



Snowmobile Recreation Council Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2020
Zoom Meeting

Council Members Present: Bev Dittmar – Vice Chair, Dale Mayo, Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Andy Malecki, Lee Van Zeeland, Sam Landes, Don Mrotek, Gary Hilgendorf, Leon Wolfe, Abby Haas, Erica Keehn

Council Members Not Present – Bob Lang – Chair, Tom Chwala, Sue Smedegard

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Kurt Byfield, Faith Murray, Cathy Burrow

Public attendance: members of the public

1. Call to order at 8:15

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

- Deferred till next meeting.

3. Agenda Repair

- None

4. Chair Comments

- Meeting will be led by Vice Chair Bev Dittmar.

5. DNR Reports and Updates

- Looking for council member input in interpretation of some of the questions, particularly the “parallel trail deduction” and the “leads to water” deduction.
- No other DNR updates or reports at this time.

6. Discuss New Mile Ranking Questions

- Jillian Steffes provided a narrative and discussion on how the Department interpreted the “parallel trail” point deduction and the “leads to water” deduction based on dialog with council from last year.
 - Parallel Trail – Deduction was applied when riders could get from the starting point to the ending point of the proposed new trail on ANOTHER funded trail, that was within 5 miles away at the furthest point. The parallel trail deduction was NOT applied if the proposed new trail led to an entirely different destination with no other funded trail within 5 miles going to that same point.
 - Leading to Water – since the Department cannot fund trails that cross lakes and flowages, the intention of this deduction was to give a lower priority to proposed new trails that end at the water’s edge (leading riders to the water crossing). If the trail leads to a SERVICE or POPULATION CENTER that also happens to be on the water’s edge (such as a trailhead, fuel, etc) should the deduction be applied? No consistent answer from council, may depend on the nature of the service.
 - Suggestion by DNR that a future version of the ranking apply a point deduction for incomplete applications. Quite a few applications were submitted without all of the required attachments such as maps, etc.

7. **Review Snowmobile New Mile grant applications for completeness; request additional information if needed.**
 - **General Observations & Discussion**
 - Should “services” include more than one thing, such as fuel AND parking? Priority points for # of services? Request applicant justify the “importance to the system” of those services, such as the only place for fuel in a large geographic area?
 - Should there be a minimum # of parking spaces (with trailers) in order for the parking to be considered? A small tavern parking lot may not really meet the definition, for example.
 - **Discussion and comments on some individual applications.**
 - Burnett’s Co’s Trail 22 (NM-105) – Should lead to service or another funded trail, should not terminate at intersection with just club trails. Can county extend their request to include a portion of the club trails past that intersection that lead to services? Explain how/why those services are important to the trail system?
 - Jefferson Co’s Snow Stormers (NM-25) – Council requesting more info on bridge
 - Kenosha Co’s West Twin Lakes (NM-26) and East Twin Lakes (NM-2) – Lots of spurs, please clarify/clean up so they can be scored and considered as distinct trails, not a group
 - Chippewa’s Co’s Flambeau River Trail North (NM-27) – how much parking? County should elaborate on value of this trail to the system.
 - Door County’s Corridor 1 West Jacksonport (NM-29) – Currently already showing as funded, county is receiving funding. Consider funded and remove from the list.
 - Adams Co’s Rome Area Trails (NM-95) – Split into 3 trails rather than group, and provide details on the services these trails access.
 - Grant Co’s Lancaster (NM-85) – Need better maps, scoring
 - Iowa Co’s Snow Drifters (NM-11) – no parallel deduction needed
 - Brown Co’s #2 Trail to Village Park (NM-17) – How many parking spots, with trailers?
 - Forest Co’s Trail 6A Water’s Edge to LMT (NM-21) – What is the significance of this one service to the general public and trail system?
8. **Review and make funding recommendations on any pending snow damage or cost increase requests.**
 - None at this time.
9. **Council member items**
 - Sam Landes
 - Stower Seven Lakes State Trail in Polk County is undergoing a Master Plan review/revision, may be open to snowmobiles soon.
 - Blue Mounds Master Plan is in revision, resolution for snowmobiles may be achieved by winter.
 - Bev Dittmar
 - Keep in mind that the program is meant to support trails statewide. Not all individual trails are fundable.
 - Gary Hilgendorf
 - The Hiawatha trail in Lincoln was recently redone, but there is a significant surface drop in the city boundaries. Needs to be addressed for safety. Possibly funded by DOT? Sam will work with Gary to pursue resolution.
 - Don Mrotek
 - When evaluating New Miles, may want to give fuel a higher priority over other services like parking.

10. Public Comments

11. Adjourn

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

DRAFT