

SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD

Minutes February 12, 2019

The Waters Resort, Minocqua, WI

Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
Call to Order	<p>Members Present: Bev Dittmar–Chair, Dale Mayo–Vice Chair, Bob Lang, Joel Enking, Dave Newman, Sam Landes, Andy Malecki, Tom Chwala, Mike Holden, Gary Hilgendorf, Steve Moran, Nancy Olson, Arlyn Baumgarten, Jeff Schwaller</p> <p>Absent: Lee Van Zeeland</p> <p>Others Present: Others Present: Cathy Burrow, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski, Jillian Steffes, Faith Murray, Kurt Byfield – DNR; Drew Nussbaum – Tourism Liaison to the Council and members of the public</p>	Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.
Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes		Motion by Steve Moran, second by Gary to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.
Chair & Vice-Chair Comments	<p>Bev asked to keep comments to a minimum as all Council members were present for the Committee meetings.</p> <p>Dale thanked everyone for their patience with the Signing Handbook.</p>	
Comments	<p>Public: Dave Peterson spoke of a Council member visiting a local club and commenting on a sign posted on the wall. The sign instructed members to report grooming by using the ending meter reading from the last entry rather than the actual meter reading.</p> <p>The club member took offense and raised the issue with Dave. It was made clear by members of the Council that actual meter readings should be reported in all cases.</p> <p>AWSC: Dave shared that the snow-friendly community effort had a total of 9 applicants and the successful communities will be announced at the AWSC Convention March 22-24 in Green Bay.</p> <p>AWSC has signed on in support of AB007 & SB010 the bills that require absolute sobriety for snowmobile operators</p>	

	<p>under 21.</p> <p>When they met with Rep. Horlacher they asked about pursuing a driver's license tie-in. Rep. Horlacher said he had no intentions of pursuing that at this time. They expressed to him, that their preference would be to provide more funds for LE.</p>
<p>DNR Report</p>	<p>Northcentral Section: Jillian –Forest County was awarded \$237,000 in the last round of grants to repair 9 railroad trestle bridges on the Nicolet State Trail. Local contractors examined the bridges and suggested completely replacing all 9 bridges, which would have cost significantly more than the original proposal. Forest County was able to contact a company that specializes in railroad bridges (JF Brennan Inc. out of La Crosse), and that group felt they could perform the originally proposed repairs. Cost estimate still unknown but should be less than the proposed complete replacement. Work will go out to bid soon.</p> <p>Northwest Section: Ed – Bayfield Co, Douglas Co and the Tri-County Corridor have all completed the storm damage repairs from 2018 with the exception of the Saunders grade which will remain closed until summer of 2019. FEMA requests have been submitted but payments have not been received yet.</p> <p>Southwest and West Central: Ann – Hillsboro State Trail is not open for snowmobile traffic this year. This is due to the extreme flooding and erosion caused to the trail, the bridge may not be safe and some of the trails it connects to are also closed. This was a joint decision between DNR and the County and was done for safety.</p> <p>Nine counties were FEMA declared. However, FEMA is not wanting to pay for trails on private property. Cathy is working to obtain clear answers on eligibility. La Crosse has already been turned down. The clubs are trying to use their maintenance for repairs. She hasn't received a storm damage application but is hearing that several projects will be coming in April and possibly some storm damage requests. Her southern and west central counties received snow this year and were open for a week for the first time in several years.</p> <p>Faith - Fond du Lac county had storm damage last summer. They have been using maintenance for the repairs.</p>
<p>Reports of Standing Committees & Action Recommended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance – Good discussion on GPS • Infrastructure – Good discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May form ad hoc committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grooming contacts ▪ GPS units in groomers ▪ Bridge funding integrity ▪ Audit committee • Law Enforcement – thanked April for all the information she brought to the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed 40' rule ○ Right-of-way issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New tourism secretary was here for the VIP ride. Drew sat down with her when she started and was able to talk about priorities. ○ He was happy that she wanted to attend the AWSC VIP event. ○ She left with a good impression of snowmobiling, the massive volunteer effort and its legitimacy as a big tourism recreational draw. ○ Last VIP ride for a while. Perhaps that could morph into something more legislatively focused and perhaps regional. ○ Snowmobile-friendly communities, when the winners are announced Drew wants to maximize the PR on that announcement. <p>Council members asked Drew to make sure that trail safety and trail etiquette messages are communicated in PR pieces. He assured them that it has been and that will continue.</p>	
Funding recommendations for applications & amendments		<p>Finance: None</p> <p>Infrastructure: Recommend rejecting the request to add a pontoon and boat to the Council-approved equipment rates. Motion Passed.</p> <p>Law Enforcement: Recommend approving the trail signing handbook with changes noted during the meeting. Motion Passed.</p>
Council Member Items	<p>Jeff – Guidelines are outdated on the website. Dale – Thanks for coming up and riding our trails. Thanked April for all the good information. Gary – GPS trackers are coming, but not tomorrow. Sam – To the CSS's and LE, we value your help and partnership, but it has to be fair and go both ways. It's not fair to have clubs treated unfairly. Andy – Wants to fund new miles. Tom – Sorry he's been unable to make the last several meetings. Mike – Going to tear up the trails. Come to Sheboygan, they opened 15 minutes ago. Nancy – Thanks for all your hard work, La Crosse county trails are open. Bev – Thanked everyone for coming, thanked DNR for their work. We represent the whole state.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>August 26-27, 2019 – Funding meeting in the Wausau area.</p>	
Adjourn		<p>Motion to adjourn by Steve, second by Mike. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>