



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Sunday, September 20th, 2020
Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin
And via Zoom

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

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

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Cathy Burrow

Public attendance: Nathan Matters, other members of the public

1. **Call to order at 1:00 PM**
2. **Agenda Repair - None**
3. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

Motion to approve February 2020 minutes by Bev, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

4. **Committee Chair Comments – Gary Hilgendorf**
 - Topics will be addressed in agenda to follow
5. **Public Comments**
 - Sam Landes representing AWSC. Strong support to eliminate the 40' rule politically, and within DOT as well. No proposed legislation yet but working towards it.
6. **DNR Funding Report**
 - HANDOUTS
 - Fiscal Year End Report for FY20
 - Snowmobile Development Funding Available for FY21
 - Snowmobile Registration Summary for Last 5 Years
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold for Last 5 Years
 - Snow Supplemental Requests for 2019-20 (pre-audit)
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
 - Spreadsheet of FY21 Grant Requests
 - The GIS data submitted by the counties identifies 700 miles of road routes. Uncertain how much of that is in between funded trail segment and how much is in club trail segments. If the 40' rule is eliminated, some portion of that will likely become fundable trail.
 - The statewide average paid out for maintenance is \$432/mile after taking supplemental requests into consideration.
7. **SNARS /Groomer Tracking Systems Update**
 - Ad hoc committee has met and recommends making GPS units from GTS mandatory by November 2021. Cost of the annual lease would be eligible for reimbursement under non-grooming maintenance. Currently, 125 out of the 800 groomers in the state have units.
 - Improvement to SNARS recommended to flag GPS unit entries when the data was manually changed for some reason. Nathan Matters of GTS suggests not allowing edits to the original entry, but adding an "update" field to allow them to plus or minus groomer time and explain why.

Motion to recommend requiring Groomer Tracking Systems GPS Units in All Groomers by November 1, 2021 by Andy, 2nd by Dale. MOTION PASSED

- Discussion on making the GPS units required only for Class A & B groomers.
- Reminder – Units will store data until such time as it finds cell service, so areas with poor cell reception will not be negatively impacted.

Motion to clarify that the requirement to have GTS GPS units in all groomers November 1, 2021 is only for Class A and Class B groomers, not C and below by Bob, 2nd by Dale. MOTION PASSED

8. Eligible Route Funding (grooming)

- The grant program cannot legally pay to groom on a road route, as roads don't meet the definition of a trail (and maintenance funding can only be used on a trail). The only way for the program to be able to pay for groomer time traveling down a road would be for the Council to make a recommendation to consider it eligible for funding as "moving the groomer" from one funded trail segment to another. Discussion on this, no agreement reached among Council members.

9. New Mile Discussion

- When the 40' rule goes away, some previously-considered-routes within a funded trail system will become eligible for funding as trails. Keep that potential fiscal draw in mind when approving new miles.
- Letter from Nancy Olson with concerns about the New Mile Scoring system. Discussion among Council that a lot of effort went into the ranking and it appears to be fair and balanced. More miles were awarded in the south of the state than the north last year.

Motion to consider funding New Mile projects through Score 7 by Dale, 2nd by Joel. MOTION PASSED

10. 2020-21 Labor & Equipment Rates

- Discussion on an appropriate classification for the Trailblazer Brush Cutter, a piece of equipment that attaches to ATVs/UTVs, tractors, skid steers, etc.

Motion to fund the Trailblazer Brush Cutter as Class 914 by Andy, 2nd by Dale. Aye votes by Andy, Dale, Bob and Bev, N votes by Joel and Gary. MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt the 2019-20 rates for 2020-21 by Dale, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

11. Member reports, comments and items

- None

12. Items for next meeting

- None

13. Adjourn

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