



Snowmobile Advisory Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 29th, 2023

Rib Mountain Conference Center & Dales Weston Lanes, Weston and via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Sue Smedegard (Chair), Gary Hilgendorf, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Bob Lang, Dale Mayo, Lee Van Zeeland

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Bev Dittmar, Joel Enking, Abby Haas, Andy Malecki, Don Mrotek, Erica Volker, Leon Wolfe

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

Public attendance: Dave Newman and other members of the public

1. Call to order at 10:00 AM

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve February 2023 minutes by Mike, 2nd by Gary. MOTION PASSED

4. Committee Chair Comments

- **Sue Smedegard** – There have been several conversations over the past weeks regarding the financial document in your packets. We finally have a new accountant who is permanent and has been working with Jillian to get the figures reported to us correctly. That being said, we are starting this meeting with less money that we did last year. Tough decisions will need to be made. We all take this very seriously, no decision will be made lightly.

5. Public Comments

- None

6. DNR Funding Report

- **Grants Report**
 - Snowmobile Funding Report FY23, Available Funds FY24
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Active Registrations
 - Snow Supplemental Prelim Requests 22-23
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (past 10 years)
- Historically, the program has had a history of being oversubscribed (more requests than funds available). The trail pass program that came online in 2015 was brought more revenue into the program. We enjoyed four solid years of sufficient funding to get much further down the grant request list than we had in years. But we've gotten to the point where we're spending/committing more than we bring in, so any surplus we built up between 2015 and 2020 has been nearly depleted. We are bringing in \$12 million annually in revenue, but spending/awarding-grants of \$12.5 to \$13 million FY20-22, and \$15 million in FY23. After setting aside funding for maintenance and a 100% cost share of supplemental, we have \$2.6 million available for development projects, but \$4.7 million in requests.

7. ACTION ITEM – Funding Amount Recommendation

Motion to recommend to the full Council we set aside \$200,000 for GPS unit leases for the 2023-24 season, \$2.4 for project funding. Motion by Mike and 2nd by Sam. MOTION PASSED

- No easy answer on how much to set aside for emergencies or cost increases, especially when we have many bridge rehab projects to consider. Full Council can begin reviewing individual projects tomorrow, and at any point someone can propose to stop and save the remainder.

8. Committee member reports, comments and items

- Mike Holden – Sno Council 1972 formed. First members included quite a few non-snowmo appointees including Sierra Club, UW Professor, Dept of Ag, etc.
- Sam Landes
 - AB130/SB136 RE: Legislation on Raising Supp Cap is moving forward. Committee meetings held, waiting on floor vote. Bi partisan support.
 - s. 351.45 Wis. Stats. – Reminder that anything in the budget that was proposed by the DNR has to come to the Snowmobile Council in advance for their feedback. Etc

9. Items for next meeting

- We should start the discussion on the possibility of raising registration fees or trail pass fees in the future. Wisconsin enjoys the largest funded trail network, the most registered vehicles, and some of the lowest user fees in North America. With the increased cost of equipment and bridges, more revenue may be needed to continue to support the trail system and clubs.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Gary, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED