

Law Enforcement Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council  
Meeting  
Thursday, February 3, 2014  
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

St. Germain Community Center  
545 State Highway 155  
St. Germain, WI 54558

Notice is given that the Law Enforcement Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council will convene at 4:00 PM on Thursday, February 6, 2014.

Notice is further given that matters concerning the Committee's responsibilities specified in Section 350.14, Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after the publication of this agenda may be added to the agenda and publicly notice no less than 24 hours before the scheduled committee meeting, if the Committee chair determines that the matter is urgent.

#### AGENDA

1. Call to order at 4:00 PM
2. Public Comments  
None.
3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting  
Motion to Accept Bev Dittmar. Seconded by Dave Neuman.
4. DNR Law Enforcement Budget Overview  
Warden Eddy provided a budget overview for of the snowmobile budget for conservation wardens. The last time this budget saw a permanent increase was in 2001. Since 2012, there have been mandatory lapses (decreases). For Fiscal Year 2014, that lapse translated into a reduction of 1,400 patrol hours for wardens. Last year, Warden Eddy compared Wisconsin DNR's budget with Minnesota's and found that Minnesota wardens patrolled 4,000 more hours than Wisconsin wardens. Last year, Minnesota ended the season with 9 fatalities, whereas Wisconsin had 20.
5. Current Fatality Statistics  
Warden Eddy discussed the 15 current snowmobile fatalities that occurred so far this season. Pat Schmutzer mentioned the first fatality that occurred during a Snowmobile Safety course.  
Warden Eddy explained that after much discussion with DNR staff, Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Club leadership

and WI ATV Association leadership, the DNR decided to suspend the optional hands on, field days for Snowmobile Safety and ATV Safety Education courses.

Dave Neuman shared his agreement with the decision.

6. Operation Adjacent to Roadways

Warden Eddy discussed the issue of two way trails at night that do not comply with state law. At night, state law requires that snowmobiles operating adjacent to roadways operate with the flow of motor vehicle traffic in the nearest lane. Any two way trails running adjacent to a roadway must be at least 40 feet from the roadway or have a headlight barrier in place.

Over the years, more and more segments of trails are being brought to the attention of the DNR that are not in compliance with this requirement and it is apparent that this issue is widespread throughout the state and affects many trails.

Warden Eddy and Bureau of Community Financial Assistance will be looking into the issue and determining what options are available. The DNR will contact DOT state to determine if a law change is desirable. Steps will have to be taken to inform and educate the clubs and counties on this issue along with a plan to bring these trails into compliance.

7. Snowmobile 10 MPH Speed Limits

Sam Landes discussed the state law that requires snowmobiles to slow to a speed of 10 MPH when within 100 feet of a person and ice shanty and also when within 150 feet of a dwelling between 10:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Sam stated he conducted testing and found that a snowmobile clutch engages comfortably at 15 MPH. Sam stated that this would need to be a statutory change. Warden Eddy explained that the majority of the citations for this violation were issued a speed well above 10 MPH and that a large amount of discretion is used.

8. Member items

None.

9. Adjournment

Chair, Pat Schmutzer  
Dave Neuman  
Sam Landes  
Bev Dittmar