



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday August 26, 2019

Dale's Weston Lanes, Weston, Wisconsin

Committee Members Present: Sam Landes – Chair, Bev Dittmar, Dale Mayo, Arlyn Baumgarten, Tom Chwala, Mike Holden, Nancy Olson

Other Council Members Present: Dave Newman, Joel Enking, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Steve Moran, Jeff Schwaller, Lee Van Zeeland

DNR staff attendance: Cathy Burrow, Jillian Steffes, Faith Murray, Ed Slaminski, Kurt Byfield, Annie Loechler, April Dombrowski

Public attendance: members of the public

1. Call to order 15 minutes after Infrastructure Committee

2. Agenda Repair - None

Motion to accept agenda by Bev, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to accept minutes by Arlyn, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED

4. Committee Chair Comments - Sam

- Great Lakes Season Velpa Tracks. Concerns about damage, sound complaints.

5. Public Comments

- Fuzzy – Blue Mounds State Park. “Ride Right, Slow Down, Stay Sober” message is good, would like to see “Stay on the trails” added.

6. DNR Report - April Dombrowski (LE)

- Multiple vacancies, including supervisors
- The position formerly held by Gary Eddy will be tackled after labor day weekend, hoping to have someone in the position by December
- Revamped annual report – combined all rec vehicles into one annual report – not just about statistics, but about the story of rec use in Wisconsin – including initiatives, marketing, branding. That's available on the website – take a look. Will be posted after Dec for the previous year.
- Recap: ride responsibly: 2018 stats – moved to a calendar year instead of season year – so snow stats/ 1-8 crashes, 19 fatalities. 29% crashes between 50-59age group. 37% killed in that age group.
- 2019 so far – 16 fatalities – same theme, speed and alcohol – higher BAC levels – this has our attention for efforts moving forward.

7. Signing Handbook.

- Has been reviewed by legal (some minor comments on grammar, etc). Also posted for public comment. Most comments were for OHM, also some grammar and terminology for ROW, highway, etc. as they correspond to DOT. Those changes were incorporated.
- Draft printed and distributed to council and DNR, please review and return tomorrow.
- Final draft should be delivered to April's supervisors after Labor Day, should be posted live online by mid Sept.
- Printed copies will be limited as more law changes may be forthcoming.
- Discussed detailed changes on handbook

8. Snowmobile LE Issues on the Legislative Front

- **40' Rule** - Working on new legislative language to replace existing requirement that trails be at least 40' from road surface (or have headlight barrier).
- **Chapter 20 Increase** – Everyone thought it was to be included in the state budget but it was not, AWSC is now working with legislators to raise the cap to increase spending authority.

9. Sound/Noise Issues and Complaints

- Sound complaints are a concern, DNR LE is making this topic a priority. Signage and enforcement may help. Off trail riding – working with LE and tourism, remind riders to ride safe and responsibly.

10. Trail Damage Concerns Focused on Deep Lug Tracks

- Damage to groomed trail surface is being noted from paddle tracks. They are better suited to off trail riding. Education to consumers may be the appropriate action.

11. Member Reports/Comments

MIKE HOLDEN –

- Met with USFS, they have not come out with signing standards yet. Usually those are guidelines, but some court cases have emphasized those as standards. USFS may require clubs to certify they are signing to the standards. Some clubs are attaching cameras to front and back of groomer to record accidents, etc.
- RTP requiring to “Buy American” but our CSS’s (grants staff) have not heard of this. We don’t give grants to buy equipment, but we DO for bridges and signs. Is this an issue with RTP funds?
- Off country/back country riding has some trespass issues. Off-trail is trespass. But difficult for judges to convict those cases. Maybe easier to prosecute as “dangerous driving/reckless or careless operation”. Also “operating on private property without consent”. 92 citations in 2018 for that offense. Discussion on attendance at ISC in Saskatchewan next year.

SAM – Observations on Major accidents. 1) Struck by car .304 BAC. 2) 44 yr old .256 3) 25 yr old, .228 Most were 48+ years old. 12 of 16 had no safety course. Age of accident victims is rising, maybe because they aren’t taking the safety course

APRIL – Get creative with safety market, such as reaching out on significant others, come home to your dog, etc.

12. Items for next meeting

None

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Nancy, 2nd by Arlyn. MOTION PASSED