



Snowmobile Advisory Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday February 10, 2020
Eagle River Inn, Eagle River, Wisconsin

Committee Members Present - Committee Members Present: Dale Mayo - Chair, Bev Dittmar, Joel Enking, Andy Malecki, Dave Newman

Other Council Members Present: Mike Holden, Nancy Olson, Jeff Schwaller, Lee Van Zeeland, Bob Lang, Arlyn Baumgarten, Tom Chwala, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Don Mrotek

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Ed Slaminski, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci, Matt Zorn, April Dombrowski, Marty Stone

Public attendance: Gary Hilgendorf, Nathan Matters, other members of the public

1. Call to order at 8:35 AM

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

- It was noted that there was a typo in Item 7. The tracked truck should be in category AAA, not A

Motion to approve October 2019 minutes (with correction) by Joel, 2nd by Dave. MOTION PASSED

4. Committee Chair Comments – Dale Mayo

- Call for Council members to come forward and serve.

5. Public Comments

- Kurt Butler (Oconto Director). Currently the 7710 Surtrac is temporarily grandfathered but will be sunset. Asked that it be considered to stay permanently grandfathered. Will be discussed at item 10 on the agenda.

6. DNR Funding Report

- HANDOUTS
 - 2019-20 Snowmobile Funding Summary
 - Snow Supplemental Audit Results 2018-19
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Council “New Miles” Funding Recommendations, with status update on those that have been formally written

7. Liaison to the Infrastructure Committee

- Gary Hilgendorf’s term on the Snowmobile Council was not renewed, and he was replaced at the discretion of the Governor’s Office. His knowledge base on club matters, grooming experience, and knowledge of SNARS and GPS units are invaluable. Discussion about appointing him as a liaison to the Infrastructure Committee.

Motion to appoint Gary Hilgendorf as a liaison to the Infrastructure Committee by Andy, 2nd by Bev. MOTION PASSED

8. SNARS / Groomer Tracking Systems Update

- GPS units and GIS mapping had a few glitches but have been fixed over the course of the season, as well as the smartphone App. Errors in the startup are not unexpected, as geofence gets settled, etc but should not continue over time. Currently 120 GPS units in use, vs 60 last year.

- Discussion that many clubs are watching to see how things to before joining themselves.
- Discussion on ability by clubs to EDIT the GPS entry in SNARS, or delete it altogether and replace it with a manual entry. Defeats the purpose of having the GPS unit. Debate on disabling ability to edit GPS entries (no decision made). GPS unit is accurate to the second, which is far more accurate than the hour meter with a/10th hour measurements.
- SNARS guidance may need to be updated to address the fact that GPS resets at midnight, which may cause confusion on entries if grooming overnight. Comparison of hour meter vs. GPS may not line up.

9. Groomers on Road Route - Discussion from Gary Hilgendorf about allowing travel time on a road route traveling from funded trail to funded trail to be eligible (not in base miles, but as expenses of grooming the trail). Some discussion about eligibility (it's not a trail) and some discomfort by members of the council to take money out of grooming trails to pay for the groomer to drive on a route. Can this be considered "transportation of equipment?" and paid as non-grooming expenses? When using a GPS unit, the machine would be outside the geofence at this time and expenses would not be logged. No resolution reached.

10. Equipment Requests

- **Grandfathered Groomers** – Discussion on permanently grandfathering the following units.
*The following tractors have been grandfathered-in as Class A power units for 5 years ('17-18 through '21-22): **John Deere** 6400, 6410, 5625, 2955; **Case**: 5130, 5230; **Massey**: 3075-4, 300T; **Ford**: 7740; **New Holland**: TS 100/Sur Trac drag; **New Holland**: 7740*
 Discussion on both sides of the issue, but ultimately sentiment was that many clubs have already replaced these units with the understanding the Class A rate would be temporary, and it would be unfair to them to change that decision now.

11. Snow Supplemental – Per Mile Max for Non-Grooming Expenses Under Supplemental.

- Discussion on increasing the non-grooming cap from \$250/mile to \$300/mile. This was discussed at the time the overall per mile was increased a few years ago, and the decision made to keep it at \$250/mile. The intent of supplemental funds is to supplement heavy grooming expenses. By increasing the non-grooming, we may essentially make the supplemental fund the primary grooming funding source, and allow for ALL of the base \$300/mile to be used for non-grooming. The average non-grooming per mile for 18-19 counties in supplemental was \$166.38 (with the lowest being \$55/mile in non-grooming). With during-audit adjustments and existing caps, no counties experienced a reduction in their supplemental payment with the cap set at \$250/mile for non-grooming.

12. Emergency Storm Damage Applications –

When should DNR accept an application outside the normal grant cycle.

- Grants staff have experienced an increase in counties requesting access to Storm Damage funds. We have, an April 15th deadline for applications, with no formal mechanism to allow "storm damage" requests other than a variance to code. Under what conditions? Accepting emergency storm damage requests in a state or federally declared emergency makes sense and would likely limit the # of requests to only those caused by a significant storm event.

Motion to recommend accepting Emergency Storm Damage grant requests only when there is a state or federally declared emergency by Bev, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED

Review of storm damage requests received and pending approval.

<u>Project</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amt Req</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Motion</u>
#S12	Burnett	\$10,000	Would prefer a more precise receipt from Anderson.	Motion to defer decision until a more detailed cost break down is received. Motion by Andy, 2nd by Dave, passed unanimously.

#S13	La Crosse	\$43,002	Many different expenses and trails, some appear ineligible, requesting updated app w/o ineligible expenses	Motion to defer decision until next council meeting by Andy, 2nd by Dave. Motion passed 11 to 3.
#S14	Eau Claire	\$34,382		Motion to recommend funding by Dave, 2nd by Bev. Motion passed unanimously.
#S15	Langlade	\$68,719		Motion to recommend funding by Dave, 2nd by Joel. Motion passed unanimously.

Annie Loechler volunteers to work on a specific Storm Damage application. In the meantime, applicants should use the main Motorized Grant application.

Motion by Dale to define what needs to be in a storm damage request, 2nd by Dave. MOTION PASSED

13. Committee member reports, comments and items.

- None

14. Items for next meeting

- None

15. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Bev, 2nd by Andy. MOTION PASSED