

SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD

May 26, 2005

DNR South Central Service Center, Fitchburg, WI

Presenter/ Time	Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
Mike Cerny 8:30 AM	1. Call to Order	<p>Members Present: Mike Cerny, chair, Jerry Green, Jon Schweitzer, Larry Erickson, Bev Dittmar, Donna White, Karen Carlson, Nick Berens, Tom Chwala, Andy Malecki, Sam Landes, Tom Thornton, Rick Steimel, Mike Willman, Kathy Rasmussen</p> <p>Others Present: Larry Freidig, Bill Engfer, Diane Conklin, Bill Smith, DNR; Scott Makowski, Morris Nelson, AWSC; and other interested snowmobilers.</p>	
	2. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting		Motion by Rick Steimel, second by Bev Dittmar to accept minutes of the previous meeting. <u>Motion Carried</u>
	3. Comments	<p>Following an introduction of the members of the Council, Mike Cerny asked Bill Smith, DNR Deputy Secretary to address the Council.</p> <p>Bill thanked the existing Council members for their service and welcoming the new members for their service in the future. He encouraged the Council to work together to fashion proactive solutions to issues that are in front of the snowmobile community. He highlighted several issues of significance including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential threats to snowmobiling and other outdoor recreation activities as a result of changing land ownership patterns 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise management – the importance of this issue as it impacts the private landowners who give permission for snowmobiling to occur throughout the state • Demographics – the changing recreation interests of today’s young adults and the challenge of replacing these individuals in the club setting • Safety – the fatal combination of speed and alcohol as it impacts not only the snowmobiler image but also the recruitment of new and younger members to the sport. <p>Mike Cerny briefly updated Council members on communications that he has had with Council members and Department staff regarding upcoming meetings and tasks.</p>	
	4. Citizen Participation	There were no public comments.	

	<p>5. Reports</p> <p>Department</p> <p><i>History/Background</i></p> <p><i>Legislative Issues</i></p> <p><i>2004-05 fatalities</i></p>	<p><i>(Due to a commitment with a legislative committee, Bill Engfer made his portion of the Department reports first)</i></p> <p>Bill Engfer briefly discussed with Council members the current funding of 9 FTE of conservation warden from tribal gaming funds. He further described the workplanning process whereby the hours of enforcement are spread throughout the state. Bill also briefly described the county law enforcement aids program noting that a small prorata is likely for the reimbursement of last winter's expenditures.. Bill also highlighted a number of enforcement and educational statistics. In response to a question of the current shortfall of wardens statewide, Bill indicated that the discussion was taking place in the current budget debate.</p> <p>Under current legislative issues Bill distributed the Assembly Tourism committee letter regarding the proposed sound rule and the Department's response that we would continue to consider modification of the proposed rule. Bill indicated that the Department would hold off on a response until after the biennial budget debate was over but prior to the next snow season. In response to a Jerry Green citing the need for some limit, Bill highlighted past negotiations on the maximum level. Bill also indicated that the Department was working on the meaning of "impractical" in a reference to access to highways in the statute.</p> <p>Bill distributed the recap of information of fatalities for the 2004-05 season totaling 37.</p>	
--	---	---	--

	<p><i>05-06 Plans</i></p> <p><i>Update on LE Position</i></p> <p>State Trails Council</p>	<p>Bill indicated that the Department will be taking a hard look at speed and alcohol and attempt to change the behaviors. Bill stressed that the issues are paramount and the Department will be focusing on the cultural and law changes necessary as well as the focus of conservation wardens. He challenged the Council to provide recommendations and input on the direction the Department should take. At this point, Bill distributed the resolution of the State Trails Council recommending the enactment of nighttime speed limits and tying violation of OWI to the driver's license.</p> <p>Bev Dittmar voiced the need for more awareness, but that it needs to be universal and not just targeting snowmobiling. Bill indicated that ATV and boating interests have endorsed similar concepts. Bill briefly commented on the uniformity on OWI laws between boats, snowmobiles and ATVs.</p> <p>Bill indicated that the Department was in the process of hiring an individual to replace Karl Books and was hopeful to fill the position by the start of the new fiscal year</p> <p>Tom Thornton discussed the draft STC resolution noting that he had worked with the chair of the State Trails Council is drafting this in response to a Journal Sentinel article critical of snowmobiling. Tom indicated that the STC is not just picking on snowmobilers; rather it was to serve as a wake-up call. Tom stressed the need for the snowmobile community to be proactive or something less attractive may occur through legislative activity. He indicated that similar recommendations will be forthcoming for other recreational vehicles.</p>	
--	---	--	--

	<p style="text-align: center;">Department, cont'd <i>Biennial budget status</i></p>	<p>There were a number of responses from the Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concern that the recommendations of the resolution are specific to snowmobiling and that there will need to be cultural change for any measure to be effective • Concern over the lack of DNR warden staffing relative to these potential legislative issues – there needs to be a law enforcement presence for success • There needs to be consistency in related laws over all recreational vehicles. • That cultural change in the relationship of the use of alcohol and operation is vital for any type of approach to success. <p>There was a consensus that the law enforcement committee needs to thoroughly discuss these issues and involve members of the different recreational vehicle communities.</p> <p>Morris Nelson, AWSC, indicated that legislators are aware and that there is a need to be well organized and prepared among all vehicle communities to avoid a reactive legislative solution.</p> <p>Larry Freidig briefly reviewed the status of the biennial budget and reviewed the changes/additions made by the Joint Committee on Finance. He noted that the deadline dates of September 15 and December 1 had been added to the supplemental language as well as \$20,000</p>	
--	---	--	--

	<p><i>Supplemental status</i></p> <p><i>Formula calculations</i></p> <p><i>Minutes, agenda on web</i></p> <p><i>Project requests</i></p> <p><i>Operating procedure</i></p>	<p>per year for the cost of reviewing claims through a limited term employee.</p> <p>Larry also reviewed the draft supplemental guide and asked for council comments on the document.</p> <p>Larry then outlined the final formula calculations for the snowmobile program, i.e. gas tax .4 multiplier = \$1,300,635 and N-R supplemental of \$548,385 based on the sale of 36,559 passes [Note, the next day I received a correction on the number of passes sold – a reduction of 17 passes to 36,542 or a total of \$548,130]</p> <p>Larry indicated that the Council agenda and minutes of the meeting now appear on the Department’s web page.</p> <p>Larry indicated that the preliminary request on infrastructure and new projects after maintenance totaled roughly \$2.7 million. He indicated that the finance committee will examine funds available and come back to the Council with funding recommendations. There was a brief discussion on several projects that had received legislative attention. Larry also distributed the funding priorities specified by statutes and the categorization of other activities under the term :development”</p> <p>Larry briefly reviewed the operating articles of the Council. He also confirmed with Council members the correct version of Robert’s Rules of Order that was referenced in the articles.</p>	
	6 Reports of Standing Committees	Mike Cerny asked each chair to give a brief report on the general activities of the committee and their short term	

	<p><i>Finance Committee</i></p> <p><i>Law Enforcement</i></p> <p><i>Tourism</i></p> <p><i>Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>or immediate needs. Mike then passed out a survey of committee preferences for Council members to complete.</p> <p>Bev Dittmar briefly indicated that the finance committee deals with the status of snowmobile funds. They work with Larry and give direction to the Council on matters affecting the commitment of funds, particularly trail funds and supplemental funds.</p> <p>Rick Steimel indicated that the law enforcement committee deals with law enforcement and safety matters related to snowmobiling. The committee makes recommendations to the council on issues assigned by the council chair or originating out of the committee itself. Rick also took the opportunity to highlight the two tier registration issue, distributed draft of his summary of 2004-05 fatalities and 20 year summary and summarized a court case arising out a Price County accident.(tree dropped by a logger resulting in death of a passing snowmobiler - landowner, club, county all held immune from liability)</p> <p>Kathy Rasmussen reported that the tourism committee has been inactive and questioned whether there is a continued need for the committee. She indicated that the committee started as a liaison between the Council and the Department of Tourism. She indicated that the committee had met with tourism officials and that the meetings had resulted in snowmobiling being highlighted in tourism publications.</p> <p>Mike Cerny indicated that the infrastructure committee looks at trail signing, bridge specifications, reviews and</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>rates trail grooming equipment and non –grooming machinery and labor rates along with appropriate reporting forms.</p> <p>There was a general discussion on committee needs in the near future, e.g. update labor and machine rates, consider alternative manner of reimbursement for truck use, winter ATV rates, rate for vibrator/compactor, rates for non-resident trail pass. land use issue of segmentation.</p> <p>The law enforcement, infrastructure and finance committees will plan on meeting prior to the funding meeting in July.</p>	<p>At the end of the committee reports Mike reported on the results of the committee assignment survey with the interim following committee assignments:</p> <p>Finance – Bev Dittmar, chair, Karen Carlson, Mike Willman, Kathy Rasmussen</p> <p>Infrastructure – Mike Cerny, temporary chair, Andy Malecki, Sam Landes, Donna White, Larry Erickson</p> <p>Law Enforcement – Rick Steimel, chair, Tom Thornton, Jon Schweitzer, Tom Chwala</p> <p>Tourism – Kathy Rasmussen, chair, Jerry Green, Nick Berens</p>
	7. Member Items	Tom Thornton reported that a decision making g in regard to Bayfield County Trail 63 regarding federal rail patents is forthcoming.	
	8. Adjournment		Motion by Donna White, second by Kathy Rasmussen to adjourn at 11:40 AM. <u>Motion Carried</u>

