

SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2019

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Mary Odell at 6:32 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

Minutes: Motion to approve the August minutes with correction for omitted membership information made by Laurie; seconded by Kelly. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Laurie reported an increase due to membership renewals for July.

Membership: Laurie reported no new members; 4 members renewed.

Education: Denise reminded members present that riding and rifle season was coming up....Bear and deer hunting season opens. She reminded members to ride safe and be aware.

Public Lands: Patricia reported that BCHA and BCHC are concerned about keeping motorized vehicles out of wilderness areas due to the potentially hazardous and conflicting use on trails between equestrians and the motorized bikes; and asked members to write letters during the public comment period which closes September 26. Patricia mentioned she had written a letter herself in support of BCHC's position but added she was disappointed the state was not making positive comments about working with other groups.

Old Business:

1. Wilderness Rider Training: The 2019 Wilderness Rider/Master Educator LNT class was held in Granite Creek August 20-25. Members from all over the state attended. Mary presented a class on keeping track of WR hours; and two members, Sharon and Patricia, completed the class and are now the newest WR's in the Sierra Freepackers. The unit now has 7 WR's; quite an accomplishment. Denise proposed that the WR's donate one weekend each during the summer at Granite Creek to join her walking through the campground educating campers on LNT principles: pack it in, pack it out and campfires. Members present felt it was a great idea.

New Business:

1. Grant Reimbursement: Mary reported she had spoken with Deb McDougald. Deb said the San Joaquin unit had leftover money from their FS grant and was willing to share it with us. Mary will check our volunteer FS mileage and hours and submit the information to Deb.
2. Public Lands Day: Mary received a call from Walter Pope, Park Ranger - Natural Resources Management; Eastman Lake, asking if the unit was going to participate in Public Lands Day there like we have at Hensley in years past. Due to conflicts, the unit is not able to participate. Mary suggested we do a public lands volunteer day in another area like Fish Camp. She suggested we refurbish the kiosk at fixing the cork board, making it water tight and replacing any flyers that need to be replaced. Plan on doing some trash pick up as well. The tentative date will be Saturday September 28. She will send out an email; if she gets no response, a new date will be selected.
3. Kiosks: The completed kiosk, ready for planting, has been promised to AHRP. The unit has not heard back from Gloria as to when it might be approved to go there. Mary to contact Gloria for an update. If it's not going to AHRP, it will be offered to Deb McDougald.
4. Corral Take Down: The annual removal of the corrals at Granite Creek was discussed; The proposed date is Wednesday September 25. Meet at GC at 9:30; if you need to carpool members can meet at HWY 41 and Rd 200 at 7:30 a.m.

5. John was given two banners from Gloria. The banners were donated to the unit which we can use on work days. The idea was brought up to make more and offer them for sale as a fundraiser. Mary will ask Gloria about costs and logistics for making more.

General Discussion/Announcements:

None

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m; motioned by John, seconded by Terry.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Seslowe