

CONTRA COSTA HILLS CLUB
VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2026

The July board meeting was held virtually through Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President Stew.

Board members present: Stew Perlman, Jim Baranowski, Mike Branning, Helen Johe, Rosemary Johnson, Suzy Mark, Cameron Mitchell, Lucy Perdichizzi, Noël Siver

Absent: Connie Gee, Roland Hebert

Members at large present: April McMahon

Minutes Approved: New Recording Secretary Noël requested guidance about including personal information in the minutes; for example, information regarding Sylvia's accident and to whom cards are sent by the Corresponding Secretary. The Board agreed that it is OK to include general references without excessive details.

Approval of minutes of Board meeting held on June 12, 2026: moved by Suzy Mark, seconded by Helen Johe, motion was carried.

President's Report: President's Message - July

Although the President's Message is usually more relevant to the month for which it is written, I am going to focus more on the June 25 event. I want to thank those of you who attended the Quarry Lakes/Fremont Picnic. It was a delight to see some 60 of you there as we enjoyed friendship, food, hellos, hugs and the walk through the park. I want to thank those of you who brought desserts to share and along with other edible items. Some of you stayed to help Frank, Jerry and me clean up and that is surely appreciated. And shout outs to the cooks: Frank, Jon and Steve Landon, who is Frank's son-in-law. Also, thank you to Anita Ford for her help coordinating the event along with Suzy Mark for selling a wonderful variety of CCHC clothing. And thank you to Audrey and Sets for the salads. I am always grateful to those of you who appreciate my apricot jam and donate to the club as the money goes to the social and conservation committees. This year, I want to thank Lucy P. and Helen J. for generously contributing to the cost of the picnic. As for the nitty gritty that makes CCHC special, I am going to implore you once again as we truly need a member to join the Website Committee. Yes, it's a bit of a commitment, but if we do not have volunteers, we do not have a Club. And as I said, Liz, Lewis, Fred and Sue will be there to assist you in what you will need to know. As for July, there are a number of interesting hikes this month, so get out there, enjoy the fresh air, the friendship, the location and the physical exercise. Your body and mind will thank you.

Stay well and stay engaged,
Stew

I hope everyone is doing well and will have an enjoyable Independence Day celebration. April McMahon will be attending the Board Meeting with the annual Audit Report. Thank you to April, Linda Margossian and Herb for their continued commitment to the Club. Please send me your issues and concerns by July 8, 5:00 P.M. I truly do not understand why no one has volunteered to be our new Website Committee member, especially when Liz, Fred, Lewis, Sue Lai are all willing to help you with your position.

Take care and be well,

Stew

Financial / Audit Report:

At the start of the Board meeting, Stew asked April McMahon, head of CCHC's Audit Committee, to address the Board.

First, April apologized for the scam email that was sent out from her email address to members of CCHC. It was on an unprotected old computer, a PC.

Second, April spoke about the audit report that she had sent by mail to members of the Board. She mentioned that the Audit Committee has consisted of the same members of CCHC for years. She said that the reason for the audit is to better reflect the club's financial information.

Section 1: Cover letter. Recommendations to the Board. Remind club members that because the club has 501(c) (7) tax status, donations to CCHC are NOT tax deductible.

Section 2: Income and expense statements 2025–2026

Section 3: Balance sheets 2025–2026

Section 4: Report of cash flow, April 1, 2025–March 31, 2026

Section 5: Revenue and expenses combined FY 2025–2026

Section 6: Report of cash flow, five pages of month-by-month check register

April McMahon: What is the club worth? No depreciation items but the club does have CDs.

Tax returns have been filed and accepted by the IRS and California's Franchise Tax Board.

Vice President's Report: See below

Membership: Connie Gee wrote: "I will miss the July 10 Board Meeting, but here is an early report. Received funds from 3 persons so our count is now 167 (160 paid plus 7 Honorary members). The number requesting paper *Knapsacks* is up to 32 and postage is rising to 82 cents (a 4-cent increase) but we are OK as not everyone joined in April.

I will prepare an updated roster and report of who resigned when I return."

Conservation Committee Requests:

Bills to Be Paid:

Conservation Committee requests:

Mt Diablo Interpretive Association	\$50
Regional Parks Foundation	75
Save the Redwoods League	200

Treasurer's Report: Thank you to Stew for ... donation – from sales of Stew's apricot jam and from donations made by CCHC members who attended the annual picnic on June 25.

In Connie's absence, Cameron did the mailing of the July *Knapsack*.

Corresponding Secretary: Helen sent two cards. The one to Sylvia was returned. Helen will send cards to Sharon Wang, Silvia Akinaga, and Fred Mock.

Old Business:

Binders in which the club's archives were formerly filed. As a result of rehousing the material, Suzy has ~25 binders (5 boxes). Helen suggested: 1) offer the binders first to CCHC members via groups.io; 2) offer the binders and plastic sleeves to local schools; 3) offer them to a local Buy Nothing group.

Suzy said she will post the offer on groups.io with a deadline for collecting them.

New Business:

CCHC Merchandise: Suzy reported that a total of \$323 was collected for T-shirts sold at the spring luncheon and at the barbeque and \$5 for one patch. Suzy sent a check for \$328 to Cameron.

Suzy took orders for other sizes. She reported that the CCHC logo is now being printed on the club T-shirts using the newest technology which is called Direct to Film (DTF). It produces a high-quality transfer that stretches, will not crack, has UV protection, and is applied with a heat press. DTF, which costs less, is slowly replacing silk screening. DTF will help keep the cost of T-shirts down for our membership.

Hike Guidelines: Jim shared an updated draft; changes include broadening "rainy day cancellations" to general hike changes (rain, heat, smoke, trail closures). Will be sent to board for review before posting to website.

Overnight Outings Guidelines: Currently the overnight outings guidelines are separate from the hiking guidelines. There are currently six attachments to these guidelines. The attachments should be deleted and be replaced by six links to these attachments.

Website Committee: Still short one member. Nominating Committee members Harry and David will be asked to recruit more actively. Also, Stew said he will ask Liz Howell for a detailed description of the work involved.

Ticks: April McMahon suggested that the club should raise the awareness of CCHC hikers about the risk of ticks; suggestion to include a blurb in the next *Knapsack* newsletter. Jim said he will put information in the next *Knapsack*. Noël offered to look for information about ticks to send to Jim.

Other Business:

The postage for first class mail is going up to \$.82. Stew thinks money has been allocated for this. Stew will contact Connie regarding the cost of mailing the *Knapsack*.

Announcements:

Adjournment: 11:17. Motion to adjourn M/S/C (moved by Jim Baranowski; seconded by Helen Johe; motion was carried)

Next Virtual Meeting: August 14, 2026

Respectfully submitted:

Noël Siver, Recording Secretary