



Snowmobile Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday February 10, 2020
Eagle River Inn, Eagle River, Wisconsin

Council Members Present: Bob Lang – Chair, Bev Dittmar, Dale Mayo, Dave Newman , Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Andy Malecki, Nancy Olson, Arlyn Baumgarten, Jeff Schwaller, Lee Van Zeeland, Tom Chwala, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Don Mrotek

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Matt Zorn, April Dombrowski, Marty Stone

Public attendance: Members of the public

1. Call to order (after lunch break, approx. 1:00 PM)

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Chair Comments

Welcome and introduction to newest Council members, Don Mrotek and Sue Smedegard.

4. Council Elections

- Dale Mayo has been named Chair of the Infrastructure Committee with Gary Hilgendorf's term expiring. As a result, a replacement is needed for Vice Chair of the Council.
- Bob (Chair) calls for nominations for Vice Chair. Dale nominates Bev. No additional nominations.

Motion to close nominations and pass a unanimous vote for Bev as Vice Chair by Dale, 2nd by Tom.
MOTION PASSED

5. Public Comments

- Introduction of Mitchell Fox from Marathon County (new trail coordinator)
- AWSC Comments – Spending authority increase is in progress, and 40' rule change in development.

6. Dept of Tourism Report

- Deferred till next meeting.

7. DNR Reports and Updates

- DNR Grants – see HANDOUTS
 - 2019-20 Snowmobile Funding Summary
 - Snow Supplemental Audit Results 2018-19
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Council “New Miles” Funding Recommendations w/ status updates
- Law Enforcement
 - A new LE Officer of the Year Award for the OHV program is coming soon.
 - Fatalities for CY2020 currently at 11
 - Working on updated safety messages including RE: operating on the ice, riding responsibly, zero alcohol, staying on trails.

8. Reports of Standing Committees

- **Finance Committee – Dave Newman**
 - No motions

- **Infrastructure Committee – Dale Mayo**
 - Committee has appointed Gary Hilgendorf as a liaison to the Infrastructure Committee
 - Committee recommends that the Department accept Storm Damage requests when the damage was caused by a state or federally declared emergency.
 - Discussion at this time on elaborating on new mile scoring questions – explaining points better. Dave Newman will send his notes to Jillian to review and incorporate if possible. It's too late in the application cycle to CHANGE the points, but we can rephrase the definitions better to clarify confusion.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to name Gary Hilgendorf as liaison to Infrastructure Committee. Passed Unanimously.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to require that storm damage grant requests must be for repair of damage caused by a state or federally declared emergency. Passed Unanimously.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to form an ad hoc committee to determine require components of a storm damage application. Passed Unanimously.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to defer funding Storm Damage request #S12 (Burnett County). Motion voted down. Updated cost breakdown provided by Ed Slaminski after emailing county. **New motion to recommend funding #S12 by Dale, 2nd by Mike. Passed Unanimously.**

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to defer funding Storm Damage request #S13 (La Crosse County). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to recommend funding Storm Damage request #S14 (Eau Claire County). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Infrastructure Committee to recommend funding Storm Damage request #S15 (Langlade County). Motion passed unanimously.

9. Council member items

- Mike H. – there is a need for continued education on signage, storm damage, etc
- Jeff – crazy weather, hope this isn't the new norm.
- Lee – dealers would like to be able to sell trail passes, buy a large quantity and have on hand to sell/give out with sales
- Dave – international meeting in Saskatchewan, AWSC can attend and represent WI, voting member or not.
- Dale – snowmo grant program was never intended to pay 100% of snowmobile trail expenses.
- Nancy – trails are open in La Crosse.
- Joel – problems with off trail riding. Dealers are selling off-trail machines, but they aren't really suited to WI, they are better for out west in deep snow, ungroomed conditions. What happened to the trail ambassador program? Marathon Co had rec deputies out for 2 weekends, had a big impact on cleaning up rider behavior

- Sam – Master Plan updates are slow. Blue Mounds coming around to the original proposal. Rails to Trails in Sauk may be a reality.
- Tom – no comments
- Bev – consistency of council decisions moving forward is key

10. Items for next meeting

- Next meeting (Infrastructure Committee) is June 16th/17th in Tomahawk.

11. Adjourn

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