



Snowmobile Advisory Council Council Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 25th, 2022

Wingate by Wyndham, 2065 Airport Drive, Green Bay WI and via Zoom

Council Members Present: Dale Mayo – Chair, Bob Lang – Vice Chair, Lynsey Burzinski, Joel Enking, Abby Haas, Gary Hilgendorf, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Andy Malecki, Don Mrotek, Sue Smedegard, Erica Voelker, Leon Wolfe

Tourism staff attendance: Drew Nussbaum

DNR staff attendance: Jillian Steffes, others

Public attendance: Dave Newman and other members of the public

1. Call to order @ 1:30 PM

2. Agenda Repair

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to approve September 2021 minutes by Don, 2nd by Mike. MOTION PASSED

4. Public Comments

- AWSC's Dave Newman
 - Mandatory GPS implemented. The presentation and online recording really helped answer a lot of questions.
 - AWSC plans to work on legislative action in the next budget to increase contributions to local law enforcement from \$396,000 to \$800,000
 - Involved in discussions with Marty Stone on trespassing issues and anything AWSC can do to help.
- Tourism's Drew Nussbaum
 - New snow report launched in November. Some issues when it first launched but were resolved over time. March 8th reverted back to old snow report due to reasons outside Drew's control. Will probably stick to the old version in 22-23.
 - Snow report continues to be very popular - 8 mil to 10 mil views a year – top 5 nationally for all travel sites. Snow report is #1 visited Tourism page in the winter, and #4 annually.
 - Photo shoots in Oconto and St Germain this winter. Video will be shown at AWSC meeting tomorrow.
- Jason Guthrie – Monroe Co
 - Expressed the value of wings on drags on the trails, and asked Council to reconsider removing drags from drag dimension class determinations
- Steve Falkenberg – La Crosse Co
 - Presented a hand out to the Council. Expressed the value of wings on drags on the trails, and asked Council to reconsider removing drags from drag dimension class determinations

5. Council Chair Comments – Dale Mayo

- We haven't always agreed, but over the years the end product of tough and sometimes unpopular decisions have been good for the program. For example, trail passes and required GIS of the trail has resulted in more funding becoming available for new miles statewide. Implementation of SNARS has helped streamline reporting. GPS requirement gives the program a more accurate picture of grooming activity, and consistent reporting.

6. DNR Funding Report

- HANDOUTS
 - Snowmobile Active Registrations

- Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
- Snow Supplemental Requests 20-21
- Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (1990 through present)
- Expenses in SNARS Exceeding Supplemental Cap of \$900/mile
- New Mile Award Status for 21-22
- Community Financial Assistance (Grants) – Jillian Steffes
 - Vehicle registration and trail pass sales consistent with previous years.
 - \$1.7 million paid out for supplemental in 20-21. Too soon to know what 21-22 will look like.
 - Of the 486 new miles recommended for funding last fall, over 300 miles have been written, the remainder are under review
 - More applications coming April 15th
- Law Enforcement Report
 - See this morning’s Law Enforcement & Safety Committee meeting minutes.

7. Reports of Standing Committees

- **Finance Committee**
 - No motions, but will be setting up an ad hoc committee as a result of discussion to review the possibility of increasing groomer rates, and raising or eliminating the supplemental cap of \$900/mile.
- **Law Enforcement & Safety Committee**
 - Check out the Law Enforcement annual report, good content.
 - 14 fatalities over the past year. No real increase in fatalities, despite ~30k additional riders.
 - Alcohol continues to be a problem, now among certified riders as well.
 - 43 local law enforcement participants. An increase to aids to local law enforcement will help.
 - 40’ rule gone but you still have to have a 10’ wide groomed trail to be a trail, not route.
 - Stauer was open for snowmobiling this past winter. Injunction denied.
- **Infrastructure Committee**
 - Discussion items and motions will be discussed further in this agenda.
 - Overall, GPS units seem to have been well received in the end and implemented successfully

8. ACTION ITEM: Action on recommendations arising from committee reports

Recommended motion to the Council to move all rollers out of grooming unit class specifications and into class 9205 equipment rates (non-grooming). MOTION PASSED

Recommended motion to the Council to readopt the 2017-18 language stating that ‘wings that fold down outside the main frame do not increase the drag width for funding purposes.’ 9 votes in support, 4 opposed. MOTION PASSED

- Winged drags can continue to be used, but the class will be determined by the base drag dimensions, no extra funding for wings.
- Council members have observed that some of the winged drags are operating with wings UP (should be in lower class) but charging the program for wings DOWN (higher class) 100% of the time. Not reporting accurately, costing the program more.

Recommended motion to the Council to grandfather those winged drags that were previously funded and met the specifications for a period of 10 years funding purposes. MOTION PASSED

- Clubs with drags that they feel meet the grandfathered winged drags need to declare themselves so that we are aware they fit this parameter. Winged drags that were already reviewed and found to NOT MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS do not get grandfathered.
- Council voiced preference that County Coordinators and DNR Staff do a better job of verifying that equipment is meeting the specifications of the class they are claiming.
- Those winged drags that have been funded and met the previous wing specifications (below) may continue to use the class they were previously funded at (not having to move down in case) until summer of 2032.

From 21-22 Specifications

Wings increase frame width with all following conditions:

- hydraulically operated
- must cut and pack snow
- similar structural material as main frame
- each wing has 24" minimum width
- extend full length of the main frame

Recommended motion to the Council to adopt the language 'entire width and length of drag must perform the same cutting and packing function. Modifications to the original drag will not increase the funding class.' MOTION VOTED DOWN.

NEW Motion to adopt the language 'modifications to the drag must maintain original cutting and packing function as designed. Modifications made outside the original main frame will not increase funding class' by Joel, 2nd by Bob. MOTION PASSED

- Can't weld on additional metal that don't function in order to claim a higher class, such as adding a 6" extension that doesn't perform any action.

Recommended motion to Council to adopt the New Miles Ranking changes as proposed by DNR to the 23-24 season. MOTION PASSED

- Original recommendation from ad hoc was to adopt the changes for 22-23, but insufficient time to implement this for the April 15th 2022 deadline.
- Changes included;
 - Minimum trail length of a mile.
 - Minimum score of 5 points.
 - Removing points for grooming equipment size.
 - Added language that incomplete applications would be denied.
 - Added deduction that if the spur to a single service if that service is available elsewhere on the trail system within 5 miles by trail.

Recommended motion to Council to adopt the grant application appendix for Trails Adjacent to Roadways. MOTION PASSED

- Counties will need to let Dept know if they feel they need more miles on their maintenance contract due to previously unfunded and non-compliant sections of trail that are now compliant. That appendix will facilitate Dept review of those requests for additional funding.

Recommended motion to Council to reimburse groomer time as non-grooming transport time when the groomer is traveling on a route that is an integral part of a single funded trail, at the rate of 50% of the assigned groomer rate. MOTION PASSED

Recommended motion to Council to keep the audit ad hoc committee active and encourage penalties against false reporting. MOTION PASSED

Motion to Council to recommend to the DNR to enact a penalty for errors found due to fraudulent intent in SNARS by Abby, 2nd by Sam. MOTION PASSED

- Grants program will have to work with our legal council to see what we can do.

Motion to clarify that periodic inspection of equipment and trails for the purpose of advising the DNR, in cooperating with the county staff and DNR, are within the ability of the Council by Bob, 2nd by Joel. MOTION PASSED

9. Action Item: Grant, storm damage and/or amendment requests

App Number	County	Discussion/Questions	Motions
97	Jefferson	Requesting additional funds for materials	Motion to approve additional \$11,600: By: Sue, 2nd: Mike Motion carried.
98	Dunn	Request for funds to cover H&H study and defining wetland elevation	Motion to approve additional \$20,500: By: Sam, 2nd: Bob Motion carried.
99	La Crosse	Request for additional funds due to variety of reasons including changes in site conditions.	Motion to approve additional \$7,367: By: Joel, 2nd: Gary Motion carried.
100	St Croix	20' Bridge from 2017-18. County coordinator bought a 10k bridge but the proposal was a 25k bridge. Request to allow grant funds to be spent on a 10k bridge.	Motion to <u>deny</u> request to fund 10k bridge. By: Sue, 2 nd : Gary Motion carried.
101-102	Clark	Revised bridge estimates have increased. One contractor doubled but the other did not. Co is willing to go forward with bid and come back with cost increase request after going to bid.	Motion to table this request until more information is received (ie, bids) By: Sue, 2 nd : Bob Motion carried.

10. Committee member reports, comments and items

Good job, everyone.

Request for county coordinator training. Ad hoc group may be needed to cover all aspects of what needs to be included. Dave Newman volunteers, as does Gary Hilgendorf. Suzie Tollander and Clint Meyer indicated to Sue that they'd be willing.

11. Items for next meeting

Revisit the "trails to water" discussion (Item 13 above)

12. Adjourn

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