

Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
<p><b>1. Call to Order</b></p>	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Bev Dittmar-Acting Chair, Bob Lang, Lee Van Zeeland, Dale Mayo, Matt Harter, Dave Newman, Sam Landes, Jerry Green, Larry Erickson, Andy Malecki, Tom Chwala, Pat Schmutzer, Jon Schweitzer</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Mike Willman, Karen Carlson</p> <p><b>Others Present: Others Present:</b> Cathy Burrow, Faith Murray, Beth Norquist, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski, Walt Ebersohl, Jillian Steffes-DNR and members of the public</p>	
<p><b>2. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p>		<p>Motion by Andy Malecki, second by Tom Chwala, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2013. <u>Motion carried.</u></p>
<p><b>2. Comments</b></p>	<p>Bev spoke to all Council members and the new appointees; she stressed the fact that being a Council member means you are representing all snowmobilers and all snowmobiling throughout the state, not individual interests or any other interest.</p>	
<p><b>3. Citizen Participation</b></p>	<p>Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC) – Doug Johnson, President of AWSC, gave an update on the cap step legislation. Both senate and assembly committees held hearings. In both, the bills passed unanimously out of their committees. This will not be taken up by the Joint Finance Committee until they are finished with the Governor’s tax-cutting proposal.</p> <p>The AWSC was not consulted on AB670.</p> <p>Jane Sievert appeared on behalf of the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) – She asked the Council to consider having a County Trail Coordinator work with the Council in some capacity even if not as an appointed position. She referenced the letter submitted by the WCFA at the Infrastructure Committee meeting.</p>	

**Copy attached.**

It was suggested to her that she contact the Governor with her concerns regarding the Council structure.

Gary Schmutzer, snowmobiler since 1968, snowmobile club member, and a landowner with a snowmobiler crossing his property. He spoke of the importance of landowners and the fact that they get no compensation. He disagrees with AB407 because he considers it a membership drive for AWSC. He would rather see funds raised by raising the price of Snowmobile registrations so that all snowmobilers are treated equally. He stated that no snowmobile trails will cross his property if AB407 passes.

Charles Griffith, non AWSC club member, voiced his dislike for the Council's stand on AB407 with a vote of 11-1. He expressed his feeling that the AWSC hasn't communicated information regarding Cap Step. His feeling is that all snowmobilers are not being represented by this bill as well as the AWSC club members are being represented. He also feels that even AWSC club members have not been communicated the details. He also expressed his concern that so many AWSC members are on the council.

The Chair discussed many good things that AWSC has done for snowmobiling and snowmobilers in the past. How they worked to pass legislation and help get funding for the snowmobile program. She went on to say that all snowmobilers appreciate land owners and that they are very much appreciated. State law does not allow land owners to be compensated at this time. She expressed her hope that all snowmobilers and local clubs are also expressing and showing their appreciation for the landowners.

She stated again, how important it is for all council members and snowmobilers alike, to work together for the betterment of snowmobiling and snowmobilers throughout Wisconsin. And the importance of bolstering the snowmobile fund so that clubs can be reimbursed even more.

It was stated that support for cap step as it exists was in part because one of the results would be to produce more volunteers to

help with trail maintenance.

More of the contributions to snowmobiling in general by AWSC were stated by Sam Landes, Council Member but speaking from his involvement in the AWSC. There's more to it than the just the dues from the clubs, such as:

- Battled keeping Hwy 155 crossing open, joint effort between many people including the legal team of the AWSC. That trail is used by all snowmobilers.
- Last year the DNR had a request for bid going out to redeck a bridge on the Glacial Drumlin trail during the snowmobile season, counties and the AWSC worked together to make sure that trail stayed open for the season for all snowmobilers.
- Issue in Waukesha County Bugline Trail was paved and they were afraid they would lose their ability to snowmobile on it. The AWSC and individuals stepped in to preserve the snowmobiling there for all.
- Bayfield vs. Mauler many know about and the AWSC made donations to that trail system.
- Situation in Lincoln county with a landowner a few years ago where a trail was going to be closed. If that had happened, no one would have been able to use it.
- Waushara County Dakota road crossing (there are many road crossing issues), the AWSC stepped in with their legal team on that.
- Forest County bridge access, Sauk County crossings over the Wisconsin River that have been a battle, Kewaskum road side route that provided access between Washington & Ozaukee County.
- Several years ago there was an attempt to rerail the Cheese Country trail. That would have cut out snowmobiling in a 2-3 county area, even ATVers joined that fight.
- And more issues, every time the AWSC involves their legal team and volunteers to benefit their members – all snowmobilers benefit from those actions and are able to continue enjoying snowmobiling on these trails.

More discussion occurred regarding the fact that AB407 was a

compromise between the AWSC and the Council.

It was mentioned that AWSC was involved as the means to track who is and who isn't a club member.

Pat Schmutzer, outgoing council member, spoke about all the comments that had been said. He feels that the council should consider all things discussed.

1. The makeup of the Council is important. It should not be weighted with one particular group, all groups in the program need a voice.
2. Diversity is very important. Not saying that AWSC is wrong, the Council just needs a balance.
3. He's heard Council members make the "free-loader" comment, that sort of thing cannot happen. The council members must represent all snowmobilers.
4. Landowners are important, losing one small section can impact miles. We have to listen to the concerns that we hear and take action.
5. The council should stop at any point and further discuss issues if they're not fully understood. A member should not vote on anything until they understand the subject.
6. Volunteer and AWSC issues are important and need to be dealt with.
7. Better communications to the snowmobiling public needs to happen along the way, not just at the end of the process. The public makes up 88% of the snowmobile community.
8. It was mentioned that the lack of communication was due to the fact that there were lots of changes going on and they didn't want to spread misinformation.

There was a suggestion from another member of the public that communication should happen now and it's not too late for that.

Dave Peterson spoke regarding land owners, he feels there should be a way to provide some compensation to landowners beyond a cheese basket. He also expressed his desire to see and hear better communications. Not just to hear that things are changing but to actually receive an update.

	<p>The chair wrapped up the discussion by reminding everyone of the motto, "United we trail, Divided we fail" and encourage everyone to keep the lines of communication open and to continue to try to work together.</p>	
<p><b>5. DNR Reports</b></p>	<p>Warden Supervisor Dave Walz discussed DNR's Law Enforcement philosophy on snowmobiling safety and enforcement.</p> <p>Cathy discussed that Motorized Stewardship funding applications will be due on April 15 with the regular grant applications and she talked about how/when the funding decisions will be made.  <b>Note:</b> The funding process is likely to change. Funding decisions on regular Snowmobile funding will like take place first, with Motorized Stewardship funding being decided later. Cathy will update all when it's finalized.</p> <p>It was also discussed that it's extremely important for counties to submit all their requests even if they believe there won't be enough money to award grants for all the requests. When looking at the funding needs for the program, the only numbers to look at are the requests vs. what is funded. If counties stop requesting projects, it may appear that there isn't a need for more money in the fund.</p>	
<p><b>6. Report and Motions of Standing Committees</b></p>	<p>Finance Committee Chair Bob Lang gave the report from the committee meeting.</p> <p>Infrastructure committee chair Jon Schweitzer gave the report from the committee meeting.</p> <p>Law Enforcement Chair Pat Schmutzer gave the report from the committee meeting.  Operating adjacent to roadways at night is a problem throughout the state with the statute requirements of 40' if traveling in the opposite direction, not being followed. The DNR has been receiving complaints. The DNR will take the lead on this and will be coming up with a unified approach to address the situation. Currently several possibilities are being looked at including opening the statute.</p> <p>It was asked to look at amending the 10 mph speed limit to 15 mph</p>	<p>Finance Committee Motion: recommend the Council approve an amendment for approximately \$5,900 to S-4217 for Vilas County. <u>Motion carried. 10 yes, 1 no, Dale Mayo abstained.</u></p> <p>Finance Committee Motion: recommend the Council not allow high visibility post sleeves as an eligible maintenance expense because they're not a legal sign according to the guidelines. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u></p> <p>Finance Committee Motion: recommend the Council not fund Thermal Plastic Highway Crossings. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u></p>

if the statute is going to be opened because with modern snowmobiles, they can't be run properly at 10 mph.

Finance Committee Motion: recommend that Lee attend the Tourism conference as the official representative of the Snowmobile Recreation Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Motion: recommend the Council not support AB670 because of the negative financial impact to the Snowmobile program.

Motion carried. 11 yes, 1 no.

Finance Committee Motion: recommend the Council move forward with a GPR request. Full Council Motion by Andy, second by Dale to amend this motion to add ...due to the continued lack of funding.

Motion to amend carried unanimously.

Amended Motion: The Council will recommend a GPR request due to the continue lack of funding.

Motion carried unanimously.

Infrastructure Committee Motion recommends that an 80hp Kubota properly fits in the existing rates as a Class B and should stay there. Motion carried unanimously.

Infrastructure Committee Motion: the council recommend to the DNR to reopen the proposed section of trail in Blue Mounds State Park.

Motion carried unanimously.

Infrastructure Committee Motion: recommend in the event that equipment falls off the DOT rate sheets, counties are allowed to revert to the previous year's rates and those rates will be added to the council's approved rates to be evaluated annually by the Infrastructure Committee.

		<p><u>Motion carried unanimously.</u></p> <p>Infrastructure Committee Motion: to create an ad hoc ATGP committee with Jon Schweitzer as chair to finish the ATGP project. <u>Motion carried unanimously.</u></p> <p>Infrastructure Committee Motion: to create an ad hoc committee to create by-laws including a recommended structure. <u>Motion passed unanimously.</u></p>
<b>8. Council Member Items</b>	<p>Explanation of some of the rules/categories/terms used in the snowmobile program is needed. For instance – what’s the difference between a funded and an unfunded trail.</p> <p>One change that should happen if we get more funding is a way for clubs in the southern part of the state to get more funding to help with unfunded trails or a way to fund those trails.</p> <p>It was brought up that someone from NY said that not all the clubs are happy with the AGTP. But general consensus was that change is always hard and we should continue to look into it and move forward.</p> <p>Much discussion occurred regarding the by-laws and articles of organization.</p> <p>Thanks were given to Jon and Pat for serving. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the outgoing council members not in attendance: Mike Cerny and Karen Carlson. <b>NOTE:</b> This has been done.</p>	
<b>9. Next Meeting</b>	<p>August 17-18, 2014. Most likely at Stoney Creek in Rothschild. Cathy will work with the new Infrastructure Committee to set a date in early summer for their preliminary meeting to review the applications.</p>	
<b>10. Adjournment</b>		<p>Motion to adjourn by Larry Erickson second by Bev Dittmar, Motion passed.</p>