

Infrastructure Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council

November 7, 2006

South Central Regional Headquarters  
3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI

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

Others: Larry Freidig, DNR; Tom Chwala, AWSC

Meeting called to order at 8:35 AM.

Motion by Bev Dittmar, second by Donna White to accept minutes of previous meeting.

Motion Carried

Supplemental Update

Larry Freidig discussed the progress of supplemental reviews with committee members. He noted that to save processing cost, the full amount of the claim requested by cooperating snowmobile clubs providing maintenance on state property trails was mailed in mid-September. Larry also reported that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October it was discovered that the Oconto County claim was never forwarded to him. By that time, roughly 12 of 19 counties had been notified of their official supplemental balance and the fact that there was no prorated taking place. Larry noted that with the Oconto County claim added in, a prorated of roughly 95% would have occurred. He indicated that with 2/3rds of the counties notified it was too late to go back and recalculate county costs. He indicated that he had drafted a s.13.10 request to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance to utilize approximately \$111,000 of existing snowmobile funds to provide Oconto County full payment for their claim. Larry indicated he was hoping there would be a December meeting of Joint Finance Committee to act on the request.

Legislative Council State Trails Committee

Larry shared his observations of the 1<sup>st</sup> public input session for the legislative council state trails committee. He indicated he teamed with Brigit Brown to give an overview of DNR trail programs with the Departments of Transportation and Tourism giving similar presentations. Andy shared his view of the testimony given. There was a general committee discussion on the issue of personal access for ATVs and the use of utility all-terrain vehicles on trails. Larry indicated the next meeting of the committee would take place November 10 in Merrill.

Bridge Specifications

In light that Sanjay Olson was called away for an emergency family medical situation, Larry attempted to walk the committee through Sanjay's suggested revisions to the bridge guidance. Among questions that were raised by members:

- Question on the lack of a drag in the description of the DV (design vehicle)
- How does a 14,000 pound tracked DV compare to a wheeled tractor?
- Does the main body of the text contain a reference to a replaceable wear surface, e.g. rubber belting?

There was a brief discussion on the draft A/E contract and the owner's program statement. There was general consensus that the A/E contract should be incorporated as an appendix in the bridge guidance. The committee liked the format of the program

statement. Larry indicated he would try to integrate portions into the existing bridge supplement, e.g. sections on background, alternatives.

There was a brief discussion on bridge width with Larry reminding committee members that there is no current administrative rule maximum on bridge width. There was also a brief discussion on the sliding scale as it applied to bridge easements.

#### Member Items

Andy Malecki described the impact of a conservation forestry purchase of 69,000 acres as it relates to snowmobiling. He indicated that there was a 10 year status quo for existing snowmobile trails located on this acreage.

Donna White passed along a suggestion that the results of the Council recommendations of project approvals appear on the Department's web page.

Andy indicated that the forms that will be generated by snowmobile clubs to inventory trail closures due to deer hunting were being well accepted. This reporting format was an effort by the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs. Mike Cerny also reported on his conversation with Keith Warnke. Mike had hoped to have the trail boss designated as the reporting agent and also gain some anecdotal information on relocation costs incurred.

Tom Chwala shared with committee members that the Association is asking its members to check with registration stations for deer kill statistics over three different time periods that focus on the statewide December gun hunt totals through the end of archery season.

Mike indicated that the time frame for the next council meeting will be mid January or early February.

Motion by Donna White, second by Bev Dittmar to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Motion Carried