

## **GBCH meeting minutes 4/21/2026**

Members attending: Donna Tillman, Michelle McGorky, Sharon A Brown, David Turner, Maureen McLeod, Cheryl Roth, Joan Bacon, David Imler, Silke Schneider, Renee Derek, Mark Rieck, Deborah Whittmore, Jennifer Pellerin, Bill Pellerin, Laurie Wlosinski, Pat Bulls, Lynne Addy, Carole Clark, Arden & Jackie Couturier.

Meeting brought to order at 6:10pm

### **Opening and Agenda:**

The meeting opened with a welcome; attendance has grown significantly to about 20 people. Minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Additional agenda items:

- Membership dues.
- The last work project.
- The upcoming rodeo.

### **Treasurer's Report and Membership Dues Discussion:**

The treasurer reported the chapter's finances. The financial activity since the last meeting was reported as follows:

Income: \$125.00

Expenses: \$7,720.24

Resulting checking account balance: \$34,565.00

The chapter's current membership stands at 57 members.

David Imler led a discussion regarding a potential increase in chapter membership dues following a national-level fee hike. The national organization increased its dues this year. The current dues structure is as follows:

- The chapter pays the state/national organization \$28 for an individual membership and \$39 for a family membership.
- The chapter's own dues are \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families.

The core question for the membership is whether to increase the local chapter's dues or maintain the current rates.

No immediate decision is required, as the topic will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Rationale for discussion: The board seeks member input to guide their decision. It was asked that members text or email the board with their opinions on the matter.

-Historically, the difference between the chapter's dues and the amount paid to the state/national organization was used to cover various liability insurance policies.

-David suggested that the chapter's healthy financial state, particularly the healthy general fund of approximately \$40,000, may negate the need to rely on membership dues for insurance payments. The chapter also pays for other insurance, such as workers' compensation for trail work volunteers and an annual accident policy, out of this general fund.

### **Guest Introductions:**

Two guests, Arden Couturier and his soon-to-be wife Jackie, introduced themselves. Recently moved to Silver City. Arden is interested in trail riding and maintenance. Jackie is interested in helping cook for work projects, but would like to first assist someone already involved with food preparation.

### **Last Work Project Update:**

A six-day work project ran from last Monday to Saturday. The location was on the north end of the Gila, starting from Willow Creek.

Trails cleared:

Iron Creek Mesa and the trail to Iron Creek.

Turkey Feather Pass and the Cooper/Clayton Trail to Clayton Mesa.

\*\*\*A big thank you to Janie and Russell for providing packing support.

### **Upcoming Rodeo: Volunteer Request**

Volunteers needed for the rodeo on June 5th and 6th. Trash pickup help needed Saturday and Sunday mornings (June 6th and 7th). Additional volunteer roles are parking, ticket sales, and other tasks. Broke horses are needed for a Special Olympics event associated with the rodeo. Contact Michelle at 575-313-2996 or attend a meeting on April 29th at 6 PM (at the extension office).

### **State Delegate Report & Double Diamond Award:**

The State meeting was on April 4th. The Lower Rio Grande chapter was dissolved. The annual rendezvous will be a multi-chapter effort, likely in North or North-Central New Mexico.

### **National recognition:**

The chapter won a BCHA Double Diamond Award for exceptional work last year, GBCH tied with a North Carolina chapter. A plaque will be mailed and a future presentation is being considered. A memorial for Esker Mayberry was given at the national meeting.

### **General Updates and Announcements:**

-Online Donations: The online donation system is fixed and operational.

-Weed Management Meeting: Monday, April 27th, at 6 PM (extension office).

-2026 Work Summary: First four months volunteer stats:

Volunteer hours: 1,918.

Logs removed: 521.

Meals provided: 348.

-Search and Rescue: Quiet; a few call-outs where subjects were found before full deployment.

-Wildfires: Five lightning-started fires are being worked north of Silver City.

-Trash Pickup: The recent Highway 180 trash pickup went well.

-Trail Days Event: the event is next Saturday; the chapter is at spot #30.

\*Volunteer shifts: 8:30 AM–11:30 AM and 11:30 AM–3:00 PM. The morning shift volunteers are: Pat, Cheryl, Renee, Lynne, Dave, Gerry. The afternoon volunteers are: Becki, Donna, Silke, Cindi, Rawlings.

\*Morning shift handles setup; afternoon shift handles takedown.

-Rabid Animals: PSA: increased rabid animal activity (coyotes, bobcat) near the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.