



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 30th, 2021

Weston Lanes and Mountain Bay Conf. Center, Weston, Wisconsin
And via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Gary Hilgendorf, Dale Mayo, Bob Lang, Bev Dittmar, Joel Enking, Andy Malecki

Other Council Members Present: Abby Haas, Mike Holden, Erica Keehn, Sam Landes, Don Mrotek, Sue Smedegard, Lee Van Zeeland, Leon Wolfe

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Faith Murray, Kurt Byfield, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

Public attendance: Dave Newman, other members of the public

1. Call to order at 9:00 AM

2. Agenda Repair

- Correction to Item 9 on agenda. Should read "Review Equipment, and Equipment Rates"

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve July 2021 minutes by Dale, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

4. Committee Chair Comments

- None

5. Public Comments

- Dave Newman
 - i. Public hearing at legislature on the 40' rule tomorrow. Could be passed as early as this fall.
 - ii. AWSC has also spent a lot of time working to ensure tribal gaming money was not removed from the snowmobile program.
 - iii. AWSC Fall Convention on Oct 23 in Wisconsin Dells. Will be workshops on the GPS units, etc.

6. DNR Funding Report

- HANDOUTS
 - Snowmobile Funding Report FY21, Available Funds FY22
 - 2021-22 Snowmobile Funding Summary
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Active Registrations
 - Snow Supplemental Prelim Requests 20-21
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)

7. Information: Groomer Tracking Systems GPS Units

- So far, 432 GPS units have been requested. Being mailed out in batches. We have a list of those units with the name of the club, county, etc. This will be shared with the Council members and the counties. Not all clubs have requested their unit yet.
- Groomer Tracking Systems has hired two new staff and will be working on setting up geofences for the GPS units. If clubs observe that they are outside the geofence (and thus not reporting time as funded), they will need to contact GTS to investigate and get corrections made if needed.

8. Information & Action: Review snowmobile "New Mile" grant applications

- Council reviewed some individual applications.
- Infrastructure committee in July had made a motion to recommend funding trails only 2 or more miles in length. Upon further discussion, Council was uncomfortable supporting the motion and did not intend to bring this forward to the full council. *(No official motion made to reverse original motion)*

- Counties were told they needed to provide documentation on the land use agreements to earn points for question 1. Counties were given 30 days. If documents not provided, points were removed in that category.
- Incomplete New Miles applications will not be considered next year. DNR will not chase down missing documents and information.

Motion to recommend funding New Miles through score 1 by Andy, 2nd by Dale. 3 Aye, 3 Nay. Motion failed.

Motion to recommend funding New Miles through score 4 by Joel, 2nd by Bev. MOTION PASSED.

- Typically, the Council has approved 60-70 new mile applications ever year. This is a significantly larger group – given staffing shortfalls, it may take DNR staff 2 years to get through the final review and approval of these. Not all of these will get maintenance money for this winter. Counties and clubs will need to be patient.

9. Information & Action: Review Equipment, and Equipment Rates

- Adjusted (non-grooming) equipment rates proposed for the 21-22 season. Committee compared DOT rates last year and this year, and made changes to a few items.

Rates for 2021-22 season			
Class	Description	Rate	Proposed
101	All trucks pickups	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
105	All trucks single axle, dual tire over 26,000-pounds	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.00
128	All Trucks, tandem, tri, quad axle	\$ 55.00	\$ 55.00
203	All Tired tractors & All skidsteers up to 49 hp	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00
205	All Tired tractors & All skidsteers 50-99 hp	\$ 34.00	\$ 32.00
206	All Tired tractors & All skidsteers 100-150 hp	\$ 49.00	\$ 47.00
207	All Tired tractors & All skidsteers 150 hp and up	\$ 56.00	\$ 59.00
215	All Tracked dozers, & tractors up to 99 hp	\$ 41.00	\$ 44.00
217	All Tracked dozers, & tractors 100-149 hp	\$ 54.00	\$ 47.00
218	All Tracked dozers, & tractors 150 hp and up	\$ 69.00	\$ 76.00
401	Air compressor all types	\$ 17.00	\$ 14.00
410	Motorized mower over 23"	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.00
413	Mower—tractor mounted	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00
414	Sickle attached to power unit	\$ 16.00	\$ 16.00
490	Trailer less than 1 ton (use mfr. rated capacity)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
491	Trailer 1-4 tons (use mfr. rated capacity)	\$ 13.00	\$ 14.00
493	All Trailers over 4 ton	\$ 25.00	\$ 21.00
550	Rubber tired Backhoe (80 HP and over) was # 250	\$ 43.00	\$ 50.00
555	Excavator Track type (less than 100 HP)	\$ 42.00	\$ 45.00
558	Excavator Track type (100 - 149HP)	\$ 54.00	\$ 49.00
559	Excavator Track type (150HP and over)	\$ 60.00	\$ 61.00
802	Portable electric generator (all types)	\$ 10.00	\$ 16.00
902	Chipper self contained (25 HP and over)	\$ 24.00	\$ 30.00
914	Chain Saw, pole saw,power pruner,brush saw,weed eaters	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00
914T	Trailblazer brush cutter (attachment)	\$ 6.00	\$ 10.00
915	Auger (attachment for tractor/ skid steer),post pounder-hyd.	\$ 26.00	\$ 30.00
916	Hand-held motorized post-hole digger	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
919	Disc/spring tooth harrow/cultimulcher/cultipacker/rototiller	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.00
922	Welder	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.00
932	Brush Cutter - hydraulic driven	\$ 30.00	\$ 28.00
940	Brush Cutter—PTO driven	\$ 18.00	\$ 21.00

953	Boom for brush cutter	\$ 14.00	\$ 15.00
9042	Gas drill	\$ 6.00	\$ 6.00
9145	Snowmobile/ATV/UTV	\$ 18.00	\$ 19.00
9152	Stump Grinder (all) hydraulic/self powered	\$ 34.00	\$ 34.00
9205	Rear blade/box scraper/pull behind grader/packing pan/class1 drag	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00
9406	PTO Driven chipper	\$ 24.00	\$ 22.00
	Labor	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00

Motion to recommend accepting updated equipment rates by Andy, 2nd by Bob. MOTION PASSED.

- Discussion on drags with measurements don't meet the minimum specs in the equipment rate sheet. Dale and Bob went into the field and examined all the Class 1 drags (11'6"), and found many did not meet the specs. Some clubs/counties have been claiming the wrong class rate.
- Wing specs were set in 2018 with input from clubs at that time. Wings must function in a way that allows the drag to operate fully as if those wings a static part of the overall drag. For example, wings have to have a cutting edge and pans, and be the full length of the drag, in order to be counted as part of the drag dimensions. Anything less, and the wings don't do the job of a non-winged drag that *DOES* meet those measurements.
- West Shore Snow Pistons sent a letter to the Council on this topic, explaining the need for winged drags. (See meeting attachments.) The wings on drag are 22", and overall length of the drag did not meet Class 1 specs.
- DNR will notify the counties/clubs that had misclassified drags, to let them know that the grooming unit's class will be corrected for 20-21 season and moving forward.
- There may be Class 2 or 3 drags that also don't meet the specs, but Council cannot inspect all of them (nor should they). The county coordinator should be verifying grooming unit drags. If they sign off on the units and they are not accurate, they are potentially liable for fraud claims.
- Infrastructure committee will review the specifications over the coming winter to clarify the language to avoid confusion in the future. But Council wants to prevent clubs for welding more attachments onto a drag simply to achieve a higher class, that will ultimately NOT meet the revised specs. Council wants to discourage modifications simply to increase class.

Motion to establish a moratorium on allowing drags to move up in class for 21-22 season due to modifications to length, width or wing changes. Motion by Bob, 2nd by Dale. MOTION PASSED.

Motion to recommend accepting grooming rates by Dale, 2nd by Bev. MOTION PASSED.

- SNARS currently has a checkbox on the grooming units for "vibrating pan", which was supposed to have been removed. Nathan will be asked to replace that with a checkbox for wings instead.
- Question – can county coordinators be reimbursed for inspecting groomers and verifying measurements? Yes, it would come out of their maintenance grant (based on \$300/mile).

10. Member reports, comments and items

- Discussion about having training on how to measure drags, other county coordinator materials. Offered by DNR and AWSC - In person, Zoom, Power Point? Maybe something can be done at the AWSC spring workshop?
- Possibly create a "So You've Become A Trail Coordinator" document to help train new county coordinators. Explain expectations, resources, etc.

11. Items for next meeting

- Ad Hoc Committee to Review & suggest changes to drag specs.
- Ad Hoc Committee to Review New Miles Scoring/Ranking and make suggested changes.

- February meeting will coincide with groomer show (Wed 2/2). Meeting will be Thurs 2/3, in or near St. Germain.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2nd by Bev. MOTION PASSED