



Southeast MN Back County Horsemen – Minnesota

Chapter Meeting March 16,2019 1:30 PM

Minutes

Present: Dave Robson, Nola Robson, Russ Mettler, Teri Mettle, Ann Jondal, Mark Fitting, Steve Freese, Diane Freese and Renee Ewing.

1. President, Dave Robson called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM.
2. Secretary's report: Minutes of the February 10 meeting approved as posted.
3. Treasurer's report: Income – \$25. Expense's – none. Balance \$435.15
4. Planning meeting with DNR staff on March 6: Mark and Steve reported on their meeting with Jess Althof, Parks and Trails supervisor, Linden, Area Technician and Angela, area Specialist. Mark and Steve will be our work coordinators to work with Jess regarding project planning. Five projects have been identified for review at Forestville, Lake Louise, Wet Bark and Trout Valley. See details on the next page. A tentative work day has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 3 at Forestville.
4. Liability issues: Jess wants safety training for OHV use at any projects. This is an online course with a fee of \$25. Anyone using heavy equipment should be covered by \$1,000,000. Steve is contacting Jess for more specific information about insurance needs and we will discuss this further at a future meeting.
5. Logo: Samples were provided by Steve and Renee. The logo shown above was selected. M/S/P.
6. Branding Iron: Dave proposed ordering a branding iron for our group to use to mark projects we complete. The cost would be about \$200. Motion to approve buying branding iron with donations. S/P. Dave will seek donations for this.
7. Web page: Steve reported calendar is now on the website and minutes are posted as well. A link to the SE-MN website will be added to the State website. A map of parks and state forest units will be added to the website.
8. Old Business: A. Insurance issues need to be resolved.
B. Consideration of organizing a Rapid Response Team. Needs further review.
9. Next Meeting TBD
10. Meeting adjourned at 2:20PM

Diane Freese, Recorder

DNR Meeting March 6th, 2019

Steve Freese and Mark Fitting met with Minnesota DNR trails on March 6, 2019. Present from the DNR were Jess Althoff area supervisor, Linden Area Technician and Angela Area Specialist. DNR staff seemed quite familiar with BCH. The main purpose of the meeting was to make them aware of SE BCH chapter, and what we could do to help. DNR staff were working on planning for 2019, repairs and projects. The list of housekeeping items

- Jess Althoff is the contact and is who we start with on projects concerns.
- SE BCH president needs to sign for special use permit.
- Steve Freese, and Mark Fitting are current work coordinators.
- To use ATV or UTV on work days operators need to complete the DNR online class.
- For the use of heavy equipment volunteers need \$1,000,000 liability plus auto insurance, or from umbrella policy.
- Volunteer forms, liability, hours, special use permit.
- BCH needs volunteer hours recorded
- DNR requires that we track hours with proper volunteer forms are very important.
- List of potential projects discussed.
 - lake Louise trail reroute, move seedlings
 - Forestville 5 mounting blocks
 - Forestville water bar repair.
 - Wet Bark has a wash out that equipment can't get around. Linden said it has a horse trail round it and would be a good trail to check by horse. Probably only hand saw, and loppers would be needed. There is a neighbor (Sally Johnson and husband) who does a lot of trimming at Wet Bark. DNR is replacing fence around campground. Briefly discussed widening driveway entrance.
 - Trout Valley overlook needs to be cleaned up. Linden said he could do the sawing and tractor work, if we could provide volunteers to drag brush.
 - DNR isn't opposed to a trash pick-up day but would be weather dependent for a permit.
- DNR Jess will check into trail yield sign pricing.
- SE BCH would need to check with park managers about any potential projects.
- Hand saws, loppers, and punning are welcome any time, but DNR needs to be aware of most everything else.

The meeting went well, covered a lot of ground, and will be a productive partnership, keeping the trails open!