



Snowmobile Recreational Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 25th, 2025

Rib Mountain Conference Center & Dales Weston Lanes, Weston 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 staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Pat Anderson, Chris Halbur, Kurt Byfield, Jeremy Holtz, Jeff Pennucci

Public attendance: Lori Heideman, Dave Newman and other members of the public

1. Call to order at Noon

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve February 2025 minutes by Tara, 2nd by Ann. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Committee Chair Comments

- **Abby Haas** – Bridge requests costs keep increasing every year, we need to ensure this program can continue. Need to support the infrastructure we have and look at rising costs of maintaining.

5. Public Comments

- **Sam Landes (AWSC)** –The Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) is working to propose legislation to increase the trail pass/registration fees to help cover the shortfall that the trail aids program is experiencing. Proposed increases AWSC Trail Pass \$10 to \$20 Resident \$30- \$50 Registrations \$30 – \$40 Non Resident out of state trail pass \$35 to \$70. The proposed increases would result in a \$2.6 to \$4 million annual increase in funds to the program (dependent on snow conditions).

6. DNR Funding Report

- **Grants Report**
 - Snowmobile Funding Report & Available Funds
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Active Registrations
- Attended International Snowmobile Congress (ISC) and International Association of Snowmobile Administrators (IASA) in June in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Hot topics included “What3Words” navigation/emergency response resource, ATVs in Snowmobile Trails (for which Wisconsin is a leader), and safety outreach campaigns. Trespassing concerns, financial impacts of low snow years, etc were also topics of discussion.
- Registration and trail pass sales “low” given the snow conditions last winter, but better than 2023-24.
- State biennial budget included language that lapsed a portion of the snowmobile funding authority. This does not have a tangible impact on the grant funding. This was essentially a multi-year build up of our ‘credit limit’, but since we award grants based on actual revenue, we weren’t utilizing our full ‘credit limit’, and the building limit was re-set back to base levels.
- Wisconsin has almost 1700 bridges in our snowmobile system. We have sufficient revenue to cover maintenance of trails at this time, but are falling short on what we need to maintain the bridges. There are 750 bridges at least 20 years old, and 250 that are at least 30 years old.

7. ACTION ITEM – Funding Amount Recommendation

- After setting aside what we need for maintenance and supplemental, we have \$2,577,590 available to award to rehabilitation and development grants.
- Discussion among committee members about holding some back for future cost increases or emergency storm damage, but ultimately...

Motion to recommend to the full Council allocating all of the available funds to grant requests in front of the Council at this meeting. Motion by Tara and 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

8. Committee member reports, comments and items

- None

9. Items for next meeting

- None

10. Adjourn

- Adjourned at 12:50, Infrastructure committee next.