



## Snowmobile Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026

via Zoom

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

**DNR/Tourism staff attendance:** Jacob Holsclaw, Jillian Steffes, Kurt Byfield, Chris Halbur, Jeremy Holtz, Annie Loechler, Jeff Pennucci

**Public attendance:** Eric Rady (Oneida), Susie Tollander (Burnett), Dave Kafura (WCFA), Todd Bierman (Vilas) and other members of the public

#### 1. Call to order

#### 2. Agenda Repair

#### 3. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

- Deferred to next meeting

#### 4. Chair and Vice Chair Comments

- **Bob Lang – Chair**
  - Received a few complaints from individuals who found it difficult to meet the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The deadline is in statute and not a soft deadline, we have no mechanism to allow for late applications.
- **Sue Smedegard – Vice Chair**
  - Thank you to everyone for attending this morning.

#### 5. Public Participation

- **Eric Rady (Oneida)**
  - Request came in from DOT years ago to put in thermoplastic covering on a relocation project, but council does not support use of grant funds to pay for that. Getting pushback from DOT to get them done before opening the trail. Plans to get this bridge built before winter, overall plan to be ready for upcoming snowmobile season. Thermoplastic coverings are a holdback, county's hands are tied. Council and DOT need to figure this out. DOT won't let him open until that is in place. Have attempted to get Polaris grants, etc. to no avail. DOT said they would pay a portion, maybe 40-50%. Cost would still be over \$15,000. Other counties do not seem to be held to that standard. In Iron, two US Hwy crossings were built without any request from DOT for a thermoplastic covering. One was installed at a later date without the county's knowledge, presumably by DOT?
  - Jillian will contact the DOT and have a discussion with them to see if they may be willing to cover the cost.

#### 6. DNR Report

- **Jillian Steffes – DNR Grants Report**
  - Andy Malecki has stepped down from the Council, after 22.5 years of service on the Council.
  - Langlade County is no longer maintaining the Wolf River State Trail on behalf of the DNR Parks program, and has returned maintenance responsibility to DNR Parks. DNR Parks will likely seek other local municipalities or snowmobile clubs to perform maintenance moving forward.

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

Three cost increase requests for consideration. Program has \$448,000 available for funding at this time.

- Price County - replace a culvert, increase of 6,790 from snowmobile, split with ORV

**Motion to recommend funding the Price County cost increase request of \$6,790 by Mike, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sam. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Oneida - complete trail and bridge on trail 17, bids came in higher than expected, cost increases request is \$49,990. Total project is \$428,275 - east west trail coming into Rhinelander, heavily used. 120 days to sign contract.

**Motion to recommend funding the Oneida County cost increase request of \$49,990 by Holly, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tara. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Burnett County - replacement of North Fork Flowage Bridge - lowest bid \$92,000 over budget, working with all parties reduced to total of \$20,000 - \$10,000 from snowmobile. Motion by Joel, second by Ann, motion carries.

**Motion to recommend funding the Barron County cost increase request of \$10,000 by Joel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 8. Committee member items

- Holly – Lynx Creek Bridge project in Vilas recently received four bids that ranged from \$54,000 to \$164,000. The difference seemed to be in the treatment on the lumber. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest bid was selected because the lumber they proposed seems likely to last longer than the lower bids.

## 9. Next meeting

- Infrastructure committee will meet in Rhinelander and via Zoom on June 15<sup>th</sup> for preliminary application review.
- Full Council will meet August 24-25 for our annual funding meeting in Weston and via Zoom.

## 10. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn by Ann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tanner. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**