

SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD

Minutes February 19, 2016

The Lodge at Crooked Lake, Siren, 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, Michelle Martin, Andy Malecki, Tom Chwala, Mike Holden, Gary Hilgendorf, Steve Moran, Nancy Olson</p> <p>Others Present: Others Present: Cathy Burrow, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski –DNR; Drew Nussbaum-Tourism Liaison to the Council and members of the public</p>	Meeting was called to order at 8:06.
Agenda Repair	The order of the agenda was adjusted slightly	
Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes		Motion by Dale Mayo, second by Andy Malecki, to approve the minutes of the previous meetings dated August 22, November3, and December 13, 2016. <u>Motion carried.</u>
Comments	<p>SNARS is the opportunity to bring some younger people in on the action and ask for their help.</p> <p>Reminder that is great to be a champion for your area but our duty as council members is to represent statewide snowmobiling.</p> <p>Vice Chair Comments: The trail pass has provided a great opportunity for us. Indications are it is going to provide much needed funds to the program. We were able to fund all of our new bridges which helps make snowmobiling as safe as possible.</p>	
Tourism Chair report	<p>Michelle referred to an email that she received from a landowner with two issues, the first was regarding videos of snowmobiler’s behaving badly posted on the social media and the second regarded the trail on his property where he had an issue with snowmobilers being disrespectful to the point of verbal and physical abuse. She used this as an example of why we need to educate marketing people on proper promotion of snowmobiling in Wisconsin.</p> <p>Much discussion followed.</p>	
Citizen Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWSC: Update on legislation to up the maintenance from \$250 to \$300 and the minimum grooming from \$150-\$200 for supplemental. • Public: Holly Tomlanovich, Vilas County suggested that Michelle connect with Cindy from Vilas County. Vilas already has some resources that may be of use. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Peterson, Langlade County, Boondock Nation had an article on off-trail riding and it was aired on television with Discover Wisconsin as a sponsor. It was damaging because when a person from Wisconsin was watching it, it appeared as though that is what goes on in Wisconsin. • He also had a question regarding some of the new rates. We agreed that we would provide more explanation in an accompanying sheet on the same page as the non-grooming entries in SNARS where people indicate it is needed and/or on entries that receive multiple questions.
DNR Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial statement was recapped, this still says preliminary because the DNR's Condition Statement hasn't been completed. • SNARS report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20 trainings in various locations, ○ 69 counties and both tri-county trails represented ○ Over 500 attendees ○ Participants have been receptive to the program ○ A written guide for all roles will be created before July 1, 2017 when the program becomes mandatory for all clubs/counties. • GIS report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deadline date to submit is 4/15/18 ○ We will contact counties who haven't submitted maps in early summer • The Governor has appointed a new member who was approved by the Senate along with Bev Dittmar, Tom Chwala, Gary Hilgendorf & Steve Moran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New member: Arlyn Baumgarten from Kenosha • Dave Newman reported on his participation (to represent snowmobiling) in the DNR's Recreational Opportunities Assessment team. They have brought many stakeholders into the team to provide feedback. Over 100 different activities have been identified. Meetings will continue through the fall of 2017 • Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide statewide perspective ○ Collaborate with other outdoor recreation interest ○ Help facilitate public input for management plans • Roles & Responsibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assist DNR ○ Liaison to regional processes ○ Agree on decision-making process • Assist DNR with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Statewide goals and objectives ○ Activity attributes ○ Opportunities and needs ○ Evaluation criteria ○ Relative priorities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issues and concerns • Also assist in meeting requirements of new law, which directs the department to inventory and map all roads on its properties and identify which are open to motorized vehicles. <p>Law Enforcement, Gary Eddy: Currently at 14 fatalities, last year at this time we were at 7, 9 total last year. 23 in the last big snow year. Speed, alcohol over 50%, most after dark. 4 on roads, 3 on frozen waterways, 6 on trails. Biggest cause collision with a fixed object.</p> <p>Bureau of LE changing drastically, one of the biggest changes is in SP, SF and STs those LE officers (dedicated to the property) are being phased out. To off-set that 33 new warden positions are being created. (That's not even half of the time of the rangers that are being lost). Warden Snow FTE hasn't been increased since 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council asked to have someone from Finance come and explain the financial to them. They're going to want an explanation of each line. • Discussion that at the August meeting, Gary Eddy could bring forth more information on the realignment and the Council can consider possibly ear-marking some money for additional enforcement. 		
<p>Reports of Standing Committees & Action Recommended</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>FINANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed trail pass numbers, look good. Total passes sold as of 2/1/17 are more than all of last year. • Reviewed Financial statement, committee asked to have a representative from the DNR come and explain it. <p>INFRASTRUCTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good meeting. Ad hoc teams met previously on Bridges & Rates. There was disagreement but they collaboratively agreed on rates for the 17-18 season. • Bridge ad hoc met with bridge engineers and received a lot of information. They are planning to recommend the Council fund up to 25K lbs. H Load on future bridges. Prices from Wheeler, Custom & Anderson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wheeler & Anderson – prices went up 10% when going from 14K to 25K ○ Custom – prices stayed the same except for a 40' bridge which went up \$1,000. • Presentation on the Dubie Groomer which they are trying to promote. It may work but the Council asked them to provide more information particularly regarding </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>FINANCE MOTIONS:</p> <p>To request the Director of the DNR's Bureau of Finance to attend the next Council meeting to explain the financial statement and address the deficiencies. <u>Motion Passed Unanimously.</u></p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE MOTION:</p> <p>To increase the maximum weight/load of funded bridges from 14,000 to 25,000 H-Load. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variance from NR 50 will be required, until the code is amended. • The Council will not award funds to upgrade bridges solely for the purpose of accommodating equipment. <p>To present the updated rates to the Council for approval. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>FINANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed trail pass numbers, look good. Total passes sold as of 2/1/17 are more than all of last year. • Reviewed Financial statement, committee asked to have a representative from the DNR come and explain it. <p>INFRASTRUCTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good meeting. Ad hoc teams met previously on Bridges & Rates. There was disagreement but they collaboratively agreed on rates for the 17-18 season. • Bridge ad hoc met with bridge engineers and received a lot of information. They are planning to recommend the Council fund up to 25K lbs. H Load on future bridges. Prices from Wheeler, Custom & Anderson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wheeler & Anderson – prices went up 10% when going from 14K to 25K ○ Custom – prices stayed the same except for a 40' bridge which went up \$1,000. • Presentation on the Dubie Groomer which they are trying to promote. It may work but the Council asked them to provide more information particularly regarding 	<p>FINANCE MOTIONS:</p> <p>To request the Director of the DNR's Bureau of Finance to attend the next Council meeting to explain the financial statement and address the deficiencies. <u>Motion Passed Unanimously.</u></p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE MOTION:</p> <p>To increase the maximum weight/load of funded bridges from 14,000 to 25,000 H-Load. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variance from NR 50 will be required, until the code is amended. • The Council will not award funds to upgrade bridges solely for the purpose of accommodating equipment. <p>To present the updated rates to the Council for approval. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p>
<p>FINANCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed trail pass numbers, look good. Total passes sold as of 2/1/17 are more than all of last year. • Reviewed Financial statement, committee asked to have a representative from the DNR come and explain it. <p>INFRASTRUCTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good meeting. Ad hoc teams met previously on Bridges & Rates. There was disagreement but they collaboratively agreed on rates for the 17-18 season. • Bridge ad hoc met with bridge engineers and received a lot of information. They are planning to recommend the Council fund up to 25K lbs. H Load on future bridges. Prices from Wheeler, Custom & Anderson. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wheeler & Anderson – prices went up 10% when going from 14K to 25K ○ Custom – prices stayed the same except for a 40' bridge which went up \$1,000. • Presentation on the Dubie Groomer which they are trying to promote. It may work but the Council asked them to provide more information particularly regarding 	<p>FINANCE MOTIONS:</p> <p>To request the Director of the DNR's Bureau of Finance to attend the next Council meeting to explain the financial statement and address the deficiencies. <u>Motion Passed Unanimously.</u></p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE MOTION:</p> <p>To increase the maximum weight/load of funded bridges from 14,000 to 25,000 H-Load. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variance from NR 50 will be required, until the code is amended. • The Council will not award funds to upgrade bridges solely for the purpose of accommodating equipment. <p>To present the updated rates to the Council for approval. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p>		

	<p>the groomer operating in adverse conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail Ranking Tool – and ad hoc committee was formed to look at and review the trail ranking tool. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sam, Bev, Dale, Andy, Fuzzy – will be looking at that. Gary asked all Council members to send their trail ranking comments to Cathy no later than June 1. • Gary will come to the ORV meeting to explain the reasons for the SRC increasing the bridge load that the council will fund. • Sam brought up that we may get to new miles this year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consensus was the Council will have to wait and see what the financial situation looks like when the August meeting comes, however it is unlikely that any new miles will be awarded due to the uncertainty regarding current funded/unfunded mapped miles and the financials changes the proposed legislation will bring. <p>Law Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatalities: Majority over 48. Unfortunate, sad to see. • There was discussion on the 40' rule. Gary shared some language which would change the measurement to 15' but still waiting to hear from Dot. • There was discussion regarding allowing NR Trail passes to be stocked physically in stores for sale for immediate use. • In fact, the Council would like to have all trail passes readily available to all. 	<p>Note: New rates posted with minutes.</p> <p>For the 2017-18 season and beyond Groomer Rates will be determined by manufacturer's stated HP and not changed from that because of chipping or other work done to the engines. 9 ayes, 2 against. Michelle Martin & Gary Hilgendorf abstained. <u>Motion Passed.</u></p>
Funding recommendations for applications & amendments	None	
Council Member Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion regarding the terms State funding vs. User funding. Some people would like to call the trails, user funded to remove the perception that general tax dollars pay for the snowmobile trails. • People resolved to try to make sure that every time we talk about snowmobiling that we reinforce that snowmobilers 	

	<p>pay their own way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment rates they used the DOT highway rates to determine these rates. They tried to hit all the pieces of equipment that are commonly used on trails and tried to group them together. • Next project will be grooming & labor rates. • Council is doing a good job, working together well. Lively discussion because we're facing issues we haven't had to face in the past. Good issues. • Gary thanked his teams that worked on the Rates & Bridge projects. It was hard work but the results are good. We need to push people toward the Council approved rates, not the DOT listing. • 33 counties reporting through SNARS. Shout-out to Gary for the good work. • Bob gave a shout-out to Sam, Dave, Andy they do a good job of representing snowmobiling nationally and we appreciate it.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 12, 2017 – Infrastructure Committee meeting at Schmeckle in Stevens Point to review bridge applications. • August 20-21, 2017 – Council funding meeting in the Wausau/Stevens Point area.
Adjourn	<p>Motion to adjourn by Mike Holden second by Andy Malecki. <u>Motion passed.</u></p>