



**Snowmobile Advisory Council**  
**Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, February 2, 2023  
St Germain Community Center, Weston and via Zoom

**Committee Members Present:** Gary Hilgendorf (Chair), Bev Dittmar, Joel Enking, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Don Mrotek

**Other Council Members Present:** Lynsey Burzinski, Abby Haas, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Erica Volker, Leon Wolfe

**DNR staff attendance:** Jillian Steffes, James Yach, Jacob Holsclaw, Kurt Byfield, Jeremy Holtz, Jeff Pennucci

**Public attendance:** Dave Newman (AWSC), Drew Nussbaum (Tourism) and other members of the public

1. **Call to order 15 minutes after the Finance Committee adjourned**

2. **Agenda Repair - None**

3. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

Motion to approve August 2022 minutes by Bev, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve Sept 2022 minutes by Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. MOTION PASSED

4. **Committee Chair Comments**

- **Gary Hilgendorf** – We make decisions that are in the best interest of the whole program, as opposed to a single county or situation. We have a difficult decision ahead of us.

5. **Public Comments**

- **Jake Walcisak, Taylor County - Non-Grooming** – We've only been entered storm damage, we still have routine non-grooming we need to do but already exceeded cap. Request that the Council make funds available to address storm damage, and also make these expenses not count towards the supplemental non-grooming. Our non-grooming far exceeds the \$250/mile non-grooming cap.
- **Fond Du Lac** – Rollers were removed from drag category. Rollers are very effective at removing grooves. Would like to see it back in grooming.

6. **DNR Report**

- **HANDOUTS**
  - Snowmobile Vehicle Registration
  - Trail Pass Sales
  - Snowmobile Supplemental for 2021-22
  - Snowmobile Supplemental 10 Year Average
  - Current Budget Balance
  - Storm Damage Estimates Provided To Date by County
- The April 15<sup>th</sup> grant application deadline is set in statute. We have accepted storm damage applications in the case of state or federally declared emergency, per Council recommendations and program policy. The Council could support an exception to this and accept storm damage outside of the state/federally declared emergency if desired. Another mechanism would be for Council to support a variance to NR 50.09 (4)(f)(2) Wis. Adm. Code that would allow storm damage expenses to be not subject to the non-grooming supplemental cap at \$250/mile

7. **Groomer Show Updates**

- **Bob Lang** – Observed new PTO drive tiller. Not sure how that would be classified. May discuss further if folks feel it will be useful.

## 8. SNARS & Groomer Tracking Update

- Nathan and his team are processing geofence changes upon request. If club doesn't seem them getting changed, please resubmit.
- If club/county notice the trail location in GTS is wrong, there is a form to fill out that tells Nathan/GTS when/where the groomer ran in the CORRECT trail location.
- If club requesting a non-funded trail be changed to funded, Nathan is contacting DNR to verify that the correction is appropriate.
- What's the status of the new trail segments that are to be approved via the 40' rule change? Those are being reviewed by staff. GTS will not be able to retroactively enter grooming in SNARS. Club should make a note of those on paper and manually enter them in SNARS when the trail segment is approved.
- Known issue – When a groomer goes out to work on the trail but the trail isn't yet open to the public, the GTS phone app that the public utilizes shows it as groomed, prompting riders to think they can go ride. What to do? Currently, just an info box to remind riders to check trail open/close status before they go. Nathan will brainstorm and see if any other solution can be done.

## 9. Information & Action: December 2022 Storm Damage

- Discussion about work done by contractors, clubs, need for prompt payment of contractors, work needed in some areas exceeds 'normal' maintenance.
- Counties need to get expenses entered into SNARS, as 'Storm Damage', ASAP if they haven't already, so we know how much we are looking at .
- Future clean up work (ie, this summer) can be submitted as a trail rehab grant by April 15<sup>th</sup>, or use next year's maintenance (after July 1).
- The \$250/mile non-grooming cap in supplemental is an important cost control measure, Council generally didn't support a variance to that cap.
- ORV Council will consider storm damage requests for ATV funds at any time. Meeting next week to review requests, will reduce the draw on snowmobile.
- Council would prefer counties use their maintenance/supplemental to cover these expenses if they can.

**Motion to recommend the Department accept storm damage funding applications for expenses related to the December 2022 storm, as an exception to the previous policy of requiring a state/federally declared emergency. Motion by Don and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. MOTION PASSED**

**Motion to recommend the Department set an application deadline of March 1, 2023 for storm damage funding requests related to the December 2022 storm. Motion by Bev and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don. MOTION PASSED**

- Council would like to keep the state/federally declared emergency benchmark in place but treat the Dec 2022 storms as an isolated incident/exception.
- Ad hoc committee will meet after March 1 to look at the expenses - Gary, Dale, Sue, Bev, Joel, Don, Bob

## 10. Committee member reports, comments and items

- Dale M. – If you have non-urgent work/expenses, please push that work off to a future date to help the financial stability of the program.
- Andy M. – How long will it take to get the storm damage paid by DNR? Jillian – unknown, but we will make it a priority.
- Don – Glad we have the funds to use, and the method to do it.

## 11. Items for next meeting

- None

## 12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Bev, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. MOTION PASSED