

Snowmobile Recreation Council  
Law Enforcement Committee Meeting  
February 17, 2018  
Eagle Waters Resort  
3958 Eagle Waters Road, Eagle River, WI

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Mike Holden, Arlyn Baumgarten, Tom Chwala, Dave Newman, Nancy Olson, Gary Eddy (DNR)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – Chair, Mike Holden Holden at 5:32 pm
2. Acceptance of previous minutes. Motion: Dave Newman Second: Arlyn Baumgarten
3. Agenda Repair
4. Public Comments - None
5. Committee Chair Report – Mike Holden – expressed concerns about this year’s snow fatalities. Mike Holden thinks a theme of “lost loved ones” might work. Ride so you can come home to your loved ones. Let’s be more direct. Dave Newman stated there will be an article in the March 2018 AWSC magazine by Lori Heideman focused on safety.
6. Council Member Issues/Comments
  - Trail Signing Handbook Changes – Dale Mayo requested that an ad hoc committee be put together. Mike Holden, Dale Mayo, Gary Hilgendorf and Bev Dittmar volunteered to review changes and make recommendations to the DNR.
  - Enforcement Levels (County and DNR). No one was sure what this topic was about or who requested it. Gary Eddy stated that there are lots of vacancies. The Dept. is hiring and training as fast as they can. Hiring approvals go through the Gov.’s office. Some counties don’t have any wardens. Adjacent wardens come over to cover a portion. At least one complaint letter has been filed with the Dept. from a county board regarding lack of wardens in their county. Existing wardens are doing what they can.
  - Programs to reduce accidents and fatalities. Dale Mayo – mobile billboard, Iron. Co. started a Snowmobile Safety Committee, Dave Newman – American Council of Snowmobile Associations put out some radio/video ads in WI.
  - 40-foot rule – Gary Eddy is waiting on the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation (WisDOT) for an official recommendation. Gary Eddy has heard from one WisDOT bureau, but all affected WisDOT bureaus need to provide comment internally. Last inquiry was nothing new received from any other bureau.  
Dave Newman – Draft a letter to Gov’s office asking for WisDOT’s response.

- Safety Education Updates – Andy Malecki– complaints people can't find snowmobile safety education classes. People coming from southern WI to Marinette Co. for a safety class. Dave Newman – poor planning. Bev Dittmar – reoccurring complaint. Mike Holden – heard of some “one day” classes were being held. Gary Eddy – The DNR does not authorize any “one day” classes. Accelerated courses are not open to all instructor groups and require prior DNR approval to hold. These courses involve a registration day when students register and meet their instructors. Instructors hand out class materials and provide a brief overview of the course. Students are then instructed to review their student manual and complete all chapter reviews prior to the next course day. Any instructors holding a full course on a single day is violating policy and subject to discipline from the Dept.

Gary Eddy - Exam was cleaned up last year, revised a few questions. No further concerns coming in from instructors.

## 7. DNR Reports & Updates

- Fatality Updates – Currently at 10, last season we were at 12 during this time.
- Recreational Safety Section Changes – Six recreation wardens and 6 outdoor skills trainers (OSTs) are in the process of being hired. We'll end up with a total of 10 rec. wardens for the state. The rec. wardens will be able to focus more on rec. vehicle enforcement and will be more visible, patrolling our trails and waterways. The OSTs are non-credentialed positions that will focus on working with safety instructors, public outreach and education, promoting safety at various public events, etc. Bev Dittmar inquired where the money was coming from to fund these new positions. Gary Eddy replied that the Bureau of Law Enforcement has many vacancies (including 4 current rec. warden vacancies) and they will not be able to fill every one of these vacancies for a very long time. No new positions have been approved; some of the vacant positions have been shifted to the Recreational Safety Section.

Sam Landes requested that the clubs be notified when those positions are filled as they would like to invite them to a club meeting.

- Proposed Legislation

AB 874 – Updates the snowmobile absolute sobriety law from age 19 to age 21.

AB 873 – Recreational vehicle OWI tie-in with driver's license (D.L.). Both currently passed out of Assembly Committee.

Dave Newman: OWI tie-in, DOT fiscal estimate from WisDOT stated that OWI tickets that are received while not on a roadway can't affect a person's D.L.

8. Next Meeting: TBA

9. Adjourn. MOTION: Arlyn Baumgarten SECOND: Tom Chwala

TIME: 6:08 pm