



Snowmobile Advisory Council Law Enforcement & Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Members Present - Committee Members Present: Sam Landes- Chair, Joel Enking, Andy Malecki, Mike Holden, Don Mroteck, Erica Keehn, Bob Lang, Bev Dittmar
Other Council Members Present: Tom Chwala, Gary Hilgendorf, Dale Mayo, Abby Haas, Sue Smedegard, Leon Wolfe
DNR staff attendance: Marty Stone, Jillian Steffes, Cathy Burrow
Tourism staff attendance: Drew Nussbaum
Public attendance: Nathan Matters, other members of the public

1. **Call to order at 15 minutes after the Infrastructure Committee adjourned.**
2. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

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

3. **Agenda Repair**

- None

4. **Committee Chair Comments – Sam Landes**

- See below

5. **Public Comments**

- None

6. **DNR Law Enforcement Report - Marty Stone, Law Enforcement OHV Administrator**

- With the close of 2019 brings the first full year of the Dept. of Natural Resource's re-organized Recreation Warden Team. The Recreation Warden Team is comprised of 10 wardens (2 stationed in each region) who specialize in recreational vehicle crash investigation, specialized recreational vehicle enforcement, and off-highway vehicle training operations for conservation wardens. This team continues to provide great service to the citizens of Wisconsin.
- In an attempt to expand safety messaging, the Department purchased a digital message board, similar to those orange message boards used in construction zones. This will allow wardens to post safety messages in real time at trail heads and other high use areas in an attempt to reduce crashes and to provide for over-all safe snowmobile operation.
- From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the Department through its dedicated volunteer safety corps certified approximately 10,592 students in snowmobile safety certification.
 - 4,322 students certified in person.
 - 6,270 students certified by online program.
- From December 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 wardens conducted approximately 12,000 hours for snowmobile patrol for snowmobile safety and enforcement.
 - During those patrols, wardens contacted approximately 13,400 persons
 - Wardens also provided assistance for approximately 2,000 calls for service that did not involve a violation.
- From Jan 1st, 2020, Warden's and their partner law enforcement agencies to date investigated 19 fatal snowmobile incidents.
 - 12 of those fatal incidents involved alcohol, with an average level of .16 at twice the legal limit.
 - 12 of those incidents occurred on public trails.
 - 5 of those incidents occurred on frozen water
 - And 2 on the highway resulting from collision with a motor vehicle.

7. Snowmobile LE Issues on the Legislative Front

- S. 350.02(2)(6)(b) 40' Rule – political and DOT support for change, but no legislation yet, will have an update in February.
- Dimming headlines – more in February
- S. 350.095(2)(d) Noise Level requirements needs to be changed, bring it down from 88 decibels to 82 and reference 2020 standard rather than 2004.
- S. 350.095(1)(b) Noise Level requirements needs to be changed to “no machine may be modified or operated...” with the addition of the words “or operated”. Committee is in support of this change.

Motion to recommend updating s. 350.095(2)(d) to replace 88 decibels with 82 and reference the 2020 standard by Andy, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED

Motion to recommend updating s. 350.095(1)(b) to add the words “or operated” by Joel, 2nd by Bev. MOTION PASSED

- Trespassing continues to be an issue, difficult to enforce. Sheboygan has an “off trail” ordinance in lieu of trespassing that may be a useful tool.

8. Member reports, comments and items

- None

9. Items for next meeting

- None

10. Adjourn

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