

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT – BCHC
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Grenada Fire Hall
May 28, 2026 (June meeting)
7 p.m.

President Robert Robustellini called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Officers:

Robert Robustellini (President)
Debbie Bacigalupi (Vice President)
Michele Machado Woods (Secretary)
Caralee Scala (Treasurer)

Directors:

Laurie Robustellini ~~Janice Rushton~~ Alan Woods

Alternate:

~~Michael Stapleton~~

Members and Guests:

Administrative:

- Establish Quorum/Flag Salute
- Members sign in sheet with miles
- Guest Speaker: None
- Additional agenda items: Topic for New Business: Per text message, Janice has resigned as a Board Member due to health reasons
- Introduction of Guests: None

Approve Minutes of May 7 Meeting. Debbie moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

- On May 15, BCHC Membership VP, Chip Herzig, shared a link to the new BCHC website:
<https://bchcalifornia.silentpartner.website>
- On May 18, Michele and Michael received an email from Mike Splain with the Smith River Alliance regarding asking if our Unit and other BCHC Units would consider formally expressing support for some legislation that would add the Oregon side of the North Fork Smith River watershed to the Smith River National Recreation Area. Per Mike, the [*Smith River National Recreation Area Expansion Act*](#) has been introduced in both houses of Congress (S.945 and H.R.5041, respectively) and in our view, provides a timely and essential means to protect primitive recreational opportunities and world-class salmon strongholds once and for all. From a watershed management standpoint, it just makes good sense to include the North Fork's headwaters in the National Recreation Area, which already encompasses the entirety of the Middle Fork and South Fork Smith upstream of Hiouchi, California. Mike offered to provide a sample support letter, or one letter for multiple Units to sign. Michael Stapleton will send letter on our behalf.
- Robert reported on any other email correspondence or mail from the P.O. box. Got a postcard from a private organization regarding our IRS 501c status.
- Email from Betsy Stapleton regarding an idea having the youth packers have a joint event to teach about packing and gear with the Scott Valley Watershed youth group to teach about conservation. Michele added Jamie and Vose Hayden to the email correspondence.
- Robert read an email regarding the Forest Service authorizing the use of chainsaws by licensed outfitters on trails in the Salmon-Challis National Forest of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Treasurer Report: Caralee Scala reported that our Checking balance as of April 30, 2026, was \$16,409.71. Income for May was \$189.00 (\$39.00 for due rebate and \$150.00 for BCHC State Unit Education Award). Expenses for May were \$150.00 for advertising sign at the Scott Valley Pleasure Park Rodeo grounds. Checking balance as of

May 28, 2026, was \$16,448.71. Debbie moves to approve the Treasurer Report and Laurie seconds. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Education: Debbie Bacigalupi talked about the Siskiyou Ag Day team. Day was a lot of work. Kids and teachers were challenging this year. Debbie proposed that next year we put a tarp at each set of panniers, can only pick from items on their tarp. If a team gets a perfect score, give stickers to the kids. Perhaps have a “visual” of packs on an iron mule. About 300 kids this year, first team from Little Shasta got it perfect.
- Membership: Jennifer Bull reported via email that we currently have 89 voting members and 1 young adult. Just a reminder: For any activities/events that are for members only, the person in charge should check that folks are currently members. If they show expired on the attached list, but have a current membership slip, please let me know so I can have Chip update the list.
- Newsletter: Michele Machado Woods will get the next newsletter out at the end of June.
- Insurance: Michele Machado Woods nothing to report
- Website: Kathryn Matthews not in attendance, nothing to report
- Adopt-A-Highway: Michael Stapleton not in attendance, nothing to report
- Public Lands: Michael Stapleton/Michael Journey, not in attendance, see correspondence above.
- Work Parties: Robert Robustellini and Michele Machado Woods discussed final plans for Carter Meadows June 3-8 trail work, including work for the PCT, all feeder trails and the lake trails. Expecting members from at least three Units. Michele talked about work planned for each day. Robert stopped at the Salmon-Scott FS office to get some small trail signs, left a message for signs and left a message with Elliott to get supplies to repair the one corral at Hidden Horse. Robert will be there Thursday and maybe Friday.
- Agency/Partner Liaison: Michele Machado Woods, nothing additional to report.
- Fish Plants: VACANT
- Programs and Events: Debbie Bacigalupi nothing to report
- Parades: VACANT
- Scholarships: Penny Wells-Thomas; discussed at March meeting about changing this chair to “Education Donation Program”. Do we want to discuss more? Consensus at this meeting was to change to Scholarships/Education Donation Program.
- Trail rides: Michele Machado Woods and Laurie Robustellini. Debbie said they are open to a ride at their ranch.
- Publicity/Social Media: Michele Machado Woods nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business:

- Bylaws update: Amended bylaws were approved at May 7 meeting. Robert and Michele signed document at this meeting. Michele will send scanned copy of signed document to Kathryn for upload to our website.
- 2025 Audit committee: Kathryn, Gail, Janice. Caralee to schedule time and place. Not yet scheduled.
- IRS letter update – Are we are covered under state umbrella? Still need to talk to BCHC
- Mechanics Bank account update and next steps, same as above.

New Business:

- Need to find a replacement for Janice on our Board; Laurie suggested asking Mathilda to join the board. We’ll reach out to Mathilda to see if she’s interested.
- Alan talked about our partnership with Outfitters Legacy Project and scheduling future events. Their last youth packing practice is on May 31. They cannot be under our insurance unless it’s a BCHC event on the calendar. Debbie suggested that we ask the OLP leadership to contribute content to our quarterly newsletter. Report on what the kids of have worked on and learned. Robert asked what the latest is on have a Mule Appreciation Day event. OLP will discuss on May 31. Teach about mules and youth could compete and/or show off what they have learned.

Announcements:

Next Meeting: Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center, July 2, 7 p.m.
Adjourn: 8:12 p.m.