

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF  
MINNESOTA BY-LAWS**  
Adopted, Feb. 8, 2016

**ARTICLE I-NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the BCH-MN, and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as a non-profit, educational organization.

**ARTICLE II-PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be:

Section 1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and Wilderness areas.

Section2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

Section3. To assist the various governments, state and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

Section4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

Section5. To foster and encourage the formation of new back country horsemen's organizations.

**ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership shall be open to anyone who is committed to the purposes of BCH - MN as stated in ARTICLE II.

Section 2. The membership classifications shall be "Single", "Family", and "Supporting". The BCH-MN Supporting Members shall be trail user and trail builder individuals or organizations in Minnesota who join BCH of Minnesota in support of the BCH-MN's efforts to develop and maintain trails throughout Minnesota. The Supporting Member shall not carry a vote but shall be notified of all projects and meetings

Section 3. Membership shall correspond to the calendar year - January 1 through December 31.

**ARTICLE IV-DUES**

Section 1. Membership dues shall be determined annually at the General Membership Meeting. Dues shall be payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues shall be considered delinquent when not paid within three months of the January date. Delinquency in payment of the annual dues shall remove a member from "good standing" and said member shall relinquish all voting rights and privileges.

Section 2. The holding of any office or membership on any committee shall be contingent upon the member being in "good standing".

**ARTICLE V-VOTING**

Section 1. Single members shall be entitled to one voting right. Family members shall carry two voting rights. Supporting members shall be entitled to no voting right. Only members in good standing [dues paid] may exercise the right to vote on matters of organizational business.

Section 2. A simple majority of members in good standing at a General Membership Meeting, when the organization is in session, shall be required to conduct that business requiring group action, providing a quorum is present.

Section 3. The members present at a properly noticed General Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of legal business.

**ARTICLE VI-MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be established and held on an as needed basis at a time and place decided by the Board of Directors. A General Membership Meeting shall be held annually near the beginning of the calendar year. The Board of Directors shall meet regularly as determined by same.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or upon written request signed by any three (3) voting members.

Section 3. Notice shall be given to members of all meetings.

**ARTICLE VII-OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Organization shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Secretary/Treasurer, **Regional Directors, Regional Representatives and National Directors.** Officers shall serve a one year term and Directors shall serve two year terms.

Section 2. The election of officers shall be conducted at the General Membership Meeting in accordance with ARTICLE IX of these by-laws.

Section 3. Any vacancy in an office shall be filled by special election except for that of Chairman which shall automatically be filled by the Vice Chairman.

Section 4. Each Region, when established, shall elect a Regional Director and Alternate from their membership at the annual meeting to serve as a regional representative to the State Board of Directors. These regional directors shall serve two year terms.

**Section 5 . The elected board of directors by majority vote may create Area Representative positions to serve in a director role on the BCH-MN board of directors. This appointment term length shall be at the discretion of the elected board or until a Chapter is formed in that area.**

**Section 6 . The National Directors shall be considered a director at large with full voting rights if that person is not already an officer or chapter board member of the board.**

**ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The power and authority of this organization shall be vested in the membership. The officers and Board of Directors shall conform to the wishes and instructions of the membership; and subject to the rules of this document, manage and execute the affairs of the organization. When the organization is not in session, the officers shall have all needful authority to manage the activities of the organization.

Section 2. The Chairman, or his representative, shall preside at all meetings. The Chairman will be authorized to sign checks for the disbursement of funds. The Chairman shall appoint committee chairmen and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The Chairman shall be responsible for all communication between the state and national organization.

Section 3. The Vice Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman when absent or by request, report volunteer hours, and perform such other duties as pertains to this office.

Section 4. The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings, shall register and keep current membership lists, be responsible for the recording of all Volunteer Hours.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial control of all organizational funds. The Treasurer shall give financial reports to the membership on a regular basis, shall keep financial records of income and expenditures suitable for audit, shall assist in the formation of an annual budget, shall collect dues, and maintain a "good standing" membership list. The Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks for the disbursement of funds.

Section 6. The Regional Directors shall be responsible for communicating information from the Board of Directors to the general membership of their regions.

**ARTICLE IX-NATIONAL DIRECTORS**

Section 1. The BCH -MN is entitled to two voting directors on the National Board of Directors of the Back Country Horsemen of America; therefore, the state organization shall select two directors and an alternate to serve as representatives from Minnesota on the National Board. These National Directors (ND) and alternates shall preferably be members of the state board; however, other individuals who are members in good standing may also be selected as National Directors. National Directors shall serve staggered two year terms. No two National Directors shall be selected from the same region except if only one regional group of members exist at the time of selection. A group of 15 or more members within a defined area qualify as a regional group within BCH-MN.

**ARTICLE X - ELECTIONS**

Section 1. Officers and directors shall be elected annually at the General Membership Meeting and will assume office at the next regular meeting. Officers shall serve a one year term through the General meeting of the following year. Officers and Directors may serve multiple terms.

Section 2. A nominating committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the Chairman at least two months prior to the general election. Membership shall be notified 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3. The nominating committee shall select a slate of candidates for the officers and director positions to be voted on at the general election. The slate shall be presented to the membership thirty days prior to the General meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the election. Meeting notification may be electronic.

**ARTICLE XI-COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Committees, necessary for the functioning of the Organization, shall be created by the Chairman with the approval of the state Board of Directors. Committees shall include Membership, Marketing and Public Relations, Nominations, Activities, and Public Lands.

Section 2. Committee chairmen shall be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Vacancies of a committee chairman shall be filled by appointment by the organization Chairman.

Section 3. Committee chairmen shall select members as necessary to accomplish the functions of the committee.

**ARTICLE XII - REMOVAL**

Section 1. Any officer or member whose conduct has not been in the best interests of the Organization may be removed from participation in Organization activities by a two-thirds vote of the membership at a regular meeting.

Section 2. Notification of intent to remove an officer or member must be made to the membership thirty days preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

Section 3. An officer or member who is removed must be informed in writing of the action taken by the membership.

**ARTICLE XIII-AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present provided notice of such proposed amendment and a "first reading" be given to the membership at a regular meeting preceding the vote on the amendment. A minimum of 10% of the members in good standing must be present at the meeting.

By-laws adopted this 8th day of February, 2016

BCH-MN Start Up Committee Members:

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Marvin Breikreutz

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Kenneth Olson

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Barbara Partington

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Russell Wright

These By-laws are hereby amended, xx/yyyy