

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Teleconference

Officers:

President Bernie Molloy
Vice President Susan Donnelly
Secretary Cathy Chase
Treasurer Cathy Scott
Past President Helen Harvey

Board Members:

Jamie Canon
Helen Crawford McDermott
Karen Hayden

General Members:

Laura Duncan, Past President
Mary Johnson, Forest Service Liaison

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Molloy at 7:00 p.m.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

April 14, 2020 Board of Directors minutes – Susan Donnelly motioned to approve and Jamie Canon seconded. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer’s Report - Cathy Scott

Checkbook balance of \$39,755.85 as of 6/9/2020. CS provided full financial report, copy of checking and credit card account statements, reconciliation and activity reports, and membership PayPal report (total 21 pages). Also, summary page of balances, anticipated spending, and membership and donation income.

Revenue down about \$3,000 (understandable given COVID-19). Income from dues lower because we usually pick up members during Poker Ride, which was cancelled this year.

Significant spending: Corral panels \$1,680.

No dumpster rental yet at Skillman (need one week lead time for delivery); awaiting decision of Forest Service on opening. No port-a-potty rental yet at GCTC trailhead. Forest Service requires daily cleaning. Further discussion later in meeting.

Helen Crawford McDermott motioned and Bernie Molloy seconded to approve treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service - Mary Johnson

1. **Trail work:** Lone Grave trails were cleared with individual workdays with small groups of GCTC members. The Hallelujah trail was also cleared with the same process. The Pioneer trail needs brush clearing between Upper Burlington-Chalk Bluff and Chalk Bluff-Omega Overlook. Those work areas still need to be organized into workdays. (Helen Harvey is scouting trails.) The Pioneer trail below Upper Burlington needs trail bed work due to erosion. Pioneer trail from Bear Valley west has

some minor clearing issues. Pioneer trail from Zebrite Road east to Spaulding Lake is clear per Helen C. McD. Spaulding Lake Trail is clear past Fordyce Creek Falls to the intersection with Grouse Ridge Trail per Cathy Scott.

2. **Trail Patrol and User Conflict Reports:** Helen Harvey has activated the Trail Patrol members and reminded them to make reports. She has also received some reports from GCTC members about conflicts with bicyclists. She has informed TNF of these conflicts.
3. **Ear Bud Sign:** Request for approval was sent to Heather Newell, TNF. No reply. Need to contact again.
4. **Lone Grave Map:** No update from the Forest Service. Mary created a smaller version of the map from the original draft, focusing on the basic trails from the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head indicating the trail names that we are familiar with. The tentative map was sent out via email to some GCTC members for comment and the map was posted on Facebook without Mary's knowledge. Discussion followed and it was decided that since this is not a completed and final version, the map should be removed from the Facebook page at this time.

F. Old Business

1. **Skillman Improvements:** Per Mary, nothing new since last report. Still need workday for items discussed including corrals.
2. **Pines to Mines Update:** Per Laura, lots of great ideas being shared. Nevada County allocated \$100,000 for trail costs and a staff person to assist with project organization. Supervisor Richard Anderson, District 5, supportive of the project. Money is available for the Spaulding spillway bridge through a grant secured by Bear Yuba Land Trust. PG&E and Forest Service need to sign off on the pre-engineered bridge. PG&E has done so; awaiting bridge design approval from U.S. Forest Service. Pines to Mines trail system will use mostly existing trails with approximately 15 miles of new trails to be constructed. Areas where trail would run through SPI property corners will detour to USFS roads until easements secured.
3. **Effect of COVID-19:** Helen Harvey said we must await State of California guidelines. Stage 3 states no groups allowed of more than 10 persons unless they are family members. Bernie will check Governor's website. If we know by end of the month, we can make a decision about the July general meeting. Helen C. McD will be out of town in July and because of current uncertainties did not pursue speaker for the July ice cream social meeting. Suggested prepared popsicles and ice cream bars instead of the traditional scooped ice cream and toppings.
4. **Membership Chair:** Bernie said he has talked to several people but felt he did not have a handle on skills needed to give adequate description of job requirements. Two he asked said, "no." Helen Harvey has been talking to Andi Duncan, currently Sunshine chair, to see if she would take over the position. Mary said request for volunteers for Sunshine and Membership have already been posted in newsletter and she will send descriptions to Bernie. Cathy Scott said she met with Heidi Hansen, outgoing membership chairperson, and picked up paperwork and spreadsheets through April 15. About 10 new members since then.

G. New Business

1. **Stacey Estrada Camp Offer:** GCTC member Stacey Estrada who lives in Calpine has offered to host a campout on her property, which borders TNF land with trails for riding. Her suggested available dates are July 13-24 and well as some dates in August. (excluding 8/13-16 and 8/ 22-23). GCTC members Mary, Laura, ad Jaimie will visit her on June 12, 2020 to have a tour of her place.

2. **Skillman Clean up:** Per Heather Newell as of 6/9/2020, Skillman may open on June 20-21, 2020. Barry Vaccaro will check the water system next week. Suggested day to schedule the cleanup is Thursday, June 18. There is plenty of room to spread out so Mary feels it will be okay to have a group workday. One to three persons can be assigned to specific campsites. It will be suggested that workers bring their own lunch/snacks/water. Work from 8:30-12:00. Mary Johnson will assign tasks from the list compiled in February. Laura asked whether one or two days needed. Mary said one day for cleanup. A specific crew can be put together for corral assembly and installation. She will contact Mike Peckham since he was instrumental in organizing corral installations at Dru Barner. Mary will provide info to Jaede about workday for posting for volunteers.
3. **Little Lasier Meadow:** Recon visit scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2020. Quentin Youngblood, District Ranger for Sierraville, has been contacted to receive approval for the scheduled work weekend of June 26-28, 2020. Alternative weekend July 10-12, 2020?
4. **Trail Work Incentive Reward Program:** Because trail workdays were not able to be scheduled this year with lunch provided as an incentive, a reward program was fashioned to recognize the GCTC members who came out on an individual basis to clear trails. Helen Harvey, Laura Duncan, and Mary Johnson developed four levels of awards based on volunteer hours. Awards were designed by Elicia Kamberg. Susan Donnelly is recording the volunteer hours. The volunteer hours will accumulate, with individuals receiving each level of award as their hours accumulate. Some awards will be mailed to volunteers and others will be presented at a year-end or general meeting next year,
5. **Portable Toilet at the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head:** In checking with Heather Newell, TNF, Mary reported that the TNF protocol (COVID-19) for restrooms (including portable toilets) is for daily cleaning. Lack of toilet facilities has resulted in garbage, toilet paper in woods, etc. Manure left behind also continues to be a problem. Extensive discussion followed. Ultimately it was agreed that it is not feasible to arrange cleaning on a daily basis. GCTC will not arrange for port-a-potty. Flyers regarding manure are available to help with education efforts.
6. **Loney Meadows Campout/Work Weekend:** Scheduled for July 25-26. Terry Personeni, who has organized for many years, says she can no longer be the lead due to physical limitations but is willing to help. Jaime volunteered to organize. Helen Harvey offered assistance with identifying trails that need work.
7. **Trail Camera/Lone Grave Surveillance:** Cathy Scott will reach out for help with placement and retrieval of data.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Cathy Chase, Secretary