomorrow Night.

Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM

In Attendance: Mark Himmel, Craig Ferdig, Latifia Rodriguez, Heather Schultz, Greg Schatz, Keith Holley, Heather Cox, Darrel Wallace

Absent: Jim Allen

Staff: Randy Rasmussen, Michelle Wade

Motions Passed

Motion to approve the minutes with the recommended changes already done, seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the August financials as presented and will look into the $30 transfer to the Legacy bank account. Seconded, all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Motion to move forward with Baird Investment recommendation. Seconded by Latifia. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.