Committee Members Present: Gary Hilgendorf – Chair, Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Sue Smedegard
Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Ann Degenhardt, Abby Haas, Tara Krall, 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** following Finance Committee

2. **Agenda Repair**
   - None

3. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

Motion to approve previous minutes by Mike, 2nd by Joel. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Committee Chair Comments**
   - **Gary Hilgendorf –** We need to make decisions that keep the best interests of the statewide network at large in mind.

5. **Public Comments**
   - None

6. **DNR Report**
   - Jillian Steffes
     - Grants that were recommended for funding in August have been going out the door, most have been written. Business as usual at the DNR.

7. **Groomer Show Updates**
   - Good attendance. Nothing particularly new in the equipment world. Lots of discussion on how the program funding works.

8. **Discussion: Bridge Overloading**
   - Ad hoc group met (Mike, Don, Holly, Tara, Erica) met to talk about groomer drag weight and impacts on the bridge system. Is there a percentage of replacement that the club or county should be asked to pay if the bridge was overloaded? How do you determine the level of damage caused by the overloading? When was the bridge last inspected? Has proper maintenance been done on the bridge?

   - Some clubs have groomers over 30,000 lbs. Are they taking into consideration the weight limit of their bridges? Outreach to clubs to remind them not to overload their bridges. Perhaps an article in the AWSC magazine.

- FYI - An inventory of all bridges in the snowmobile trail system are now in SNARS. Currently at 1,697 bridges. DNR and County Admin can update the details (last inspected, etc). Will add ability for Council to view details as well.

9. **Equipment Rates, Requests and Concerns**
   - If new pieces of equipment are requested, they are reviewed by the equipment ad hoc. If the ad hoc feels the equipment would add value to the program, those are forwarded to the Infrastructure Committee.

     - Trailer with hydraulic lift (cherry picker) was denied – not particularly safe nor needed
     - Drag with pan removed and replaced with wheels. Does not meet the definition of a drag with a pan in operation.

   - Ad Hoc is meeting after this to review updated DOT rates and see what equipment rates may be recommended for the future (August meeting).

   - Rates are based on the manufacture rated horse power, not the 'boost potential'. Example, T6 Tractor has a manufacturer rated of 145 hp with a boost potential of 175. The rate should be based on the 145 hp. Discussion about changing rates to just be 100hp "and up" for example, to not incentivize clubs purchasing bigger and bigger equipment.

10. **SNARS and Groomer Tracking System Updates**
    - Request from users to add space for a 4th piece of equipment. Right now, users can add two lines to get all four pieces of equipment in, but would prefer to do it in one line.

    > **Motion to recommend adding a 4th piece of equipment column to SNARS for the 2025-26 season by Mike, 2nd by Joel. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. **Committee member reports, comments and items**
    - **Bob Lang** – GPS technology has gotten more advanced, can manage fleet details like fuel use, etc. Any of those features available to us at a reasonable cost?
      - **Nathan** – Those features are available, but not with the units we are currently using. Would send a lot more data which would increase cost. Probably not of a benefit to the *program*, our goal is to track grooming activity.

12. **Items for next meeting**

13. **Adjourn**

    > **Motion to adjourn by Andy, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**