

SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD

Minutes February 18, 2018

Eagle Waters Resort, Eagle River, WI

Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
Call to Order	<p>Members Present: Bev Dittmar- Chair, Larry Erickson – Vice Chair, Bob Lang, Lee Van Zeeland, Dale Mayo, Dave Newman, Sam Landes, Andy Malecki, Tom Chwala, Mike Holden, Gary Hilgendorf, Steve Moran, Nancy Olson, Arlyn Baumgarten, Jeff Schwaller</p> <p>Others Present: Cathy Burrow, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski, Jillian Steffes – DNR; Drew Nussbaum – Tourism Liaison to the Council and members of the public</p>	Meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.
Public Comment	None	
Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes		<p>Motion by Andy Malecki, second by Steve Moran, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bev talked about the progress the Council is making. She feels that everyone is contributing for the good of snowmobiling and it happy the Council isn't fighting amongst themselves and are able to have healthy discussions where they can disagree but walk away friends. She asked the newest member to introduce himself. • Jeff Schwaller introduced himself and told us about his background. He is a vintage snowmobile enthusiast (he's the chair of AWSC's vintage committee). He organizes the "Sick Day 100" which is a 100-mile ride on vintage sleds. He's from Marinette County. • Larry said they've been very fortunate to have steady snow in Iron County, they have 120 inches and typically have 200' by now but still plenty. Along with the high traffic that's good for business they've also had fatalities. There were 3 so far in his county and 2 more on life support. Iron County started a major safety campaign several years ago and they've been updating things this year. They put a high visibility white cross at every fatal location and sadly it's up to 25 since Larry was involved. They're looking to do something like what Vilas County has in Eagle River with the big highly visible signs which will include the cross and safety message. • AWSC: Legislation pending: Bikes required to have lights when operating between dusk and dawn on state trails. • Office has been very busy again this year, Lori and her staff are doing great work. Even though it's the 3rd year, it seems that people forgot what they did to purchase passes last year. 	

<p>DNR Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on '17-'18 registrations: 19,800 as of today. This is good because the DNR grants accountant estimated 20,000 as the number for this 3rd year. That means our funding estimate should hold up. • The Motorized Recreation Application (Form 8700-159) used to apply for Snowmobile, ATV/UTV and Motorized Stewardship has been updated to collect the information that is sometime lacking on applications and that the Council frequently asks for. We are collecting feedback and expect to further refine it for next season. Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will an H&H study be required? ○ Is the project on public or privates land? ○ Have other funding sources been explored and/or applied for? • GIS Mapping - To date, 29 counties have submitted GIS data layers to us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We may need to go back to the counties and ask for more precise data, particularly in the area of road routes. It's not possible to differentiate between a route and a trail that runs parallel to a road and/or if the road is not seasonally maintained which would make it eligible to be a funded trail unless that information is provided with the data layer. This makes it difficult to calculate funded trail miles, as those may include road routes. ○ That sort of work is likely to take time, so we may not be in a position to really utilize that data to update "funded miles" on maintenance contracts. But as we review the data, we may make changes to maintenance contracts sooner than later if we encounter glaring issues like funded trails across lakes, etc. ○ We won't be able to finalize our action plan on this until we do receive information from all the counties (due on April 15). To help with that effort we will be preparing documentation regarding trail specifications from statute, code and previous Council meeting minutes. The Council will need to review that and possibly add to it for statewide consistency. • DNR Replacement Pass Policy - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request for lost passes where the customer cannot provide the remnant of the pass or replacement windshield receipt, will require the customer to re-purchase the pass at full price and will not be issued free of charge. ○ Free replacement when a customer can provide the remnants of the trail pass to be replaced or receipt for the replacement windshield. Reimbursement requires filling out Form 9400-611 Snowmobile Trail Pass Replacement Application. • SNARS Deadlines – There will be deadlines for data entry into SNARS this year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 30 – for all club/alliance maintenance entries ○ July 30 – for all County activity ○ NOTE: These dates do not supersede County Deadlines (counties may set earlier deadlines for Club/Alliance) 	
<p>Reports of Standing Committees & Action Recommended</p>	<p>FINANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed trail pass numbers, look good. Lots of passes sold down south in the first two weeks of February. 	<p>FINANCE MOTION:</p> <p>Motion to hold the SRC funding meeting after the ORVC funding meeting. Motion Carried.</p>

- Meeting with DNR Finance and management went very well. The new tool is much easier to understand and follow.
- INFRASTRUCTURE:**
- SNARS issues: there are a lot of mistakes in the grooming unit rates that DNR is working on fixing right now. Surprising amount of grooming units classed too low where the clubs should be receiving additional funds.
 - GPS Units in Groomers: Clubs are asking for and have installed the units in groomers at their own cost.
 - Grandfathered units: The 5-year grand-father date will remain in place. First season is this season '17-18 through '21-22.
 - Track truck (ASV) is not fully tracked. It has tires on the front.
 - Rates Committee committed to look at the following:
 - Difference between Drag #2 and #3 rates it may be too large of a gap.
 - Create a specification for fully-tracked trucks that won't have a loophole for under-powered trucks.
 - Create a specification for drags with wings that will allow them to be classed as the width of the drag with the wings down, if the wings & pan go the entire length of the drag.
 - Gap between Power Units A, B and C. There may be a need for an adjustment or another class of power units.
 - Stressed that every club should look at the rates closely before purchasing any new grooming equipment.
 - Jeff Schwaller shared a letter he had received where he was asked about the purpose of collecting GPS data, the options they gave were:
 - To audit existing snowmobile trails?
 - To define the potential need to add more funded trails by converting non-funded to funded?

INFRASTRUCTURE MOTIONS:

- Failed motions were discussed which lead to a new motion:
- Andy moved to grandfather forever the units previously state as grandfathered until the 2021-22 season, as long as the club keeps the unit. The grandfather wouldn't transfer to a new club, second by Larry. Motion failed, 6 yes; 8 no votes.
 - Motion to make the following changes to the equipment list.
 - Add more description: "end-loaders" to the all-tired tractor classifications.
 - Add 902 Chippers self-contained minimum of 25 hp \$24.00
 Motion carried.
 - Motion to class the Sawyer Co. machine (fully-tracked truck) as an "A" power unit. Motion carried.
 - Motion to recommend funding Trempealeau's storm damage request in the amount of \$5,602. Motion carried.
 - Motion to recommend funding Dunn County's storm damage request in the amount of \$10,265. Motion carried.
 - Motion to recommend funding Calumet County's amendment request to S-5099 in the amount of \$31,500. Motion carried.
 - Motion to recommend funding Clark County's amendment request to S-4498 in the amount of \$126,898. Motion carried.
 - Council motion by Andy to recommend funding Rusk County's storm damage request in the amount of \$2,608, second by Larry. Motion carried

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To do a better job live tracking groomer activities with additional GPS equipment. The council members unanimously responded yes to all three questions. <p>Law Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatalities were discussed, especially the fact that many of the victims have not taken a safety course. • An ad Hoc committee to review the Trail Signing handbook and work with Gary on the changes was formed. • Gary Eddy presented Mike Holden with this 35-year Snowmobile Safety Education Instructor award along with a gift and thanked him for his service. <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Van Zeeland is the new Chair of the Tourism Committee. He wants to emphasize the fun and keep people excited about the sport. happy to have the partnership with Tourism and Drew's participation. 	<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Infrastructure Committee chose to take no action on the All-Track machine so it will remain classed as a "B" unit. A variance from NR 50 will be required, until the code is amended. • The Rates committee will write a specification to cover fully-tracked truck, that other units may qualify. The will write a specification that will not allow inadequately equipped units to qualify. <p>Council Statement: The Council supports a competitive bid process to make the best use of snowmobile funds.</p> <p>No Law Enforcement of Tourism motions.</p>
<p>Funding recommendations for applications & amendments</p>	<p>Covered under the Committee motions item.</p>	
<p>Council Member Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larry: Non-Resident Trail Pass is a problem. We need to have NR Trail Passes available physically to sell in the border communities. Wisconsin businesses would rather sell Michigan passes than Wisconsin passes because of our process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decibel patrol is missing out on the trails. • Arlyn: Halogen lights need to be dimmed when you meet another sled. • Nancy: Snow bikes – will this be a safety issue? Probably not likely because they don't want to ride our trail systems, they want to get off-trail. • Gary: Thanks to all. Appreciates all the help he gets and even if we disagree we're working for the good of the Snowmobilers. • Bev: Thanks to all, it's a good thing all the Council members can work together and work things out while remaining friends after the meeting. • Dale, thanks. Change is hard. • Andy: asked if anyone from DNR was going to IASA. Council would like DNR attendance there. • Sam: Thanked Dale for the Friday cruise. The Council members who went had fun and learned a lot. Our future is in marketing and PR, it's not in laws. As AWSC Exec, the biggest thing he's seeing crossing his desk are access issues. Feels the BMSP lawsuit is critical, because of the precedence it will set. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike: While in Canada, he talked to a lot of people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Back in the Larry Freidig days, they did official trail inspections. In Manitoba, they have volunteers that get a small remuneration for going around and inspecting trails. Answer: No funding for that. 	
Next Meeting	<p>June Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 7, 2018 – Wausau area <p>August Funding meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 29, 2018 – Wausau area 	
Adjourn		<p>Motion to adjourn by Steve Moran, second by Sam Landes. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>