



## Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21st, 2020  
Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin  
And via Zoom, MediaSite

Committee Members Present: Bob Lang - Chair, Bev Dittmar – Vice Chair, Tom Chwala, Joel Enking, Abby Haas (via Zoom), Gary Hilgendorf, Mike Holden, Erica Keehn, Sam Landes, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Don Mrotek, Sue Smedegard (via Zoom), Leon Wolfe

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

Tourism staff attendance: Drew Nussbaum

Public attendance: Members of the public

### 1. Call to order at 8:30 AM

### 2. Agenda Repair

- Moving Council Elections and Council Member Items to end of agenda.

### 3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Bev, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale. MOTION PASSED

### 4. Council Chair and Vice-Chair Comments

- **Bob Lang – Chair**
  - Thanks to the DNR for continuing to process grant applications and get the Council meeting scheduled despite COVID delays
- **Bev Dittmar – Vice Chair**
  - Remember, the program is here for the benefit of the statewide trail system. Not all trails are meant to be funded. Thanks to the DNR staff for their efforts.

### 5. Public Participation

- **AWSC (Dave Newman)**
  - In spite of most AWSC events and meetings being cancelled, the AWSC Office is open and processing memberships and selling trail passes.
  - AWSC will be proceeding with our Legislative agenda and have begun conversations with key Legislators.
    1. Eliminate the 40 foot rule
    2. Stationary sound test – change to replace the 2004 version of the SAE J2567 test with the 2015 version
    3. Improve the language for dimming of lights when meeting other vehicles
  - We will continue to work with our clubs to maintain the access we have and should have.
  - Dave will be representing AWSC on the Deer Hunting Stakeholder Group.
- **Tourism Report (Drew Nussbaum)**
  - Wisconsin Department of Tourism is currently administering the TRAVEL Stimulus Grant that will help the Tourism Promotion and Tourism Development organizations in our state. This includes Chambers of Commerce, CVB's, and similar tourism entities. The WDT is also assisting with sharing information about the DOA Cultural Grant.
  - Travel Wisconsin will launch the Winter Trail Conditions Report in November, and a thank you and reminder was presented for current snowmobiling conditions reporters to please continue to support the updates.
- **Public Comments**
  - None

## 6. DNR Report

- **GRANT REPORT**

- **HANDOUTS**

- Fiscal Year End Report for FY20
- Snowmobile Development Funding Available for FY21
- Snowmobile Registration Summary for Last 5 Years
- Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold for Last 5 Years
- Snow Supplemental Requests for 2019-20 (pre-audit)
- Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
- Spreadsheet of FY21 Grant Requests

- The GIS data submitted by the counties identifies 700 miles of road routes. Uncertain how much of that is in between funded trail segment and how much is in club trail segments. If the 40' rule is eliminated, some portion of that will likely become fundable trail.
- The statewide average paid out for maintenance is \$432/mile after taking supplemental requests into consideration.

- **LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. ACTION ITEM: Action on recommendations arising from committee reports.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

**Recommend to the Council awarding grant funds of no more than \$3 million in total today.  
Motion Passed.**

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

**Recommend to the Council making GPS unit trackers from GTS mandatory in Class A and Class B groomers by November 2021.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Recommend to the Council to consider funding up to 370 New Miles.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Recommend to the Council to add the “Trailblazer Brush Saw” to class 914 in equipment rates.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Recommend to the Council to adopt the 2019-20 Rates for 2020-21.**

**Motion Passed.**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT and SAFETY MOTIONS**

**Recommend to the Council to support updating s. 350.095(1)(b) to add the words “or operated”.**

**Motion Passed.**

**Recommend to the Council to support updating s. 350.095(2)(d) to replace 88 decibels with 82 and reference the 2020 standard.**

Further discussion, should reference the November 2015 test instead.

**Motion by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam to reference the 2015 standard.**

**Motion Passed.**

**TOURISM COMMITTEE MOTIONS**

**Recommend to the Council to have Drew Nussbaum approached the Office of Outdoor Recreation and ask that they appoint a representative of snowmobiling.**

**Motion Passed.**

**8. ACTION ITEM: Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications**

- Below are recorded questions/comments/discussion and the motion. Details on each project available in the meeting attachments.

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Discussion/Questions</b>	<b>Motions</b>
<b>Amendment Requests</b>			
97	Florence	Why the delay in construction? Working with Michigan DNR, they are taking the lead.	<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Dale, 2nd: Sam <b>Motion carried.</b>
98	Langlade		<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Sam, 2nd: Andy <b>Motion carried.</b>
99	Vilas		<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Bev, 2nd: Gary. Dale abstains. <b>Motion carried.</b>

Bridge Rehab			
1 - 17	Multi Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	
18	Pierce	Why not use maintenance? Spent, none leftover	
19	Trempealeau	Should this be considered eligible if the bridge is in good standing and is only being replaced to accommodate groomer? While it's true that the policy of the council is to not pay to replace good bridges just to accommodate larger groomers, this bridge was never intended as a snowmobile bridge. Council feels the policy does not apply. Club and Landowner need to understand that bridge will be removed if the trail loses access. Better LUA needed.	<b>Motion to approve:</b> By: Sam, 2nd: Tom <b>Motion carried</b>
20	Douglas	2019 grant was for a different section of trail. Culvert was blocked for 10 years, finally being replaced.	
21	Barron	Should these be separate applications? DNR states these are so small, not worth the extra paperwork. Why are culverts in the Bridge Rehab category? Does the 24" size threshold in bridge guidelines play a roll?	<b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Council will discuss in future meetings culverts being considered trail rehab vs. bridge rehab. Council may set Guidelines for Dept.
22-25	Multi Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	
26	Columbia	Needs a 2 <sup>nd</sup> quote. Yes the project will be bid out later and expenses based on that, but Council policy is to require 2 quotes and recommend funding on the lower of the two. Counties need to at least demonstrate the efforts to get 2 quotes.	<b>Motion to approve contingent upon the county getting a 2<sup>nd</sup> estimate/quote. Grant will be written for the value of the lower.</b> By Bev, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Gary <b>Motion Passed.</b>
27	Dane	Need a 3 year minimum LUA	<b>Motion to approve contingent on obtaining 3 year min LUA.</b> By Bev, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Mike. <b>Motion Passed.</b>
28-30	Multi Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	
30	Jefferson	Need a 3 year minimum LUA	<b>Motion to approve contingent on obtaining 3 year min LUA.</b> By Bev, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sam. <b>Motion Passed.</b>
31	Wood	Need a 3 year minimum LUA	<b>Motion to approve contingent on obtaining 3 year min LUA.</b> By Dale, 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Bev. <b>Motion Passed.</b>
32	Wood	Bridge was rehabbed with grant funds <10 years ago. Bridges cannot receive additional rehab funds with 10 years of their last grant, unless explicitly approved otherwise. - 50.09)(4)(e) County indicated the bridge was in danger of imminent failure due to environmental conditions. In light of this, Council passed second motion to approve funding.	<b>Motion to deny funding.</b> By Andy, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mike. <b>Motion Passed.</b>  <b>Motion to Approve Funding</b> By Dale, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sam <b>Motion Passed.</b>

Application	County	Discussion	Motions
<b>Summary of Bridge Rehab</b>			<b>Motion to approve all projects not previously voted on in this category.</b> By Andy, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gary <b>Motion Passed.</b>
<b>Trail Rehab</b>			
<b>34 &amp; 35</b>	Oneida, Lincoln	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	<b>Motion to approve 34, 35</b> By Andy, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leon <b>Motion Passed.</b>
<b>36</b>	Vernon	Application Withdrawn	
<b>Mandatory trail relocation</b>			
<b>37-40</b>	Multiple Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	<b>Motion to approve all projects in this category</b> By Dale, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Gary <b>Motion Passed.</b>
<b>Discretionary trail relocation</b>			
<b>41-44</b>	Multiple Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	<b>Motion to approve all projects in this category</b> By Mike, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bev <b>Motion Passed.</b>
<b>New Bridges</b>			
<b>45-49</b>	Multiple Counties	Notes and discussion recorded in funding spreadsheet (meeting attachments)	<b>Motion to approve all projects in this category</b> By Andy, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Erica <b>Motion Passed.</b>

#### **New Mile Discussion**

- When the 40' rule goes away, some previously-considered-routes within a funded trail system will become eligible for funding as trails. Keep that potential fiscal draw in mind when approving new miles. Counties will need to apply for funding of those newly eligible segments, increased funding will not be automatic.
- Letter from Nancy Olson with concerns about the New Mile Scoring system. Discussion among Council that a lot of effort went into the ranking and it appears to be fair and balanced. More miles were awarded in the south of the state than the north last year.
- Project NM-66 was pulled from consideration as application is incomplete.

**Motion to recommend funding New Mile projects through Score 7 by Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale. MOTION PASSED**

**Motion to close this category and not recommend funding any additional new miles this year by Dale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam. MOTION PASSED**

Application	County	Discussion	Motions
<b>Non-Trail</b>			
<b>50</b>	Douglas		<b>Motion to approve</b> By Sam, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tom <b>Motion Passed.</b>
<b>Acquisition</b>			
<b>51</b>	Bayfield		<b>Motion to approve</b> By Dale, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bev <b>Motion Passed.</b>

## 9. Election of the Council Chair

Bob Lang nominates Dale Mayo as Chair.

**Motion to close the nominations for chair and pass a unanimous ballot for Dale by Bev, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue.  
MOTION PASSED**

Dale Mayo nominates Bev Dittmar as Vice Chair.

Dale Mayo nominates Bob Lang as Vice Chair.

Written ballot results: 6 for Bev, 8 for Bob. **Bob Lang appointed as Vice Chair.**

## 10. Member reports, comments and items

- **Leon Wolfe** – Fortunate to have the money we have. Looking forward to serving.
- **Gary Hilgendorf** – Proposes the issue of paying transportation of groomers along routes be addressed at the next meeting. Not fair to those using GPS if they are getting paid less (due to exclusion of road routes) than clubs who are manually recording the time they travel down the road.
- **Tom Chwala** – Thanks everyone.
- **Andy Maclecki** – Program is going well.
- **Mike Holden** – Let's look at the route issue.
- **Don Mrotek** – Let's look at the route issue.
- **Bob Lang** – Lots of turn over of council members, thank you to folks for stepping up to serve.
- **Joel Enking** – Program is doing good work.
- **Sam Landes** – United we stand, divided we fall. Appreciation to grants staff.
- **Erica Keehn** – Lots to learn, excited to be part of the Council.
- **Dale Mayo** – Big changes, great clean up and improvement of integrity of the program.
- **Bev Dittmar** – Clubs shouldn't count on "new miles" till vetted. Thanks to DNR staff for efforts.
- **Sue Smedegard** – Thanks for the Zoom connection, groomer routes need to be addressed. Thanks Ed for your service.
- **Abby Haas** – Appreciate the learning experience.

**From DNR**

**Ed Slaminski** – Retiring, happy trails!

**Annie Loechler** – We work hard.

## 11. Items for next meeting

- Continued discussion of reimbursement of groomers traveling on routes.
- Continued discussion on the need for two quotes/estimates on grant applications for bridges.
  
- Next meeting will be at the Groomer Show, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Committee meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Full Council on the 4<sup>th</sup>

## 12. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leon. MOTION PASSED**