



Snowmobile Recreational Council Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 26th, 2024

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

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

Other Council Members Present: Lynsey Burzinski, Ann Degenhardt, Gary Hilgendorf, Abby Haas, Tara Krall, Sue Smedegard, Holly Tomlanovich

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

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

1. Call to order following Infrastructure

2. Agenda Repair - None

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

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

4. Committee Chair Comments

- **Sam Landes**

- Pleased we were able to increase Aids to Local Law Enforcement, but unfortunately some counties weren't willing to increase their activity. Maybe if they get used to more snow that will change, but for now the \$600k is likely sufficient.

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

- New Outdoor Skills Trainer – Katie Renchen in Rhinelander office
- Operation Sled Safe – dates will be based on snow conditions
- 3 snowmobile fatalities this year.

2024 Snowmobile Fatal Crash Summary								
As of: February 19 th , 2024								
#	Date	County/C-V-T	Location	Age / Gender / Residency	Accident Type	Wisconsin Safety Certified?	Helmet Used?	Alcohol Involved/BAC
#1	1/17/2024	Juneau / Lemonweir	Public Trail	60 / M / WI	Collision with Snowmobile	Yes	Yes	No
<i>Synopsis</i> A group of four snowmobilers left Mauston on public trails. As they approached an intersection on the trail, the second snowmobiler in the group struck the lead snowmobiler. The lead snowmobiler sustained fatal injuries during the crash.								
#2	1/17/2024	Juneau / Lemonweir	Public Trail	53 / M / WI	Collision with Snowmobile	No	Yes	Pending
<i>Synopsis</i> A group of four snowmobilers left Mauston on public trails. As they approached an intersection on the trail, the second snowmobiler in the group struck the lead snowmobiler. The striking snowmobiler was med-flown and pronounced deceased on 1/27/2024 after succumbing to injuries sustained in the crash.								
#3	1/18/2024	Iowa / Ridgeway	Public Trail	67 / M / WI	Collision with Snowmobile	No	Yes	Pending
<i>Synopsis</i> A group of snowmobilers travelling together on a public trail encountered a distinct elevation change at a driveway crossing. The first operator struck the bank of the driveway and was ejected. The second operator stopped to assist the first. The third snowmobile then struck the back of the second snowmobile which was stopped. The operator/victim of the third snowmobile fatally struck the handlebars on his snowmobile as he was ejected.								

6. Snowmobile LE Issues on the Legislative Front

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

- a. Can be removed from future agendas

(2) Strengthening Trespassing fines and updating laws

- a. Current Ch 350 fine is \$230. An increase in this would be preferable. If there are other things that should be changed, perhaps we can package that into one legislative action.

(3) Where do we stand with surveillance usage on public properties

- a. Snowmobiles could be considered a travel way per previous attorney general's letter (Bayfield vs. Mauler). If true, cameras could be placed on public property without concerns. Currently can only put them on private property with landowner permission.

(4) Update on where we stand with the increased aid to local LE

- a. See chair comments above.

(5) Substance of periodical safety course updates

- a. Instructor trainings have had a lot of hunter/fishing content but not much snowmobile content, and not a lot of NEW content. Maybe the person running the training can have a briefing session in advance with AWSC and WATVA to be brought up to date on current issues and changes over time, like elimination of the 40' rule.

7. Public Comment

- None

8. Committee member reports, comments and items

- None

9. Items for next meeting

- None

10. Adjourn

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