

Infrastructure Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council
July 9, 2006
Country Inn & Suites, Stevens Point, WI

Present: Andy Malecki, chair, Donna White, Sam Landes, Larry Erickson,
Bev Dittmar, Mike Cerny

Others: Larry Freidig, DNR; Tom Thornton, Bob Lang, Tom Chwala, Jerry
Green, Snowmobile Recreation Council: Bill Pfaff, AWSC

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Motion by Donna White, second by Sam Landes to accept minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried

SB 676 (AB 1138)

Andy Malecki reported on SB 676 (AB1138) proposing to classify as antique snowmobiles with a minimum age of 30 years. Andy noted that the bill died last session. Andy indicated that the fiscal estimate accompanying the proposed bill estimated a loss of \$87,900 of registration revenues as a result of the bill. Andy also noted that the estimated loss of 6,000 snowmobiles to public registration would also generate a loss of roughly \$240,000 in gas tax transfer funds.

Andy read a letter from Senator Breske that indicated the bill would be reintroduced in the next legislative session. There was a brief discussion with no understanding on the committee's part where the impetus for the bill proposal was coming from.

Bridge manufacturer information

Andy distributed a letter from James Heidt, a professional engineer, speaking to the current bridge guidelines and some suggested improvements and considerations. Andy also reported on his continued efforts at contacting 4 state bridge manufactures regarding design loads and bridge widths. Most of the comments indicated that increasing the design load from 12,000 to 24,000 pounds would generate somewhere in the area of a 25% cost increase and increasing the width from 12' to 14' would generate approximately 10-15% of additional costs. The manufactures also noted transportation and installation issues as well as abutment concerns with the increased dimensions.

There was a discussion among committee members with disagreement on additional costs among the members and whether increasing the design load and width would mean every bridge would be designed/built to new maximums.

Mike Cerny referred to Sanjay Olson's e-mail urging committee members to allow time for reconsideration of the design load issues in light of James Heidt's letter. Andy added his concern that there is a need to hold off any actions or recommendations until the new ideas can be reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Andy Malecki, second by Bev Dittmar to table the recommendation of increasing the maximum width from 12' to 14' for further information. Motion Carried

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Sam Landes to table the recommendation regarding increasing the design load from 12,000 to 24,000 pounds for additional information. Motion Carried

Member items

Donna White questioned whether requiring ch. 30 permits to be in hand prior to consideration of funding would improve the timelines of funding and installing bridges. Larry replied that that the additional work load for water management investigators to provide service to bridges that might not be funded would not be looked on favorably by the Department.

Larry Erickson noted that the quality applications and information for projects requesting funding had improved over the previous year.

Andy Malecki noted that some of the bridge manufacturers had requested not to have their names mentioned on bridge quote forms.

Motion by Donna White, second by Sam Landes to adjourn at 6:35 PM Motion Carried