



Snowmobile Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2026

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

Council Members Present: Bob Lang – Chair, Sue Smedegard – Vice Chair, Lynsey Burzinski, Ann Degenhardt, Joel Enking, Abby Haas, Gary Hilgendorf, Tara Krall, Tanner Hiller, Mike Holden, Sam Landes, Don Mrotek, Sue Smedegard, Holly Tomlanovich, Erica Volker

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 Heideman, Dave Newman and other members of the public

1. Call to order after Tourism Committee

2. Presentation on Bridge Inspections by William Knaack Jr, P.E. of KBIS, Inc in Phillips, WI

- Presentation covered the basics of a bridge inspection by a qualified engineer.
- Typically, the engineer a county uses to do bridge inspections for their road bridges can also do their rec bridge inspections. KBIS charges around \$500/bridge inspection. This provides a report on the condition of the bridge, often broken out into condition of the substructure, superstructure, etc.
- This is NOT the same as a load calculation report. That requires much more work and is a higher cost product.
- Vital maintenance to extend the life of your bridge – keep the bridge decks clear, remove gravel. Remove brush and trees from around the bridge.
- County bridge inventory exists in SNARS to help the program understand the future needs of the program. County or DNR staff can update the content. If clubs see something that needs correction to a particular bridge, reach out to county for updates.

3. Chair and Vice Chair Comments

- **Bob Lang – Chair**
 - Thank you to Willy for the bridge inspection presentation, this was very good info.
 - The issue of weight and cost of tractors and groomers continues to be an issue.
 - Would like to see a way to fund bridge inspections aside from the existing maintenance funding. Currently no mechanism to do this in the program structure, may require a change in statute. Perhaps change maintenance to \$300/mile PLUS bridge inspections? We need an accurate inventory to manage the future of the program. Inspections every 4-5 years seems to be preferable, or more often in bridges in degrading condition.
 - Promoting bridge maintenance is important. Dave Newman will work on an article on bridge maintenance for the magazine.
- **Sue Smedegard – Vice Chair**
 - None

4. Public Participation

- **Lori Heideman (AWSC)**
 - Convention is March 27-29, where we will be electing some new officers. Scholarships and Snowmobile Friendly Community designations will be given out.
 - Next Gen Riders had their first time ride, did a great job of organizing and following through in - 40 degree conditions. Hope to do this again next year.
- **Sam Landes (AWSC)**

- Working on legislation to increase registration and trail pass fees, to help support the influx of bridge rehab projects we're seeing.

5. DNR / Tourism Report

- **Jillian Steffes – DNR Grants Report**

- Handouts
 - Grant Funding Summary
 - Snowmobile Trail Passes Sold
 - Snowmobile Active Registrations
 - Snow Supplemental Seasonal History (past 10 years)
- At the end of August, we had committed all available funds with the exception of \$69,000. Since that time, a number of projects have come in under budget, and approx. \$400,000 has been returned to the program, giving us a program balance of \$476,457
- We do anticipate supplemental requests for this season. Those are due August 1st.

- **Jacob Holsclaw, LE OHV Administrator**

- See Committee Report

- **Drew Nussbaum, Dept of Tourism**

- See Committee Report

6. Reports of Standing Committees

- See Committee Report

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

- None

8. ACTION ITEM: Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications

Motion to recommend funding the Barron County cost increase request of \$14,123 by Gary, 2nd by Sam. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- Oconto County had a project that went for bid and came in \$100,000 higher. This increase will be considered at the August funding meeting alongside other bridge rehab projects.

9. Committee member items

- Joel - none
- Lyndsey - none
- Erica - none
- Holly - none
- Don - likes the format of committees in the morning, everyone here for the reports, council meeting in the afternoon.
- Tanner - glad to be here for his first meeting.
- Mike - None
- Abby - none
- Sam - none
- Tara - none

- Gary - none
- Ann - none
- Sue - SRC Roundtable Saturday, March 28, 1:00 - 2:30 PM, Oneida Casino & Conference Center - several indicated plans to attend.
- Andy - need to look at a better sound system, attending by zoom was difficult, could only hear about half of what was said at the committee meetings.
- Bob -

10. Items for next meeting

- Funding meeting tentatively scheduled for last week of August.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Abby, 2nd by Joel. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY