

Law Enforcement Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council Meeting
Saturday, February 18, 2017

The Lodge at Crooked Lake 24271
State Road 35/70 Siren, WI 54872

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to order - 4:20 p.m.

2. Public Comments –

One comment was made regarding why don't county patrols have to have trail passes. Gary Eddy stated that law enforcement machines are exempt from displaying trail pass and registration decals if they display the name of the owner on the outside of the snowmobile. Patrols may register and purchase trail passes if they wish. Those costs are reimbursable through the county patrol grant which comes out of the segregated snowmobile account.

Mike Holden mentioned that he was involved in a conversation as a safety instructor regarding a review of the recreational safety warden (RSW) positions and coverage areas. Gary confirmed that the Dept. hasn't filled vacant RSW positions which means that the RSWs are covering larger areas.

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting minutes –

Motion by Bev Dittmar, second by Dave Newman.

4. Law related to the 40 foot distance requirement for a trail.

Dave Newman stated that AWSC is looking at possible snowmobile law changes. One possible change is the night time distance requirement from a roadway while operating against the flow of motor vehicle traffic.

Current Language:

350.02(2)(b)4. at night travel shall conform to the direction of vehicular traffic in the nearest lane unless:

350.02(2)(b)4.a. the snowmobile trail is located at least 40 feet from the roadway, or the snowmobile trail is separated from the roadway by a head lamp barrier;

350.02(2)(b)4.c. the use of the snowmobile trail is approved by the department of transportation with respect to snowmobile trails located near or crossing state trunk highways or by the officer in charge of maintenance with respect to snowmobile trails located near or crossing other highways.

Possible Change:

350.02(2)(b)4. at night travel shall conform to the direction of vehicular traffic in the nearest lane unless:

350.02(2)(b)4.a. the snowmobile is operated at least 15 feet from the roadway, or the snowmobile trail is separated from the roadway by a head lamp barrier;

Gary – talked to DOT, one Bureau said they could live with 15 ft. This is neither an official DOT nor DNR recommendation; it's merely the most recent feedback on the topic.

5. Sale of Trail Passes.

Dave Newman has heard of complaints from certain law enforcement (LE) officials and businesses. LE has to stop riders sometimes multiple times due to no trail passes being displayed to check for receipts. Non-residents go to an area and purchase a trail pass and ride with a valid receipt. The non-resident goes home, finds the trail pass in the mail box and then possibly gives or sells it to someone else. This needs to be addressed. There has to be some way to issue out actual trail passes as before.

Gary explained that there was a directive from the DNR Secretary's office to do something differently with the trail pass system. It was deemed very inefficient, plagued with problems and resulting in revenue loss. The solution was to stop selling trail passes over the counter and getting rid of the machinery that printed the decals.

6. Member items

Dave Newman has heard complaints about trail pass size. He deems this as not a big issue. Michigan's trail pass is only slightly smaller. No need for change. Some concern with switching windshields with trail pass attached. Current guidance is that the trail pass must be affixed to the windshield unless the snowmobile doesn't have a windshield at the time the sticker arrives at which time it may be affixed on the cowling, forward of the operator in a location visible to LE.

Dave Newman noted that he spoke with Gary Eddy and that UTV with tracks used for maintenance on snowmobile trails would need the permission of the land owner, be it private or public lands just the same as if a person were to take a tractor on the trail. Permission needs to be granted.

7. Adjournment

Bev Dittmar made a motion to adjourn and Nancy Olson seconded at 4.44 p.m.

5. Sale of trail passes
6. Member items
7. Adjournment