



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

Arbor Vitae Town Hall, 10675 Big Arbor Vitae Dr, Arbor Vitae WI and via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Abby Haas, Joel Enking, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Don Mrotek

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Holly Tomlanovich, Erica Volker

DNR/Tourism staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Drew Nussbaum (Tourism), Pat Anderson, Kurt Byfield, Chris Halbur, Jeremy Holtz, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

Public attendance: Lori Heidemann, Dave Newman and other members of the public

1. Call to Order

2. Agenda Repair

- None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve Jan 2024 minutes by Joel, 2nd by Don. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Committee Chair Comments

- Bob Lang, standing in for Gary Hilgendorf – None

5. Public Comments

- None

6. DNR Report

- Jillian Steffes
 - Snowmobile Supplemental for 22-23 was paid out at \$3.6 million. The 10 year average is \$2.5 million. The GPS unit grooming entries were a big improvement from DNR's perspective, made auditing very efficient and saved time.
 - Given the snow situation this year, with most northern counties not having opened and southern counties open for ~10 to 14 days, we may not see any supplemental requests for 23-24.
 - Jillian will draft a message to county coordinators to explain to them that bridge inspections are advisable, recommended every 4-5 years, eligible under maintenance, and can be bundled with county highway bridge inspections to save money. Will CC AWSC, who can share this with clubs.

7. Groomer Show Updates

- Quite a few Council members attended yesterday, but didn't really see anything new.

8. SNARS and Groomer Tracking System Updates

- Some of the southern clubs are seeing GPS units in use for the first time, so Groomer Tracking Systems has been busy correcting geofences. There was a glitch where some of the data was not properly processed, but the data has been retrieved and re-processed, so all entries should be in the system now. Clubs encouraged to review early January entries to make sure they are there.
- Groomer Tracking System's phone app shows when trails have been groomed, but doesn't necessarily show if the trail is actually OPEN. A banner encourages users to visit Travel Wisconsin's snow report for

trail open/close status, but could a more seamless collaboration be developed, so that GTS's maps reflect the trail status? Drew thinks it's possible, but need the support of the Council. This would help address unintentional trespassing issues.

Motion to recommend that the full Council encourage exploration of collaboration of data between Department of Tourism and Department of Natural Resources for snowmobile reporting purposes. Motion by Don and 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

9. Committee member reports, comments and items

None

10. Items for next meeting

- Review labor rates. ORV Council raised labor rate for work on summer ATV/UTV trails only from \$9/hr to \$12/hr. This only comes into effect if the trail is a summer ATV/UTV trail, and the work is done in support of that use. This causes some confusion since Snowmobile and Winter ATV labor rate is still \$9/hr. Not ideal, but this was done in attempt to help clubs who feel they need an increase.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2nd by Bob. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY