



## Snowmobile Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

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

**Council Members Present:** Dale Mayo – Chair, Bob Lang – Vice Chair, Lynsey Burzinski, Joel Enking, Abby Haas, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Andy Malecki, Don Mrotek, 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 after Tourism Committee**
2. **Agenda Repair - None**
3. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

**Motion to approve August 2023 minutes by Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Abby. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion to approve January 2024 minutes by Abby, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 4. **Chair and Vice Chair Comments**

- **Dale Mayo – Chair**
  - Welcome Holly Tomlanovich to the Snowmobile Rec Council.
  - Where is the snow? Vilas has not opened yet, which is unprecedented.
- **Bob Lang – no comments**

#### 5. **Public Participation**

- **Dave Newman (AWSC)**
  - SB-136 Increasing Supplemental cap is on the Governor's Desk
  - June International Snowmobile Congress in Green Bay. Anticipating 450-500 attendees, working on sponsorship
  - March 22-24 Spring AWSC in Elkhart.
  - AWSC had 38,571 members as of the end of January
  - AWSC is also partnering with MADD and including an article in the Wisconsin Snowmobile News with safety message.
  - Working with Office of Outdoor Rec on economic impact study options
- **Drew Nussbaum (Dept of Tourism)**
  - A 13-page talking points document highlighting snowmobiling and what we do was distributed to Council members. Best used as an info piece when talking to media, answering questions.
  - Snow Report and trail open status is updated within the hour.
  - Office of Outdoor Recreation has a new director, Cassie Mordini.
  - If you are inviting ATV/UTVs to ride, remind them that not all snowmobile trails are open to ATVs/UTVs. Guide them to places they are welcomed to ride.

#### 6. **DNR Report**

- **Jillian Steffes – DNR Grants Report**
  - Snowmobile Vehicle Registration
  - Trail Pass Sales

- Snowmobile Supplemental for 2022-23
- Snowmobile Supplemental 10 Year Average
- Current Budget Balance
- County Coordinator Workshop was well received and attended. We'll host a statewide one like this every few years, and do regional ones in interim years.
- Cathy Burrow is retiring at the end of 2024, Jillian will now be supervised by Chris Halbur
- **Sam Landes – LE & Safety Committee Chair**
  - Aid to local law enforcement increased for this season.
  - 3 fatalities reported so far this season.
  - Updated safety course and test complete and available.

## 7. Reports of Standing Committees

- **Finance Committee – Sue Smedegard**
  - Trail pass sales are down which means revenue into the program will be down. But if no one goes into supplemental, that should off-set the loss and provide a good starting point for August funding meeting.
- **Infrastructure Committee – Bob Lang**
  - No new equipment at the groomer show this year.
  - Glitch with Groomer Tracking Systems was fixed and all grooming records should be accurate now.
- **Law Enforcement & Safety Committee – Sam Landes**
  - See content of #6 above.
- **Tourism – Abby Haas**
  - Discussed geofencing tools and how they can help clubs target their advertising & marketing.

## 8. ACTION ITEM: Action on recommendations arising from committee reports.

### INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MOTIONS

**Recommend to the Council to support and encourage collaboration of data for snowmobile trail reporting purposes, between Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Department of Natural Resources.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## 9. ACTION ITEM: Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications

- No new cost increase or storm damage requests at this time.
- Opportunity to review previously deferred projects from August 2023.

**Motion to carryover the \$186,000 program balance to the August 2024 funding meeting by Sue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 10. Committee member items

- Bob – Contact info for Canadian National? Try regional planning commission. Drew will also investigate.
- Don – Senate confirmation hearings involved questions WCFA letter. Thank you to DNR for the response letter.

- Dale – Thank you to everyone for participation.

**11. Items for next meeting**

- Infrastructure will meet in **June** for preliminary application review.
- Funding meeting tentatively scheduled for last week of August.

**12. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**