SIERRA FREEPACKERS MEETING MINUTES

 February 20, 2018

 Meeting called to order by President Cathy Miller at 6:33 p.m. in the Oakhurst Library.

 Minutes: Motion to approve January minutes as presented made by Karoline; secoJohn. Minutes approved.

 Treasurer’s Report: Laurie reported an increased balance due to proceeds from Mustang Matt clinic and membership renewals. She also brought up what the unit thought it should donate to YLP from the proceeds; Sharon made a motion to donate $75 from the proceeds to YLP. Motion seconded by John; all approved, motion passed. With the success of the clinic Laurie and the unit hope to host Mustang Matt again next year for 2 days plus extra days for private lessons.

 Membership: Laurie reported seven membership renewals; no new memberships.

 Education: Denise absent.

 Public Lands: Jay reported on the status of HR 1349 (bikes, strollers and game carts in the wilderness). As of now, the bill appears to be stalled in committee but it may be attached to other bills so continue to write or call McClintock’s office. Jay also mentioned two million acres in Utah being opened for minerals and oil production; that’s two million acres no longer under protection and no longer available for public use.

 Old Business:

 1. Spring Cove Trail: On January 29, John and Cathy double handedly removed 37 trees along our now very familiar few miles of the trail. No small feat for the average team, but this particular team is a force to be reckoned with. This trail will be a project months to come. Mary discussed her progress on the grant for work on this trail and provided a budget for $1000. (grant budget in progress attached). Discussion on sign sizes and sticker sizes ensued. Mary to make some final decisions and submit grant proposal. Mary ran project by Cori (FS) and Cori approved. Cori asked Mary to check in with the South Gate Trail Collaborative so a partnership may allow that group to fund bells and boxes. Mary to follow up. Cori also emphasized for safety reasons work parties should consist of a minimum of 3 people. Thank you Mary for your tireless efforts!

 2. Mustang Matt: A hearty round of applause for Laurie and John and their efforts, especially Laurie, in getting the clinic off the ground. Sharon wrote an article for the Mariposa Mountain Riders which was published in their newsletter. Laurie provided a copy (attached). Mary to send article to SNO and consider BCHC newsletter as well. Those attending the clinic had nothing but excellent comments. Overall, it was a success and we look forward to next year hosting again.

 3. Chainsaw class: Six members took the chainsaw class on February 7; all were successful so now the unit has seven certified chain sawyers. This is in addition to the 4 certified cross cut sawyers in the unit. We can tackle any tree anywhere!

 4. State Meeting: On February 10, Cathy went to the Directors meeting portion of the state meeting where insurance was discussed. Up till now, the state’s insurance didn’t cover overnight events if children were present. The directors’ voted to make an addition to the insurance to cover overnights with children state wide.

 5. Raffle Tickets: While at the state meeting, Cathy picked up additional raffle tickets for camping at Miller Cattle Ranch. See Cathy if you are interested in purchasing. Winners to be drawn at the Rendezvous!

 New Business:

 1. French Trail: Mary went to a Forest Service meeting where the French Trail was discussed. Currently the FS is working above the mile high turnout; the work focus is forest restoration. We may be able to help in 2019 on this project. Landowners with >20 acres lost trees can work with the FS to restore trees on the property. Many grants available.

 2. South Fork Trail: Patricia and Mary hiked the SFT (maps attached) to asses damage and what the unit can do to help the Upper Merced Watershed Consortium in getting the trail repaired. Limitations include staging accessibility, weather and workload. the UMWC wants us to clear approx 4.5 miles to Bishop Creek. The first mile is in YNP and there are 3 trees down. Mary asked for and obtained the ok for us to remove the 3 trees in the park but YNP would rather we not to go hog wild clearing trees all over the park. (!) Just beyond the boundary, there are lots of trees and bear clover to be cleared. Patricia and Mary think hiking with one pack animal to carry tools might be enough to get the job done. To be planned in the near future when weather allows .

 3. By-Laws: Cathy provided copies of the Unit by-laws to members present and discussed areas we need to address, including elections of officers, and making changes to current by-laws. Over the last few years with members leaving positions, our officer elections got a little skewed. Currently the by-laws have the President and Secretary in their positions for 2 years, and the V. President and Treasurer in their positions for 3 years. At our next election in December 2018, to get back on track, we need to elect a President and the Secretary. In December 2019 the positions of Vice President and Treasurer will need to be held. Also discussed if we need to make a motion prior to any expenditure under $200; determined not. Other amendments to the by-laws were discussed; Cathy to review the state laws and see if we are interested in any further amendments. Follow up at the next meeting.

 4. Addition: John asked to get reimbursed for new chain for saw. Laurie to reimburse.

 5. Addition: Jay notified group of Grant Writing Workshop to be held March 22, 23 in North Fork. Workshop put on by Lisa Brown, fee is $15 for lunch. Only a few openings so contact Jay ASAP if you are interested in attending.

 6. Addition: Gloria has the name of the contact person for any work done at Spring Cove Trail: Tommy a t 3 5 5 - 7 793. Give him a call prior to an y w o r k o n t he trail and we will not be bothered about parking. Usually we just put envelope on dash with “work party” on it and that suffices. Last time Cathy and John hung a banner.

 7. Addition: Mary provide the unit’s final volunteer hour value for last year: $195,683.73. That’s a lot of hard work, all. We deserve a hearty heartfelt “WELL DONE”!!

 8. Addition: Our planned date for the pack clinic is in conflict with a poker ride being put on by SJSUBCHC. Members here want to go to the poker ride. Packing demo to be rescheduled and followed up at the next meeting.

 9. Addition: Karoline to check prices for parade flags. Unit would like a unit flag as well. Laurie to talk to Dorothy. Follow up at next meeting. Parade Season is coming up!

 10. YLP and Mary wants us to set up the brag booth at the YLP Buckle Series Shows. We should wait until the first show is in the bag so the kinks are worked out but will plan on setting up the brag booth at future shows.

 General Discussion/Announcements:

 None.

 The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. the Oakhurst Library.

 Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m; motioned by Cathy, seconded by John.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Sharon Seslowe