

SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD

Minutes July 22, 2013

Conference Room, Portage Co. Annex Building, Stevens Point, WI

Presenter/ Time	Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
	1. Call to Order	<p>Members Present: Mike Cerny-Chair, Bev Dittmar-Vice Chair, Dave Newman, Sam Landes, Jon Schweitzer, Bob Lang, Dale Mayo, Mike Willman, Andy Malecki, Tom Chwala, Larry Erickson, Lee Van Zeeland, Pat Schmutzer, Karen Carlson</p> <p>Absent: Jerry Green</p> <p>Others Present: Cathy Burrow, Gary Eddy, Shelly Young, Mike Bruhn, Faith Murray, Beth Norquist, Jillian Steffes, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski, Walt Ebersohl, Pat Kirsop, DNR, county coordinators, club members and members of the public.</p>	
	2. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting		Motion by Bev Dittmar, second by Tom Chwala, to approve the minutes of the Dec. 7, 2012 meeting. <u>Motion carried.</u>
	3. Comments	<p>Mike Cerny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike & Jon met with the DNR - resulting in a draft MOU on communication during the planning and development process (snowmobile trail work on state properties). • Met in Madison w/Gunderson, Bruhn, others from DNR, where we were told Cathy is the new Grant Manager and we were also told that we are broke. The legislature did 2 things for us: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the gas tax multiplier from 1.4 to 1.55 2. Stewardship fund split 80/20, 20% match has to come from non-state/non-federal funds. A good idea 	

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		<p>but not likely to be used because of the 20% LOCAL match.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Doug Johnson, AWSC President in Tomah in June. • Discussion of CapStep has been on-going. Dale Mayo was contacted by Rep. Czaja to discuss CapStep. Dale contact Mike, Mike asked to be brought along. They talked with her in early for several hours on different aspects of CapStep. <p>He put together source information to provide back-up documentation for the numbers he was providing. Used information from New York & New Hampshire. Dale & Jon contributed, both attended ISC. Mike put together an information packet which was handed out to the members of the Finance committee yesterday and to the rest of the council today.</p> <p>Bev – Lots of changes in her life. Will no longer be a snow bird and expects and plans to be very much involved in the snowmobile program. She would like to keep the program at a safe level and be there to push it on its way. She would like explanations on where the program is at and where it's going.</p>	
	4. Citizen Participation	AWSC Comments: Morris – we're pushing forward to try to pass some legislation to make our program healthier.	
	5. DNR Report	Motorized Stewardship funds made available in the Biennial Budget signed on June 30. 80/20 match that must be local dollars. Other stewardship match is 50/50.	

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		<p>Cathy discussed the draft process that DNR is using to distribute the Motorized Stewardship funds in an accelerated manner so funds will be available this year.</p> <p>It is available for public comment on the DNR's website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/Guidance.html Keyword search from DNR website: "program guidance"</p> <p>Key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project priority will be set by NR 50.09. • Snow Rec Council will continue to recommend to DNR which projects to fund. • No new applications will be accepted because of statutory April 15 deadline. • Previously submitted projects may be amended in light of the new funding. • 20% local match is required. Match cannot be state, federal, in-kind or force account. • Any projects \$250,000 or larger must be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Finance. • An accelerated timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8/1 One-page cover sheet to indicate request for Motorized Stewardship funds & indication that you are able to secure 20% local match ○ 9/13 Motorized Stewardship applications due (application will be a 1-page cover sheet to attach to previously submitted project) ○ 9/23-26 Infrastructure meeting (if needed) ○ 10/1-5 Snow Rec. Council funding meeting ○ 12/2 Latest date by which DNR will issue grant agreements to successful applicants 	<p><i>Cathy's note added after the meeting: Force account as match is being discussed. A final decision hasn't been made.</i></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12/16 Deadline for successful applicants to return signed agreements to DNR. <p>Cathy: The project requests that are in the queue for the fund where this Stewardship money is coming from has at least double the amount of requests, so that money will not go unused.</p> <p>She doesn't know know if Snow/ATV/UTV projects will compete with these other projects or if they'll only compete with other Snow/ATV/UTV projects.</p> <p>Q: Do you know what the requests are that came in on April 15.</p> <p>A: Yes, but my information is incomplete.</p> <p>Q: Were there any requests for new miles?</p> <p>A: Yes</p> <p>Decision made to defer the DNR report on the snowmobile fund until the Finance Committee report.</p>	
	<p>6. Reports of Standing Committees & 7. Action Arising from Reports</p>	<p>Infrastructure Report: Jon Schweitzer</p> <p>Automated Groomer/GPS system</p> <p>Has been looking into the automated groomer system the New York is using. He and Dale Mayo both attended ISC where they were able to see demo of this. New York hopes to go paperless by 2014.</p> <p>They worked with a company called Automated Logistic Solutions (ALS).</p> <p>Jon showed a presentation on the system and demonstrated New York's test site.</p>	<p>Motion by Bev Dittmar, second by Andy Malecki to accept standing committee reports. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>

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		<p><i>Note: See the detailed minutes of the Finance Committee meeting.</i></p> <p>Karen: Estimated 600 groomers to be on the high side which comes to \$150,000 plus \$70,000 for the system. Could we look at that Stewardship money to pay for it? Jon: I think you'd be better off looking at the RTA program if we are going to do it.</p> <p>Also didn't know what the timelines would be and ALS would have to sit down with the folks from the DNR to see how/if this can proceed.</p> <p>Discussion ensued on possible funding.</p> <p>Mike Cerny: My thoughts are if we do decided to go ahead we would move slowly and start as a pilot.</p> <p>Wisconsin would save money because much of the program has already been written for NY.</p> <p>Vilas County Variance Request NR 50 allows for a snowmobile trail no less than 8' with a maximum of 12'. They have a situation where trails are also used as logging roads in the winter. They want a variance or rule change to allow for a wider trail. After much discussion and several failed motions, we decided to take no action because NR50 is not the responsibility of the Council. And the variance process does exist in NR 50 so Vilas County and other counties/clubs can have their needs met through this method. No action</p>	<p>Infrastructure Motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommend council proceed with pursuing an automated system such as New York is using. Motion by Mike Willman, Pat Schmutzer second, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u> 2. If council approves motion to move forward then infrastructure committee will approach ORV Council. Motion by Bob Lang, Bev Dittmar second, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u> <p>No motions for Vilas County variance.</p>

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		<p>was taken.</p> <p>Bridge Inventory This has been an on-going issue for several years. Dale Mayo spent a lot of time on this. Vilas County uses this. Jon explained the columns in the inventory (copy attached). It would be a good planning tool to use when seeing what rehabs might be coming down the road.</p> <p>Lee: Who would put this together? Jon: Each county coordinator would be responsible for collecting this information and forwarding it to the CSS. When all were in, a statewide list could be put together. Cathy: Makes sense for the counties to collect but wouldn't want to publish this. We would maintain it and would provide copies when needed. Lee: Is this a Council or AWSC question? Dale: County Coordinators should have this for their county. What this does for the infrastructure committee is show when work was last completed, what was done and on which bridge the work was done. Andy: This was originally proposed so we would have a written record of work done on the bridges. This would be for the Council's information to differentiate between time for maintenance and time for a structural project.</p> <p>Draft MOU with DNR Mike & Jon met with the DNR in March, Bureau of Parks, Division of Forestry and the State Trails Coordinator were all at the meeting.</p> <p>This arose from a situation on the Glacial-Drumlin that</p>	<p>3. Council approve use of the bridge inventory with the added category of wood vs. steel. Motion by Andy Malecki, Bev Dittmar second, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u></p> <p>4. Leave draft MOU open for 30 day comment period. If no comments/suggestions arise committee will pursue finalizing with DNR. If comments/objections arise, the committee will bring the issue</p>

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		<p>Sam Landes brought forth. Maintenance work was schedule with no notice to the clubs that resulted in a situation where 5 bridges were scheduled to be redecked and the way the bidding occurred the construction was scheduled to be completed right in the middle of the snowmobile season. So Sam asked us to work on a long-term solution to this.</p> <p>The state submits a development project and it goes up the chain and comes back down to get the work done. We asked that somewhere along the chain, the county snowmobile trail coordinator be notified so that plans can be made to accommodate the construction/repair. In some instances the local clubs may have already found a re-route and the repair may not even be necessary.</p> <p>This draft MOU will be posted with the minutes for everyone's review. Jon then summarized the memo.</p> <p>Bev: As long as they make sure new Property Managers are made aware of the MOU. Jon: This will be DNR policy so we can expect they will know about it. Sam: The new Property Managers have been pretty easy to work with, it's just a handful of the ones who've been around for a while that are difficult to work with. Most are good.</p> <p>Equipment & Labor Rates: No action taken on the snow blower rate. We did take action to propose equipment & labor rates remain the same as last year.</p>	<p>back to their next meeting. Motion by Dale Mayo, Lee Van Zeeland second, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u></p> <p>5. Leave the equipment and labor rates the same as they were for 2012-13. Motion by Bev Dittmar, Andy Malecki second, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>

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		<p>Finance Committee Report – Bob Lang The big news is the lack of funding coming into 2013. Obviously we're not considering projects right now. We had Mike & Shelly in to explain it and between them and Cathy they did. It will be better to let them summarize it.</p> <p>Mike Bruhn explained the numbers spreadsheet with was handed out to all Council members and everyone in the audience. See the detailed notes in the Finance Committee minutes.</p> <p>Bob Lang: Are we confident that we have enough money to cover 50% of the Supplemental payment that has to go out. Shelly: Yes. Supplemental is its own little bucket.</p> <p>Mike Cerny: The registration revenue money doesn't compute with number or registered snowmobiles. Shelly: The registration revenue includes other numbers.</p> <p>Mike Cerny: How did you calculate that? Shelly: It's based on actual revenues received.</p> <p>Supplemental gas tax amount is shown in the registration revenues and that's the reason why the numbers don't compute with number of registered snowmobiles.</p> <p>Sam: Years ago when we had this meeting we would get a balance sheet. In other words registration revenues as a total and then they would break out where all the revenue came from. It was all broken down by line item.</p>	<p>Finance Committee Recommendation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask the DNR to look into the priority requirements in statutes particularly regarding emergency projects. Motion by Mike Willman, Dale May, to approve. <u>Motion carried.</u>

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		<p>We need to get that again. We need a total breakdown.</p> <p>Mike Cerny: We need to know the number of actual registered sleds used for the computations.</p> <p>We need to know</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What the registered sleds are for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011 2. And what they are each year in the future as we reach that point. <p>Bev: We used to know the opening cash balance and I see you haven't included those number for the past years. It used to be there.</p> <p>Shelly: We don't have those reports.</p> <p>Shelly: Just taking things off the accounting system doesn't show the whole pictures, it doesn't show grants you've approved for funding but haven't been written/awarded yet. It doesn't show the registration numbers used to calculate the totals. That's why we're trying to come up with a report that works for everyone, because just taking things off the system, doesn't show the whole picture.</p> <p>Sam: Somewhere along the line we have to come up with an annual number with an annual balance sheet that shows all of the important numbers. Reg. number used for gas tax, reg number used for reg. revenues. Gas tax amount, supplemental gas tax amount, non-resident trail pass revenues, etc. So they're not calculating the entire annual amount based on the March</p>	

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		<p>31st date?</p> <p>Mike Cerny: No, that's a big part of the problem. There are 3 ways to calculate numbers. License year, fiscal year & calendar year.</p> <p>If we can come to agreement on a report that works for everyone and shows us everything we need to see that will be a really good thing.</p> <p>Mike: Do we know what we all want to see? Bob: I suggest we let the dnr put this together and then we'll pick it apart. We've badgered them enough let's see what they come up with and go from there.</p> <p>Lee: For sure we know we need the registration number used for gas tax calculation & for registration revenue calculation each year.</p> <p>Bob: At this point, let's let them put together a report, distribute it to the council members and see if we all find our answers there.</p> <p>Jon Schweitzer brought up the idea of instituting a late fee to try to get snowmobilers to not wait for snow to register their sleds. Bob thought that had to be done by legislation.</p> <p>Dave asked a question about the maintenance amount. Some year's counties don't use all their maintenance and some years even when there's little snow, they still do. They stock up on signs, boards, gravel, etc. The</p>	

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		<p>\$150 minimum for grooming doesn't apply unless they go into supplemental.</p> <p>Larry asked for the supplemental numbers as soon as possible. Cathy will provide them as soon as they are finalized.</p> <p>Mike C: what's included in DNR operating expenses? The largest part of that is Customer Service and Licensing. Community Financial Assistance is the next largest chunk, and then Finance, Management & Budget, DOA, etc. The DNR receives \$1,000,000 from tribal gaming that goes for law enforcement and some safety issues. That's not reflected in the spreadsheet because it's not Snowmobile money.</p> <p>Mike stressed that he felt the amount spent on administration is too much particularly in light of the fact that we are currently in this situation.</p> <p>Bob Lang: Moving on, the stewardship was already explained so we don't have to go over that again.</p> <p>Council Budget: Cathy shared the council's budget and showed what we've been spending for the last 2 years. We've been hitting just above that amount so we certainly can't schedule any more meetings than we've been having.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the possible need for more meetings with the Stewardship funding. The need to stay within budget because we can't spend more when</p>	

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		<p>we're asking everyone else to do less.</p> <p>The council's budget is not in statute. It would be possible to raise it if necessary.</p> <p>Funding increase items: Bob turned it over to Mike Cerny because he was involved in the meetings.</p> <p>Mike has had discussions with legislators and has been told they don't believe that CapStep will go forward in its current form. The main reason is because of the 1-year registration/pass. Whatever does go forward will have to involve a 2 year period.</p> <p>The Council's proposal didn't get included in the Gov's budget, but everyone down there knows that there are conflicting proposals between the Council & AWSC.</p> <p>We need to come together and come up with an agreement that we can all get behind and push it all together.</p> <p>The meeting was initiated by the Representative who authored the bill.</p> <p>Lee suggested that some Council members who aren't so close to and passionate about the issue should be helping to work on a compromise.</p> <p>More discussion ensued regarding the need for both sides to come together and get behind a plan in order for anything to happen.</p>	

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		<p>Discussion moved on to what will the Council do if a compromise either isn't reached or doesn't pass. Nothing was really decided for this.</p> <p>The idea of raising registration fees was mentioned however most agree that the compromise should be worked on first before pursuing that angle.</p> <p>Bob: As finance chair, good that we're together – that will carry a lot more weight in Madison and club members can lobby as well.</p> <p>Flood Damage No discussion.</p> <p>Law Enforcement Committee Report Gary Eddy: There were 20 snowmobile fatalities last year. The trend of decreasing fatalities has come to an end and we're creeping back up.</p> <p>There were a number of drowning's due to the weather conditions. Main contributing factors were speed, alcohol use and night time operation.</p> <p>Early there were many complaints about trespass. Law Enforcement did have a significant decrease in their operating budget including any special deployments. County patrols did receive the full \$396,000.</p> <p>Vintage Registrations We reviewed that briefly. Dave Newman handed out</p>	

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		<p>some information sheets regarding the issue. One discussed the possibility with and the other without Cap Step. Committee decided to put this on the back burner because there are other pressing issues.</p> <p>OWI Nothing is happening there so ATV is looking to move forward with this on its own.</p> <p>Sam discussed the 10 mile an hour issue. We also talked about trespassing and one of the issues is its very hard to enforce it unless Law Enforcement is in the right place at the right time.</p> <p>We need to encourage land owners to report trespass immediately so those problems can be dealt with before they become chronic and a short-cut looks like a regular trail. Dave Newman mentioned publishing articles so the message gets out to other states as well.</p>	
	8. Elections	<p>Cathy ran the elections.</p> <p>Motion by Jon Schweitzer to nominate Mike Cerny for the position of chair. Mike agreed to accept the nomination.</p> <p>After 3 calls for nomination, a vote was called for Mike Cerny for chair. <u>Motion Carried</u></p> <p>Motion by Dale May to nominate Bev Dittmar for the position of vice-chair. Bev agreed to accept the</p>	<p>Mike Cerny elected council Chair. Bev Dittmar elected council Vice-Chair.</p>

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		<p>nomination.</p> <p>After 3 calls for nominations, a vote was taken. A vote was called for Bev Dittmar. <u>Motion Carried</u></p>	
	<p>9. Council Member Items</p>	<p>Mike Cerny: Mike Willman has decided to not seek another term on the Council. He has done a good job and we thank him for that.</p> <p>Bob Lang volunteered to act as Parliamentarian.</p> <p>Dave Newman: Ruling in Idaho Court regarding Winter Woodland Alliance against the Forest Service. It required snowmobiling to be part of the Management Plans for federal forests which in the past had been exempt. This will affect Wisconsin if the ruling stands. It is being appealed now.</p> <p>Projects that were submitted by April 15th that will cause trail closures and if there were a way to fund those it should be done first.</p> <p>There was some speculation regarding the severity of the storm damage.</p> <p>Sam Landes: Discussed the Hwy 82 bridge and his concern that this opportunity for a snowmobile crossing is not lost.</p> <p>Jon Schweitzer: Very happy to hear a compromise is being worked on and hopes the council can move that</p>	<p>Recommend that CSS ask the county coordinators to contact the clubs and get an idea of the scope of storm damage. With a deadline to respond by September 1st.</p>

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		<p>along.</p> <p>Dale Mayo: Lawsuit against Vilas County challenging if a public snowmobile trail can be placed on a highway easement. The court dismissed the case and Mr. Martens is appealing it. Project won't be started until this is totally resolved through the courts.</p> <p>Mike Willman: Also happy to know a compromise is being worked on. Encouraged by the Stewardship opportunity, biggest disappointment over his term was not getting anything completed with a joint OWI effort. Admiration for all the members of the council and their passion to the sport.</p> <p>Andy: Recommends to the Finance Committee to increase the Council's budget because more meetings will be required due to the current funding situation. Believes face to face meetings are necessary.</p> <p>Tom: Good that we're finally getting together and working together. Hopes a compromise can be reached soon.</p> <p>Larry: Is thankful for the increase in the multiplier and for the Stewardship funds.</p> <p>Lee: Agree with the other comments made so far. Wants meetings scheduled farther in advance so everyone can make the meetings.</p> <p>Would like to see more snowmobile-related business</p>	

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		<p>owners on the council. Tavern league/tavern owners, etc., should be represented on the council.</p> <p>Pat: Agrees with scheduling the meeting farther in advance. Also is disappointed over the lack of any progress on OWI progress.</p> <p>Karen: Would like to be better informed about what's going on, even if all members of the council aren't to be included in everything would be good to be informed of happenings.</p> <p>Mike Cerny will do his best to keep everyone informed.</p>	
	10. Next Meeting	The next meeting is currently planned will most likely be the first week of October, depending on applications received for the Motorized Stewardship funds and if any funds are available to award.	
	11. Adjournment		Motion by Bob Lang, second by Jon Schweitzer to adjourn. <u>Motion carried.</u>