



Snowmobile Advisory Council Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

Arbor Vitae Town Hall, 10675 Big Arbor Vitae Dr, Arbor Vitae WI and via Zoom

Committee Members Present: Sam Landes - Chair, Joel Enking, Mike Holden, Bob Lang, Andy Malecki, Dale Mayo, Don Mrotek, Holly Tomlanovich, Erica Volker

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Abby Haas, Sue Smedegard

DNR/Tourism staff attendance: Jacob Holsclaw, Jillian Steffes, Drew Nussbaum (Tourism), Pat Anderson, Kurt Byfield, Chris Halbur, Jeremy Holtz, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

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

1. **Call to order following Infrastructure**
2. **Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting**

Motion to approve previous committee meeting minutes by Mike and 2nd by Erica. MOTION PASSED

3. **Agenda Repair - None**

4. **Committee Chair Comments**

- **Sam Landes**

- Lack of snowfall overall, but great snow in Southern Wisconsin at the end of January. Traffic was very high – three fatalities are awful but considering the # of riders, could have been more.

5. **DNR Reports and Updates – Jacob Holsclaw, LE OHV Administrator**

- 3 fatalities so far this season. 2 were group riders, 1 in Iowa Co. Details pending.
- Unique winter, LE has switched messaging to more ATV, UTV and ice safety. Partnered with MAD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving).

6. **Snowmobile LE Issues on the Legislative Front**

(1) Aids to Local Law Enforcement

- a. Increased by \$200,000, from \$396,000 to \$600,000. In effect this year. Some counties having trouble finding deputies to take on the role of rec officer.

(2) Update on Safety Concerns around Signing Issues on DNR Properties

- a. [2023 Wisconsin Act 63](#) allows for signage advertising nearby businesses to be placed on state owned lands, provided that the sign are brown and white (confirming with standards set in signage handbook) and are placed at intersections only. Grant funds cannot be used to purchase these, they need to be funded by the business and/or club, just as is done for these types of signs on non-State-owned lands.

(3) Updating Safety Course Test

- a. Dave Newman identified four questions that were confusing, three were changed. Key will remain the same, and info on trespassing included, as well as corrected drawing in sled parts. Mike compliments Dept on working with SRC on changes. Copies can be obtained from your local outdoor skills trainer.

(4) Trail Surfacing

- a. Sam is working with State Parks Director to clarify standards, criteria-different circumstances, etc.

(5) Failing Structures on DNR Managed Properties (400 State Trail, Buffalo River ST, Military Ridge ST)

- a. Earlier notification of clubs and county coordinators would be appreciated, so re-routes can be planned in advance. When going out to bid, contractors need to be aware of the intended uses (including snowmobile).

(6) Trespassing Issues

- a. AWSC met with Jake Holsclaw about how to improve the situation. Sam will send the rest of the committee members highlights of that discussion. Trail cams are being utilized with some success. Need LE and judicial system to understand the importance. That understanding can differ from region to region. Try to keep messaging positive.

(7) Transfer and Management of State Trails that are Turned over to County and Local units of Government

- a. *In Brown County, agreement between DNR and Co was loose. Should master plans be involved? Who really controls the property, who is responsible for enforcement, determines surfacing, etc?*

(8) Annual Motorized Report in regards to Snowmobile.

- a. *This document captures data by calendar year, but snowmobile data is better reflected by season. Concerns that if readers compare #'s from this report with #'s provided by AWSC, they don't line up (apples to oranges).*

7. Public Comment

- There was money in the budget for a dealer portal, what's the status?
 - FOLLOW-UP Initial programming was completed by DNR Customer Service & Licensing now needs to develop policy. In the works.

8. Committee member reports, comments and items

- Andy – Is there a penalty for selling a trail pass (3rd party)? Unknown, Jake will investigate.
- Erica – Trails were great this year! Clubs can collaborate with local officials via WhatsApp to notify LE & county coordinators in real time to report trespassing problems, etc.
- Holly – Snowmobile clubs are putting together events to help support the local economy, which is suffering from the lack of snow in the north.
- Andy – Potential rails to trails opportunity (Crivitz to Marinette), having trouble getting response from RR company.
- Mike – not seeing as much off trail riding in his area.

9. Items for next meeting

- None

10. Adjourn

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