



## Snowmobile Advisory Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2025

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

**Committee Members Present:** Abby Haas (Chair), Ann Degenhardt, Tara Krall, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Sue Smedegard

**Other Council Members Present:** Lynsey Burzinski, Joel Enking, Gary Hilgendorf, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Don Mrotek, 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 Heideman, Dave Newman and other members of the public

### 1. Call to order at 9:00 AM

### 2. Agenda Repair - None

### 3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve August 2024 minutes by Andy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tara. MOTION PASSED

### 4. Committee Chair Comments

- **Abby Haas** – Over the past few months, \$487,802 have been returned to the Snowmobile Trail Aids program from underspent projects. We have \$5.5 million in grant *requests* from last year that have not yet been awarded. We may consider looking at funding some of those requests.

### 5. Public Comments

- Sam Landes (representing AWSC)
  - AWSC is looking at ways to increase revenue into the program. Considering proposing raising the AWSC trail pass from \$10 to \$20. Regular (DNR) trail pass from \$30 to \$50. The Non-Resident trail pass from \$50 to \$70. And machine registration from \$30 to \$50 for 3-years. This would likely bring an additional \$3.1 to \$4.7 million in revenue into the program. Would have to be a stand alone legislative bill, after the biennial budget is done. This likely won't be seriously considered until next year.

### 6. DNR Funding Report

- **Grants Report**
  - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
  - Snowmobile Active Registrations
  - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (past 10 years)
- We typically only award grants once a year – in August. This year, we had such little funding last summer the Council planned to take a look at awarding more grants with any returned funds. We can do that today, or we can hold onto those funds and we'll have that much more to start with in August of 2025.
- Trail pass sales and registrations to date this season have continued to be quite low. If we continue on this trend, we may have even less available funds than we did last year. Maintenance has to be funded first. If we don't bring in sufficient revenue to cover maintenance, everyone will be pro-rated (potentially less than \$300/mile)
- We will have at least \$1.8 million available for supplemental for 24-25 if needed. If not needed, it rolls over to maintenance.
- With less snow, shouldn't there be less maintenance? Counties and clubs seem to spend most of it regardless. Last year, only \$400,000 went 'unspent' out of the \$5.9 million committed to maintenance.

## 7. Information & Action: Cost Increase Requests

- An ad hoc committee met via Zoom (Abby, Joel, Tara, Andy, Ann) met to talk about cost increase requests, and look at parameters to put in place. If a project changes significantly in costs or scope, should their cost increase should be considered above all new applications, or should they essentially 'submit a new application'?
- Ad hoc consensus - When a project's cost increase is under \$10k or less than a 25% increase over the original grant amount (up to \$50k) and the scope of work remains the same. Otherwise, more significant cost increase requests it will be considered its appropriate category in the next funding cycle.

**Motion to recommend the cost increase policy as drafted by ad hoc be forwarded to the full council by Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy. MOTION PASSED**

When a project's cost increase is under \$10k or less than a 25% increase over the original grant amount (up to \$50k) and the scope of work remains the same, cost increase requests can be considered as a priority at any time of year. Otherwise, more significant cost increase requests will be considered within its appropriate category in the next funding cycle, alongside new applications.

## 8. Committee member reports, comments and items

- Tara Krall – Clarified that any potential pro-rate to maintenance (<\$300/mile) would be for the upcoming (25-26) season, not the current (24-25) season. Counties may want to review their contract language with clubs to ensure verbiage includes potential prorated.

## 9. Items for next meeting

- Status update from AWSC on potential registration/trail pass increases.

## 10. Adjourn

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