

**SNOWMOBILE RECREATION COUNCIL AGENDA & RECORD**

**August 22, 2016**

Mountain bay Conference Center, Weston, WI

Agenda Item	Key Points	Outcomes, Next Steps, Assignments
<p><b>1. Call to Order at 8:31</b></p>	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Bev Dittmar Chair, Andy Malecki, Mike Holden, Dale Mayo, Michelle Martin, Steve Moran, Dave Newman, Sam Landes, Gary Hilgendorf, Bob Lang, Appointee: Nancy Olson</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Larry Erickson, Lee Van Zeeland, Tom Chwala</p> <p><b>Others Present:</b> Cathy Burrow, Ann Loechler, Ed Slaminski, Faith Murray, Jillian Steffes, Gary Eddy - DNR, Drew Nussbaum - Tourism, members of the public.</p>	
<p><b>2. Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p>		<p>Mike Holden moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Andy Malecki.  <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b></p>
<p><b>3. Comments</b></p>	<p><b>Council Chair:</b>                      Introduction of Nancy Olson, newest Council member.</p> <p>“I grew up on a farm in Shawano County, my family still all live in Tigerton. I went to WWTC in La Crosse for Woodworking, became a carpenter apprentice, followed by becoming a carpenter Journeyman. After having kids, my husband wanted me home more so I became a La Crosse School District Custodian. I am currently the day building custodial engineer for the Hintgen Elementary School.</p> <p>We bought our first snowmobile in 1986, but my husband had a sled since he was 14. We joined the Sparta Trail Blazers in Monroe County. I was the secretary there for many years before becoming the President of the club.</p> <p>We decided to join a club in La Crosse County in 1994, I am involved on the county level, eventually I was voted to be the La Crosse County Director of the AWSC, an office I hold today.</p> <p>Brian and I have been married for 36 years, I have a son Kyle and</p>	

	<p>a married daughter, Jessica, she has one daughter (Addison) going on 3 and is due with her second child in November. We all live in La Crosse. Brian retired from the La Crosse City Police Department in 2013, he currently works a part-time job with the La Crosse airport parking department. We have a cabin in Cataract, a small town north of Sparta. Brian spends his spare time playing around there.”</p> <p>Bev: Feels were at a turning point now, we’re going to be leaving a lot of our old ways behind us and moving into the automated age. It’s for the good of all snowmobilers. We don’t want to blow the money just because it’s there. We shouldn’t fund new miles until we know what miles we have. People need to think not just about their own area but the state as a whole.</p>	
<p><b>4. Citizen Participation</b></p>	<p>Steve Wolfe, Cross Country Cruisers in Arbor Vitae, he heard there was discussion yesterday regarding raising the cap. Vilas County would really like to see that happen.</p> <p>AWSC: At the fall workshop in October, they would like to have a panel of Council members for a Q&amp;A session. The AWSC will be sending out an invitation to all Council members to attend.</p>	
<p><b>5. DNR Reports</b></p>	<p>DNR:  <b>Law Enforcement and Safety:</b>  9 fatal snowmobile crashes.  835 safety instructors  3,737 students certified in the classroom  3,114 students safety certified online  New trail pass was implemented, in the first year there were a few hiccups. Comments came in from other user groups and LE. Usual complaint from non-club members having to pay more and from club members who were unable to operate while waiting for their trail pass.</p> <p>Complaints from those who were stopped because they were operating with a temporary trail pass.</p>	

Third year the legislation was introduced tying the OWI to recreational vehicle use.

**Storm Damage:** The evening of July 11 into the 12<sup>th</sup> northwest Wisconsin has hit by a great deal of rain. Anywhere from 5” – 15” of rain fell. It did a great deal of damage. Some of the counties have not been able to access the areas that have damage. What we have so far is \$2.6 million in damage. FEMA is expected to cover 75%, state emergency management 12.5% and by snowmobile and ATV fund at 12.5%

It continues to rain, the other night there was another 4” in Ashland and Bayfield County. About 1 week after the storm, straight-line winds came through and did a lot of damage which is not being covered by FEMA at this point.

The amount for snowmobile is: \$156,740, for ORV: \$175,282.

Many trails will not be open for this winter which will impact tourism. It will be hard on them because they do depend on snowmobiling to help them in the winter. Pictures were shown.

**Land for Sale:** On DNR web page, search: “land sale”. As long as the counties have identified trails on these parcels (funded or unfunded), the DNR will attach permanent easements to the properties when they are sold to private parties. If they’re being sold to local government, the permanent easements are not needed.

**Budget:** Much detail in the Finance Committee meetings. Funding available:

- **Supplemental:** \$3.1 million, requests: \$1.5 million
- **Projects:** \$2.8 million available, \$2.2 million came from the sale of the trail passes.
- Normal agreed-upon financial statements will be distributed when the DNR closes its books for FY16.

	<p><b>SNARS:</b> Snowmobile automated reporting system, the Governor signed off for us to purchase.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. List being compiled of issues encountered during the pilot.</li> <li>2. Groomer Tracking Systems (GTS) will make the changes and put the site into production.</li> <li>3. The counties will then need to enter their miles and trails (identified by name or number). They will also need to send their clubs names to GTS to be entered and will need to note clubs that cross county borders when grooming.</li> <li>4. The clubs will then need to fill in their individual contact data and learn to use the system to report expenses.</li> <li>5. There will be training in a variety of ways for both the counties and the clubs. Possible delivery methods include: online videos, skype meetings, in person meetings. AWSC has offered time for a training session at their fall workshop. This would be geared for club members who normally fill out the paperwork.</li> </ol> <p><b>Counties in the pilot were:</b> Vilas, Lincoln, Marathon &amp; Jackson</p>	
<p><b>6-7. Reports of Standing Committees &amp; Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Finance:</b> Trail pass brought in good money even in a low snow year. We need to reserve some for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of registrations when we won't have any renewals. (Due to the change from 2 year registration term to 3 years.)</p> <p>Supplemental surplus will be used to pay emergency funds.</p> <p>Talked about changing rates for maintenance and labor, this won't be able to happen until the statute is changed.</p> <p>Basic maintenance: s. 350.12(4)(b)1, Wis. Stats., "State aids and funds for maintenance costs shall be 100% of the actual cost of maintaining the trail per year up to a \$250 per mile per year maximum..."</p>	<p><b>FINANCE motions:</b></p> <p>Finance committee recommends to the full council to set aside \$1 million dollars from 2015-16 to augment 2017-18 registration shortfalls. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>Finance committee recommends to the council to submit the FEMA storm damage claims of approximately \$157,000 to be paid out of the supplemental surplus funds. MOTION FAILED. (Council wanted to leave the dollar amount out.)</p> <p>Bob Lang moved to use some of the excess money in the supplemental fund to cover 12.5% of the FEMA-covered damage and possibly other damage claims that are</p>

	<p>Supplemental qualification: s. 350.12(4)(bm)2, Wis. Stats., “...actual costs incurred in grooming exceeds a minimum of \$150 per mile per year.”</p> <p>Dale explained the proposed grooming rates which generally are an increase of 20%, this results in each class category going up from \$3-5 per hour.</p> <p>They also discussed raising the labor rate from \$6.50 to \$8/hour.</p> <p>If change is made to the basic maintenance from \$250-300, they will also change the grooming minimum to qualify for supplemental to a minimum of \$200/mile on grooming. They will leave the maximum amount of non-grooming at \$250/mile and the 3xbasic for supplemental.</p> <p>Ad hoc committee to look at random county grant reimbursement requests. It was an excellent learning tool for everyone and some adjustments were made. That committee will continue this year.</p> <p>The maintenance changes cannot happen without a statute change.</p> <p>AWSC has said they will work on this.</p> <p>People were encouraged to talk to their legislators to support this change.</p> <p>There is a 4 year sunset on the trail passes, which is also something that will need communication with the legislators.</p> <p><b>Infrastructure:</b> Summary of committee meeting.</p>	<p>submitted. Sam Landes seconded. MOTION Carried.</p> <p>Finance committee recommends the Council to increase snowmobile trail basic maintenance from \$250-\$300 per mile. MOTION Carried. (This cannot happen without a statute change, the legislature will not be in session until Spring 2017.)</p> <p>Finance committee recommends the Council increase the labor rate from \$6.50 - \$8.00 per hour. MOTION Failed. (This is because this increase cannot happen until the statute is changed to increase basic maintenance from \$250-300.)</p> <p>Finance committee recommends adjusting the qualifiers for supplemental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From spend entire \$250/mile TO \$300/mile.</li> <li>- Spend minimum \$150/mile on grooming TO minimum \$200/mile.</li> <li>- Leave maximum non-grooming at \$250/mile.</li> <li>- Leave supplemental at 3x basic maintenance.</li> </ul> <p>MOTION Carried. (Also a statute change.)</p> <p>Finance Committee recommends continuing the Audit subcommittee. MOTION Carried.</p> <p><b>INFRASTRUCTURE motions:</b></p> <p>Infrastructure committee recommends leaving the rates the same as last year. MOTION Carried. (Rates cannot change until basic maintenance is increased.)</p>
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	<p>Communication regarding if new miles would be funded. Andy responded that he couldn't say if new miles would be funded because of so many unknowns.</p> <p><b>Standard contracts</b> for clubs that groom on state properties. Brigit Brown has the lead on that and it's awaiting several more approvals.</p> <p>Last year, 52 miles of the Tuscobia State trail were transferred to Sawyer county for maintenance and 17 miles of trail in Peninsula State Park were transferred to Door county for maintenance.</p> <p><b>Bridge inventories:</b> All have submitted except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marinette</li> <li>• Racine</li> <li>• Kenosha</li> <li>• Milwaukee</li> </ul> <p><b>GPS Trails:</b> the DNR will poll the counties to find out what GPS/GIS resources they currently have and then we'll formulate a plan for collecting the data.</p> <p>The goal is for all counties to be able to submit their GPS maps using their existing resources.</p> <p>The infrastructure committee will need to evaluate the trail maps that are turned in by the counties.</p> <p><b>Grooming Rates:</b> Kept grooming rates the same, because the changes cannot take place until the statute is changed.</p> <p><b>Bridge issues,</b> recap of infrastructure committee discussion. Available in the committee minutes.</p> <p><b>Law Enforcement:</b></p> <p><b>Snowmobile trespass,</b> last season 51 citations. Concerns</p>	<p>Infrastructure recommends gathering more information on bridges to assess the cost difference from 14,000 to 24,000 pounds. MOTION Carried.</p>
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	<p>with off-trail riding and cutting corners. The biggest issue is that LE needs to know about these issues.</p> <p><b>Hand signals</b> – there is concern with some of these especially the count-down of riders when groups meet. The consensus of the committee is this is a signal that should NOT be used or taught in a snowmobile safety class.</p> <p><b>Trail Signing handbook</b> – the biggest issue was with the yellow arrow possibly being confused with a highway sign.</p> <p>Enforcement from last season: Repeat of LE committee information. This is available in the LE minutes.</p> <p><b>DOT Highway crossing permit</b> is another issue that was discussed.</p> <p><b>Tourism:</b> Discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storm damage impact on trails in NW Wisconsin.</li> <li>• Public Relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth in Snowmobiling</li> <li>○ Snowmobile PR</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Snowmobile VIP Ride:</b> Siren Feb. 19-20, 2017 Eagle River 2018 Minocqua 2019</p>
<p><b>8. Review of and funding recommendations for grant applications</b></p>	<p>Dave Newman explained that plastic culverts are not made from PVC, they are HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). These are often referred to as Poly or Plastic culverts.</p>	<p>Projects recommended for funding:</p> <p><b>Bridge Rehabilitation Applications:</b></p> <p><b>#01.</b> Vernon County on the Kickapoo Valley Reserve: \$12,300  <b>#02.</b> Dane Co. DPC/Fryes Feeder Creek: \$16,300 (Other half from RTP)  <b>#03.</b> Calumet co. 2 culverts on the Fox River ST: \$9,500 (Other half from RTP)  <b>#04.</b> Marathon Co. old bridge on unnamed Eau Claire River tributary: \$39,500  <b>#05.</b> Pepin Co. Eau Galle bridge: \$134,000  <b>#06.</b> Richland Co. Bridge #5 over Pine River: \$5,500  <b>#07.</b> Richland Co. Bridge #6 over Pine River: \$6,500  <b>#08.</b> Richland Co. Bridge #7 over Pine River: \$5,500  <b>#09.</b> Richland Co. Bridge #8 over Pine River: \$2,700  <b>#10.</b> Richland Co. Bridge #11 over Pine River: \$5,500  <b>#11.</b> Eau Claire Co. Brown Hut Bridge: \$28,500  <b>#12.</b> Calumet Co. culver on the Friendship ST: \$2,250 (Other half</p>

from RTP\)

#13. Dunn Co. Tiffany Creek bridge: \$16,200

#14. Dane Co. Gust/Sugar river Bridge: \$76,200

#15. Florence Co. 4 bridges on the Nicolet ST: \$8,700 (Half from RTP, ¼ ATV, ¼ Snow)

#16. Oconto Co. McCaslin Brook bridge on USFS land: \$4,204 (Half from RTP, ¼ ATV, ¼ Snow)

#17. Iron Co. Moose Creek bridge: \$25,046

#18. Iron Co. Montreal river bridge: \$4,633 (Half from ATV)

#19. Florence Co. Little Popple River bridge: \$107,344

#20. Price Co. Crane & Chase Creek bridge: \$30,000

#21. Dunn Co. Connersville bridge: \$25,000

#22. Burnett Co. trail 150 bridge: \$22,000

#24. Columbia Co. Doherty bridge: \$35,268

#26. Langlade Co. 3 culverts: \$10,302

-City of Antigo Trail

-5-Cent Trail

-Wolf River ST

(Half from RTP, ¼ ATV, ¼ Snow)

#27. Marinette Co. Corridor 5 bridge: \$32,800

#28. Douglas co. Trail 4 bridge: \$12,750 (Half from ATV)

#29. Chippewa Co. Troute Creek bridge: \$52,000

#23. Vernon Co Black Valley Bridge: not funded

Sam Landes moved to recommend to the DNR to not fund this project; instead the work should be done using maintenance money. Steve Moran seconded.

MOTION CARRIED.

### Trail Rehabilitation Applications:

#30. Eau Claire Co. Corkscrew ATV trail. **Motion:** Bob to approve at 50% for a total of \$13,422, Sam second. Carried.

#31. La Crosse Co. Bangor

**Motion:** Bob to approve at \$4,206, Mike second. Carried.

#32. Vilas Co. Trail 51 Arbor Vitae. **Motion:** Mike to defer due to a second less expensive option being available in the discretionary reroute category. Sam second. Carried. Dale Mayo abstained.

#33. Tri-County Corridor to rehab 8.8 miles. **Motion:** Steve to approve at the s. 50.09(5)(bp)4, Wis. Admin. Code rate of \$500/mile due to the expense being all gravel for a total of \$4,400. Sam second. Carried.

**NOTE: This project was withdrawn.**

**#34.** Tri-County Corridor to rehab 7.5 miles. **Motion:** Steve to approve at the s. 50.09(5)(bp)4, Wis. Admin. Code rate of \$500/mile due to the expense being all gravel for a total of \$3,750. Andy second. Carried.

**NOTE: This project was withdrawn.**

**Mandatory Relocation Applications:**

**#36.** La Crosse Co. Great River Landing Trail Relocation.

**Motion:** Dale to approve at \$6,460, Bob second. Carried.

**#37.** Pierce Co. 0.7 miles due to landowner closure. **Motion:** Dale to approve at \$103,400, Bob second. Carried.

**#38.** Iowa Co. due to landowner permission lost, new bridge on the Dodge Branch Creek. **Motion:** Dale to deny due to Council's questions not being answered. Gary second. Carried.

**NOTE: Iowa County did answer the questions satisfactorily but due to a miscommunication that wasn't known at the meeting. This project will be awarded in the amount of \$52,900.**

**#39.** Sheboygan Co. Due to lost easement requires new bridge over the Pigeon River. **Motion:** Andy to approve at \$55,800, Dale second. Carried. Mike Holden abstained.

**#40.** Washington Co. mandatory reroute due to City of West Bend ordinance prohibiting snowmobiles within city limits.

At the June 6, Infrastructure review meeting, the Committee recommended the full council deny funding for this project for the following reasons:

- Cost is excessive
- Feels the bridge is being over-built
- County's trails have not been open for at least 2 years
- Snowmobile fund does not have excess money to fund this project

**Motion:** Steve to deny funding. Dale second. Carried

**#41.** Vilas Co. Due to lost easement relocate .4 miles of Trail 2 w/new bridge. **Motion:** Andy to approve at \$149,500, Steve second. Carried. Dale Mayo abstained.

**#42.** Price Co. Due to landowner requirement, relocate 1.5 miles of Trail 116. **Motion:** Bob to approve at \$6,000, Gary second. Carried.

**#43.** Green Lake Co. Due to landowner requirement, new bridge



over drainage ditch. **Motion:** Bob to approve at \$27,400, Dale second. Carried.

**#44.** Waushara Co. Due to lost easement relocate w/new bridge on DNR land. **Motion:** Dale to approve at \$16,148 with a message to the County that the Council prefers they use the less expensive culvert option. Gary second. Carried.

**#45.** Washburn Co. Due to lost easement relocate 13.4 miles of Trail 140 w/4 new bridges resulting in 6.6 new miles. **Motion:** Bev to approve at \$27,500, Andy second. Carried. Michelle Martin abstained.

(This project has previously received \$122,158 from Motorized Stewardship)

**#46.** Rusk Co. Due to lost easement relocate Trail 140, relocate a 12x58 bridge and 2 culverts. **Motion:** Dale to approve at \$46,150, Steve second. Carried.

**Discretionary Relocation Applications:**

**#47.** Vilas Co. Relocate 3 miles of Trail 41 in Arbor Vitae. This is an alternate to a rehab project that would be more expensive. Results in 0.6 new miles. **Motion:** Steve to approve at \$150, Andy second. Carried. Dale Mayo abstained.

(This is an increase to maintenance with no development costs.)

**#48.** Forest Co. Develop .3 miles to combine two one-way trails into one. **Motion:** Bob to approve at \$2,313, Dale second. Carried.

**#49.** Forest Co. Due relocated 1.3 miles off a road that was previously not maintained in the winter. **Motion:** Bob to approve at \$6,400, Dale second. Carried.

**#50.** Bayfield Co. Relocate 0.5 miles of Trail 15 on USFS land. **Motion:** Steve to approve at \$8,318, Gary second. Carried.

**New Bridge Applications:**

**#51.** Juneau Co. **WITHDRAWN**

**#52.** Marathon Co. Clear span bridge over Grass Creek. **Motion:** Andy to approve at \$54,400, Bob second. Carried.

**#53.** Sheboygan Co. Bridge over an unnamed waterbody. **Motion:** Dale to deny, Gary second. Carried. **Note:** The council indicated they do not want to build bridges over still-water. Counties should wait for those crossings to freeze.

**#54.** Iron Co. Amendment to S4509. New bridge on Trail 17. Previously received \$12,924 from Snow and are ranked to receive \$28,419.60 from RTP. **Motion:** Dale to approve at

	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3; transform: rotate(-30deg);">DRAFT</p>	<p>\$42,435, Bob second. Carried.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> There is a possibility the County will receive more from RTP, in that case this award will be reduced accordingly.</p> <p><b>#55.</b> Price Co. 38' clear span bridge over Needle Creek. <b>Motion:</b> Andy to approve at \$35,000, Dale second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#56.</b> Price Co. 35' clear span bridge over Little Elk River. <b>Motion:</b> Steve to approve at \$33,000, Dale second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#57.</b> Lincoln Co. 35' x 12' bridge on Trail 39. <b>Motion:</b> Dave to approve at \$71,200, Dale second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#58.</b> Taylor Co. Bridge on Corridor 23. <b>Motion:</b> Dale to approve at \$48,750, Sam second. Carried. (Other half from ATV)</p> <p><b>#59.</b> Green Lake Co. New bridge on Corridor 11N. <b>Motion:</b> Mike to approve at \$24,900, Dale second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#60.</b> Manitowoc Co. New bridge on an old RR grade adjacent to Hwy 10 (site 1). <b>Motion:</b> Andy to approve at \$54,250, Dale second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#61.</b> Manitowoc Co. New bridge on an old RR grade adjacent to Hwy 10 (site 2). <b>Motion:</b> Andy to approve at \$67,000, Mike second. Carried.</p> <p><b>#62.</b> Burnett Co. Trail 130 Puncheon bridge. <b>Motion:</b> Gary to deny, Dale second. Carried</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Council indicated their preference to not fund bridges over still-water wetlands. They feel the pictures of the site submitted did not demonstrate the need.</p> <p><b>#63.</b> Burnett Co. 150' bridge on Trail 45. <b>Motion:</b> Andy to approve at \$64,052, Dale second. Carried. (Other half from ATV)</p> <p><b>#64.</b> Burnett Co. 12'x200' boardwalk bridge on Trail 140. <b>Motion:</b> Bob to approve at \$35,000, Andy second. Carried.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> Dale moved to keep the remaining \$56,179 in the fund at this time. Gary second. Motion Carried.</p> <p>The council clarified their position on freezing down wetlands. Their position is that still-water situations should be left to freeze over naturally. Flowing water normally will require a bridge if funds allow.</p>
<p><b>9. Council elections</b></p>		<p>Dale Mayo moved, Mike Holden second to nominate Bev Dittmar as Council chair.</p> <p>Bob Lang moved Dale Mayo 2<sup>nd</sup> to close nominations and appoint Bev Dittmar Chair by unanimous ballot.</p>

		<p>Motion carried.</p> <p>Andy Malecki moved, Sam Landes second, to nominate Larry Erickson Vice Chair.</p> <p>Bob Lang moved Dale Mayo 2<sup>nd</sup> to close nominations and appoint Larry Erickson Vice Chair by unanimous ballot. Motion carried.</p>
<b>10. Council Member Items</b>	<p>Nancy: Thank you for welcoming me.</p> <p>Dave: Nothing at this time.</p> <p>Steve: Happy we could do new bridges and likes that we get a little farther each year.</p> <p>Bob: We're still funding at 14,000 pounds but if clubs are running bigger equipment, there is an obligation to warn them against it or come up with the money to build a bigger bridge.</p> <p>Gary: Ditto what Bob said.</p> <p>Dale: Good group and we're doing good things.</p> <p>Bev: Thanks to everyone, you all did a good job. We were fair statewide and the task of this council is to look at the entire state and not just one area.</p> <p>Mike: We have made a lot of people happy today and it's nice.</p> <p>Michelle: Nothing at this time.</p> <p>Sam: Good meeting, good outcome. Agrees that it's important to GPS and get good maps but we need to be ready to look at new miles as soon as that happens.</p> <p>Andy: Thanks to the Infrastructure Committee for their hard work and meeting. Thanks to the CSSs for all their hard work and Cathy. Thanks to the county representatives who attend and are available to answer questions. Thanks especially to the public who helped get the trail pass legislation passed.</p>	
<b>11. Next Meeting</b>	<p>August 20-21, 2017 – Next year's funding meeting.</p> <p>February 19, 2017 Sunday next Council meeting in Siren.</p>	
<b>12. Adjourn</b>		<p>Andy Malecki moved to adjourn. Second by Sam Landes. MOTION PASSED. 2:33 pm</p>