



## Snowmobile Advisory Council Storm Damage Ad Hoc Minutes

Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

DNR Rhinelander, 107 Sutliff Ave, Rhinelander WI and via Zoom

Ad-Hoc Members Present: Bev Dittmar, Dale Mayo, Bob Lang, Gary Hilgendorf, Don Mrotek, Sue Smedegard

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Cathy Burrow, Jeff Pennucci, Jeremy Holtz, Kurt Byfield

Public attendance: Representatives from a number of clubs and counties

### 1. Call to order at 2:00 PM

### 2. Agenda Repair

None

### 3. Public Comments

- Jillian Steffes (DNR)
  - Legislation has been introduced to increase the supplemental cap to 5x the grooming rate as opposed to the current 3x the grooming rate.
  - Storm Damage requests were due April 1. Some counties weren't sure yet if they would need the additional funds or could pay out of maintenance (as maint. continues up to June 30<sup>th</sup>), so some applied 'just in case' and may not need the storm damage funds in the end.

### 4. Discussion & Recommendations: Storm Damage Requests

#### General Comments/Concerns from Ad Hoc Members

- Preference that the expenses be paid out of maintenance/supplemental if at all possible.
- Clubs/counties not entering expenses in SNARS in a timely fashion. Appears as though counties have plenty of maintenance funds available. Request that clubs/counties get their work into SNARS promptly.
- Some expenses requested do not appear to be 'storm damage' related, such as gates, signage, etc. Department should identify and remove those in the course of the audit.
- ATV/UTV funding can be used to assist in some of the counties, as some of these are also Winter ATV. The ATV cost share will be determined during the audit. ORV Council has already approved some requests, and will be meeting again to address incoming requests/cost-shares.
- Lump sum invoices are insufficient as far as documentation. Invoices should include list of equipment used, hours, date of work, location (trail), etc. Ad hoc members requested more detail on several invoices.
- Issue with club members creating their own invoices and charging more than the approved rates. Per [NR 509.09\(5\)\(i\) – \(k\)](#), the Snowmobile Trail Aids program can only cover the share of that cost that aligns with the [approved rates](#) when work is being done by a club or alliance member. The club/alliance member is free to charge a club/alliance whatever hourly rate they please, but the program will only cost share up to the approved rates.
- Some clubs and counties have indicated that the work done to date was bare minimum, and additional clearing will be needed in the spring. Counties are encouraged to apply for a Trail Rehab grant by April 15<sup>th</sup> to perform that work. Submit applications with best guess estimate, and dollar amounts can be adjusted once the snow melts and more accurate estimates available.
- Ad hoc members hoped that the draw on the program could be lessened if some regular non-maintenance expenses could be pushed off to the 23-24 cycle if not urgent.

- Reminder – Equipment idle time not eligible. In most instances, when club labor is entered, total equipment hours must be less than labor hours. If a laborer is chain sawing, they cannot be simultaneously operating an ATV. Additionally, they must logically at some point turn off the chainsaw to drag debris off the trail.
  - Example: 8 Hours Labor, 4 Hours ATV and 4 Hours Chainsaw = Too many machine hours. Need idle time for dragging debris off the trail.
  - Example: 8 Hours Labor, 3 Hours ATV and 3 hours Chainsaw (2 hours idle time) = Better.

**Motion to recommend funding expenses only on or after Dec 14, 2022 by Sue, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev. MOTION PASSED**

**Motion to recommend funding expenses from no later than Feb 28, 2023 by Dale, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary. MOTION PASSED**

- Individual motions were made to recommend funding or recommend deferring for a future date on a county-by-county basis. The results of those motions were recorded in the summary document below. (Details on who made motions and 2nds are preserved in audio recording)
- Those counties who were deferred are neither denied or approved. Those counties can come back to the Department at such time that they find their maintenance/supplemental is insufficient and additional funds are needed.
- Question on timing of payments. If full Council follows ad hoc recommendations, grants can be written as early as the week following March 10<sup>th</sup>. Counties can request an advance of 75%. Department will then need to proceed with audits which will begin immediately. Once audited, counties will pay the clubs and obtain cancelled checks and can request final reimbursement. Earliest likely timeline to receive final reimbursements would be 30 days.

## 5. Adjourn

- Full council will meet via Zoom on March 10<sup>th</sup> to address recommendations of this ad hoc.

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

## 2022-23 SNOWMOBILE STORM DAMAGE REQUESTS

App #	Region	County	Component	Costs	Total	Ad Hoc...	Approved	Comments
	NOR-S	Rusk	Expenses	\$158,279	\$158,279	\$158,279		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Marathon	Expenses	\$113,507	\$113,507	\$113,507		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Chippewa	Expenses	\$79,920	\$79,920	\$79,920		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-S	Sawyer	Expenses	\$74,628	\$74,628	\$74,628		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-R	Price	Expenses	\$59,997	\$59,997	\$59,997		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-R	Taylor	Expenses	\$75,676	\$55,450	\$55,450		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-S	Washburn	Expenses	\$47,327	\$0	\$0	\$0	WITHDRAWN
	WCR	Jackson	Expenses	\$45,396	\$45,396	\$45,396		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Monroe	Expenses	\$46,165	\$46,165	\$46,165		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-S	Douglas	Invoices	\$37,029	\$37,029	\$37,029		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-S	Burnett	Snowmo-Only	\$19,939	\$36,137	\$36,137		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-R	Langlade	Expenses	\$31,845	\$31,845	\$31,845		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Clark	Expenses	\$33,622	\$33,622	\$33,622		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-S	Bayfield	Expenses	\$31,164	\$31,164	\$31,164		Defer, per ad hoc
	NOR-R	Lincoln	Expenses	\$30,505	\$20,338	\$20,338		Ad hoc recommends
	NOR-R	Forest	Expenses	\$22,237	\$22,237	\$22,237		Ad hoc recommends
	NER	Oconto	Expenses	\$21,768	\$21,768	\$21,768		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Wood	Expenses	\$18,916	\$18,916	\$18,916		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Adams	Expenses	\$17,149	\$17,149	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
	NOR-R	Oneida	Expenses	\$16,980	\$16,980	\$16,980		Ad hoc recommends
	WCR	Juneau	Expenses	\$12,685	\$12,685	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
	SCR	Sauk	Expenses	\$9,891	\$9,891	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc

	WCR	Pepin	Expenses	\$7,598	\$7,288	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
			Deductions	-\$311				
	WCR	La Crosse	Expenses	\$7,111	\$7,111	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
	WCR	St. Croix	Expenses	\$6,555	\$6,555	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
	WCR	Portage	Expenses	\$6,419	\$6,419	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
	NER	Waushara	Expenses	\$5,666	\$5,666	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
			Deductions	TBD				
	NOR-S	Ashland	Expenses	\$1,665	\$1,665	\$0		Defer, per ad hoc
			Deductions	TBD				
			Expenses		\$0			
TOTAL					\$977,806	\$903,377	\$0	