



## Snowmobile Advisory Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Wingate by Wyndham, 2065 Airport Drive, Green Bay WI and via Zoom

**Committee Members Present:** Lee Van Zeeland - Chair, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Bob Lang, Dale Mayo, Sue Smedegard

**Other Council Members Present:** Lynsey Burzinski, Joel Enking, Abby Haas, Gary Hilgendorf, Andy Malecki, Don Mrotek, Erica Voelker, Leon Wolfe

**DNR staff attendance:** Jillian Steffes, others

**Public attendance:** Dave Newman and other members of the public

### 1. Call to order at 8:00 AM

### 2. Agenda Repair - None

### 3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve August 2021 minutes by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale. MOTION PASSED

### 4. Committee Chair Comments – Lee Van Zeeland

### 5. Public Comments

- None

### 6. DNR Funding Report

- HANDOUTS
  - Snowmobile Active Registrations
  - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
  - Snow Supplemental Requests 20-21
  - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
  - Expenses in SNARS Exceeding Supplemental Cap of \$900/mile
  - New Mile Award Status for 21-22
  - Cost Increase Requests

### 7. Discussion: Raising Groomer Rates

Hourly groomer rates haven't been raised in a while, while the non-grooming equipment rates have changed annually to stay in line with DOT rates. Ad hoc committee made up of Infrastructure and Finance members should review in more detail and discuss. Discussion should include what is the cost to operate the equipment, and what can the program afford/cover. Raising groomer rates will put more counties into supplemental. Review of the past 3 years of data in SNARS will help inform.

### 8. Discussion: Eliminating Supplemental Per Mile Cap

*NR 50.09 (4) (f) 3. All counties qualifying under subd.1. are subject to a cap of 3 times the per mile maximum for maintenance specified under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1., Stats., for all eligible snowmobile maintenance activities in the calculation of a supplemental snowmobile maintenance payment.*

Grooming in four counties in the north (Forest, Iron, Oneida and Vilas) routinely go over the \$900/mile cap due to the need to groom for long snow season with lots of traffic. They are effectively being pro-rated (70 to 95% of their total), while the rest of the state is not. The ad hoc committee will discuss further if they support increasing or

eliminating the cap. Changing NR 50 would be a cumbersome process for the DNR (typically a 3 year process), though it could be done by the legislature.

**9. Committee member reports, comments and items**

None

**10. Items for next meeting**

Ad hoc committee will be scheduled, and findings discussed at next meeting.

**11. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn by Dale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. MOTION PASSED**