



Snowmobile Recreational Council Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 25th, 2025

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

Committee Members Present: Gary Hilgendorf - Chair, Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Ann Degenhardt, Abby Haas, Mike Holden, Tara Krall, Sam Landes, Sue Smedegard, Holly Tomlanovich, Erica Volker

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, Pat Anderson, Kurt Byfield, Chris Halbur Jeremy Holtz, Jeff Pennucci

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

1. Call to order after the Finance Committee adjourned

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve previous minutes by [redacted], 2nd by [redacted]. MOTION PASSED

4. Committee Chair Comments – Gary Hilgendorf

- Notice that Dale Mayo has resigned from the Council to focus on his health. The Governor's office has appointed Tanner Hiller from Mercer as a replacement.
- As in past recent years, some difficult decisions will need to be made since available funds are insufficient to meet the requests. Equipment rate changes will also be discussed today.

5. Public Comments

- None

? DNR Report

- Handouts
 - 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.

6. Discussion on Storm Damage

- Discussion among Council members that “maintenance” funds should be utilized before asking for “storm damage” funding, but counterpoint that timing can be difficult (unknown future conditions if storm is early in the season). Further discussion expected during full Council meeting.

7. Information & Action: SNARS and Groomer Tracking Systems

- Bridge Inventory has been added. County staff and DNR staff can modify entries. Club and other level users can VIEW entries – if they know of corrections to the details, please contact county staff.
- There are currently 715 tractors in the system

8. Equipment Rates

- DOT rates have changed, an ad hoc committee went through and looked at each equipment rate in comparison to DOT and made recommendations.
- Reminder that work done on snowmobile or winter ATV trails is at \$9/hr, while work done on summer ATV trails is \$12/hr.

Motion to recommend to the full Council adopting the revised rates as proposed by the ad hoc for 2025-26. Motion by Mike and 2nd by Bob. MOTION PASSED

9. Committee member reports, comments and items

- None

10. Items for next meeting

- Guest speaker on bridge inspections.

11. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned.