

Infrastructure Committee of the Snowmobile Recreation Council
Wednesday, June 22, 2005
Schmeekle Reserve Visitors Center
Stevens Point, WI

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

Others: Larry Freidig , Dave Marg, Dennis Pecha

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.

Motion by Donna White, second by Andy Malecki to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion Carried

Rates in Brief

Larry distributed copies of a correct *Rates in Brief Worksheet* noting he had made an error in the numbers associated with the tractors less than 100 horsepower. The committee reviewed the numbers on the worksheet based on the 2005 DOT rates and made a number of adjustments to the *Rates in Brief*. Regarding the class of tractors <100 PTO horsepower, there was a concern voiced over the relative low rates for tractors in the upper end of the range. The consensus of the committee was to eliminate the bottom category from the averaging for small tractors, i.e., tractors with horsepower 12-34. There was also a discussion that focused on the inserting a medium range tractor classification with a range of 80-99 PTO horsepower.

There was a discussion on the desirability of making a distinction between tired tractors and those with tracks. Establishing a tracked rating would eliminate questions regarding the appropriate rate for utilizing a tracked tractor, e.g. SurTrac unit, for non-grooming maintenance. There was a concern expressed that the group was getting away from the initial concept of the *Rates in Brief*, i.e., fewer categories to choose from. There was also the thought that this type of expanding the rates allowed more flexibility to the clubs to use the equipment they currently own. The thought of the committee was that this track distinction would also follow the same format as the tired tractors, i.e., 3 classifications.

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Donna White to expand the tractor classifications to include a third, mid-level category and to establish a similar rate schedule for tracked tractors. Motion Carried

Motion by Donna White, second by Andy Malecki to approve the *Rates in Brief* as discussed and modified. After a brief discussion the motion and second was subsequently withdrawn.

The committee had a vigorous discussion on the potential of converting the truck charge from an hourly charge to a per mile charge. Of greatest concern to the committee was the disparity in the rates for a day's worth of work for a truck. The consensus of the committee was to retain the hourly chargeback at the same rate as the previous year.

Motion by Donna, White by Andy Malecki to approve the *Rates in Brief* as discussed
Motion Carried

Review of Grooming Rates

Dennis Pecha representing NorTec gave the committee a presentation on the Piranha snow processor, indicating the unit is still in the development phase. He indicated that he is requesting a rating of the equipment so that clubs can make an evaluation on the purchase of the unit. Points highlighted in the presentation included:

- The unit will require more maintenance than a drag because of the milling action
- The speed of operation is in the area of 15 mph on flat terrain
- The unit is capable of incorporating an electronic vibrator/compactor on the packing pan
- The unit has been tested on tractors in the 85-100 PRO horsepower with good results
- The ballpark figure for the unit without a vibrator/compactor is \$15,000
- Should there be a separate category for a snow processor
- A rating for a similar piece of equipment already exists in A-2 and A-3, i.e., Harley Trail Surfacers
- Committee desire to see how the unit works in the field over the varying conditions of a snow season

Motion by Larry Erickson, second by Sam Landes to place the NorTec snow processor in the same categories as the Harley Trail Surfacers for the 2005-06 season. Motion Carried

The committee directed its attention at establishing a value for a vibrator/compactor addition to a drag. There was a brief discussion focusing on whether there was likely to be added efficiency to a grooming operation with the use of a vibrator/compactor unit on a drag, i.e., did it result in fewer groomer passes.

Motion by Andy Malecki, second by Sam Landes to add a \$5 increase to A-1 through A-4 categories for the addition of a vibrator/compactor unit for the 2005-06 season. Motion Carried

IASA Materials

Larry briefly highlighted several of the upcoming materials coming out from the International Association of Snowmobile Administrators. He noted *Guidelines for Snowmobile Groomer Operator Training and Renting Snowmobiles Successfully, a Guide to Best Business Practices* are in the process of being finalized and should be available in CD form in July. Larry also indicated that one of the upcoming survey efforts of the IASA is a look at the impact of ATVs on groomed trail surfaces. Larry indicated that he had volunteered Wisconsin as one of three test sites for this effort.

The group also discussed the article on the potential benefits of filtering groomer hydraulic fluids put together by the state of Montana as well as the use of bio-diesel. Larry expressed a hope that these materials could be disseminated to members of the Association.

Larry also distributed images of the concrete bridge decking that the Council has reviewed in the Lafayette County and Cheese Country Trail requests over the last several years

Member Items

Andy Malecki discussed several of his observations from attending the recent International Snowmobile Congress. He discussed with committee members a poster campaign that had changed its focus from 0 tolerance to safe operation of all motorized vehicles.

Mike Cerny indicated that he wants the committee to continue discussion on what incentives or tools may exist for clubs to use to retain trails in an era of increased landowner fragmentation.

Andy Malecki also shared the concerns of the international snowmobile community regarding ATV impacts on snowmobile trails.

Sam Landes updated members on the potential resolution of a land permission issue with the Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Southern Railroad impacting a historical trail in Grant County.

Motion by Donna White, second by Andy Malecki to adjourn at 12:00 noon. Motion Carried

Equipment Rates in Brief
Determination for 2005-06 Season
Corrected

Reflecting Actions of Infrastructure Committee

<u>Equipment</u>	DOT Class #	2004 DOT Rate(s)	2004-05 <u>Schedule</u>	DOT Class #	2005 DOT Rate(s)	2005-06 <u>Schedule</u>
Snowmobile	9145	\$11.78	\$12		\$12.70	\$13
ATV	9201	\$13.04	\$13		\$14.06	\$14
Tired Tractors<100 PTO HP	202 203 204	\$18.26 \$16.58 \$21.02	\$22		19.20 \$17.78 \$22.36	\$21
<80 PTO HP	205 206	\$22.34 <u>\$27.68</u> \$105.88		205	<u>\$24.28</u> \$64.42	
		AVE- \$21.17			AVE- \$21.47	
Tired Tractors 80-99 PTO HP				206	\$30.08	\$30
Tired Tractors>100 PTO HP	207 208	\$41.06 <u>42.48</u> \$83.54	\$42	207 208	\$42.34 <u>\$45.74</u> \$88.08	\$44
		AVE- \$41.77			AVE- 44.04	
Tracked Tractors<80 PTO HP				214 215	\$32.76 <u>\$31.84</u> \$64.60	\$32
					<u>AVE</u> <u>\$32.30</u>	
Tracked Tractors 80-99 PTO HP				216	\$35.10	\$35
Tracked Tractors >100 PTO HP				217 218	\$48.02 <u>\$64.72</u> \$112.74	\$56
					AVE- \$56.37	

Chain Saw	914	\$7.20	\$7.50	914	\$7.94	\$8
Extension Saw/Power Pruner	9204	\$5.90	\$6	9204	\$6.36	\$6
Disc/Spring Tooth Harrow/Cultimulcher	919	\$18.88	\$12	919	\$18.64	\$12
	9132	<u>\$5.90</u> \$24.78		9132	<u>\$6.36</u> \$25.00	
		AVE- \$12.39			AVE- \$12.50	
Trucks	101	\$10.62	\$13	101	\$11.58	\$13
	102	<u>\$9.72</u> 20.24		102	<u>10.44</u> 22.12	
		AVE- \$10.12			AVE- \$11.06	