

Infrastructure Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council
Thursday, December 8, 2005
Days Inn Motel
Hurley, WI

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

Others: Larry Freidig, DNR; Bob Lang

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM

Motion by Donna White, second by Larry Erickson to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried

Bridge specifications and funding procedures

A variety of ideas from council were brought forth for discussion including:

- The potential of increasing design weight limits for bridges from 12,000 pounds to something higher to accommodate the increasing weights of grooming equipment.
- The potential to establish the requirement of bid prices for bridges prior to council review
- Issue of the minimum length of easements associated with bridges of 3 years being too short

After a vigorous discussion on the potential and necessity for increasing bridge design weights, committee members volunteered to further research the relationship between the weight of the vehicle verses the point load.

There was an equally vigorous discussion on the process of seeking quotes for bridge prices versus seeking bids. Issues such as who would bear the cost of final design if a bridge project were not selected, the probability of a bridge contractor holding prices for longer than 30-45 days and the mechanics and timing of county procurement processes were highlighted. Committee members again volunteered to gather information on bridge manufacturer's ability to hold prices over a period of time and county procurement processes.

The committee discussed the issue of the length of land control on lands where the bridge abutments would be located and also whether there should be some type of ranking or reward for multi-year easements that extended outward from the bridge abutments. The major concern is the level of risk involved in funding large, expensive bridge projects with no guarantee that easements necessary for trail continuation will last.

Motion by Mike Cerny, second by Donna White to recommend the Council undertake a discussion on the following sliding scale for the minimum length of easements for bridge abutments:

Minimum Easement Length	Estimated Bridge Cost
3 years	≤ \$50,000
5 years	\$50,001 - \$100,000
7 years	\$100,001 - \$250,000

10 years
15 years

\$250,001 - \$500,000
> \$500,000

There was brief discussion on the potential for adding a question on the bridge supplement in ascertaining how close the proposed bridge is to the next possible crossing of the waterbody.

Fuel Adjustment

There was a general committee feeling that there isn't enough money in the program to consider such an adjustment.

December/January hunting proposals

Andy Malecki reported that the Natural Resources Board approved a December T-zone gun hunt for the entire state and extending the archery season to the Sunday nearest January 6.

There was an extensive committee discussion on the decision of the Natural Resources Board with committee members citing problems with tourism interests and private landowners.

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Sam Landes to recommend the Council oppose the December gun T zone hunt and the extension of the archery season in January. Motion Carried

Club Assistance Program (CAP)

Andy Malecki reported to the committee that the legislative committee of the Association indicated its desire for additional information on the concept. Andy indicated a similar feeling that the council needs more information before it can take any action. Mike Cerny suggested that the committee begin to compile a list of concerns to share with the Association. Larry Erickson expressed his concern that the potential for increasing the non-resident fee be addressed in the interim as discussions take place.

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Donna White to direct the non-resident fee increase issue to the finance committee. Motion Carried

Land owner incentives

The committee noted that this was a perennial problem but had no solutions.

Motion by Bev Dittmar, second by Sam Landes to table the issue. Motion Carried

Tracking trail rehab projects

There was a brief committee discussion on the scale of the issue. Larry Erickson emphasized that rules governing the program are in place.

Hubbleton bridge

There was a brief discussion on the history of the application and county activity, but no action was taken.

Member items

Larry Erickson had several comments on the new non-grooming and grooming forms being utilized for supplemental reporting.

Andy Malecki questioning whether the infrastructure committee will be meeting in conjunction with the ST. Germain grooming show.

Sam Landes reported to committee members that Universal Underwrites had advised a private property owner that allowing a snowmobile trail on his property might have a severe economic impact on the property owner. Sam expressed his concern that this type of attitude by an insurance underwriting firm would not bode well for the snowmobile program or for other outdoor activities taking place on private property. Larry Freidig indicated that a Department attorney will be drafting a letter regarding this issue.

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Donna White to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Motion Carried