

Snowmobile Recreation Council
Law Enforcement Committee

Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2005
Days Inn, Hurley, Wisconsin

Call to order by Rick Steimel at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Tom Thornton, Tom Chwala, Jon Schweitzer, Rick Steimel, and SRC chair Mike Cerny and Vice-chair Bev Dittmar.

Department liaison: Gary Eddy, Wisconsin Snowmobile/ATV administrator.

Meeting facility comment: A notation was made by Bev that the meeting facility (a small area off to the side of the registration desk for the Days Inn) was less than adequate for this meeting.

Approve minutes of previous meeting: Motion by Jon S. and seconded by Tom T. to accept the June 27th minutes of the previous LE committee meeting, held in Black River Falls. No discussion or additions; motion stands.

Introduction of Wisconsin's new snowmobile/ATV administrator: A formal introduction of Gary Eddy was made to the committee by Rick.

Chair report: Still attempting to view the last 2004-05 fatality, #37, for survey purposes. No other recent activity.

Department report: Gary Eddy reported on the following:

- * AB840 (55 mph nighttime speed limit, with accident reduction team funding in the same bill) is now working its way through the legislature, and if passed it could become law as early as January 6, or 15 days following publication.

- * The accident reduction team enforcement may start next weekend, as everything is now in place: Three enclosed two-place trailers; six field wardens for personnel, mainly these are senior wardens; regular scheduling to begin the third weekend in December; areas of assignment will be spread out, with input suggesting that the geographic locations to also include some of the remote areas of the state.

- * AB566 (sound level legislation) is also now working its way through the capital.

- * Check point legislation is still in concept, as is driver's license tie-in for violations on a snowmobile. There is no action at this time.

- * The trail ambassador program is being done on local, club, or county levels. There was input from within the committee and from others in attendance

on how this is being done in some areas, and included discussion on training being required for some of the ambassador patrols.

- * Billboards and PSA's were briefly discussed. Mike C. suggested that the messages were not hard enough hitting.

- * Youth races for persons under age 12 was brought up, and there was nothing new to report. It is something still being looked at by WDNR.

- * Some Wisconsin safety wardens have reported to Gary E. that there are inquiries being made by out-of-state snowmobilers regarding how persons aged 12-16 are supposed to become certified with the Wisconsin snowmobile safety course, when there are no classes being offered in their states. It was suggested that the WDNR website be viewed to find classes that those persons might enroll in. Safety Instructor Bev D. added that in extreme cases, she has done a one-on-one safety course in the past to get the safety training out to youths in those situations, and that this might be an option for others to consider.

Action on chair and Department reports: None

Items for next meeting: None

Member items:

- * Jon S. reported that there are law enforcement concerns regarding registration enforcement under the proposed CAP, AWSC's Club Assistance Program, primarily lots of questions on how it will work. There were no answers at this time due to the amount of work yet to be done on this concept.

- * Tom T. reported on Bayfield County's draft ordinance for snowmobiles and ATV's which will be voted upon next week. Tom offered to provide copies of the proposed ordinance to anyone interested.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Tom T., seconded by Jon S. Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.