

Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Bangor – DACF Conference Room
August 12, 2015
8:40 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Participants

Council Members:

Marie Candeloro, Chair, Kokadjo Roach Riders
Terry Hill, Co-Chair, Bowlin-Matagamon S.C.
Frank Clukey, E. Millinocket, Millinocket, Medway Recreation
John Monk, MSA
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management
Bob Hansen, MSA
Richard Merrill, Snow Valley Sno Goers, Andover
Maurice Marden, Piscataquis Valley S.C.

Guests:

Bob Meyers, MSA
Joe Kruse, Lake Parlin Lodge, Coburn Summit Riders
Larry Lafland, Eastern Maine Snowmobile Club

Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office Staff:

Ron Hunt, Acting Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands
Scott Ramsay, Director, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office
Joe Higgins, Snowmobile Club Grant Coordinator, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office
Lana LaPlant-Ellis, Senior Planner, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office

Marie Candeloro, Chairperson started the meeting at 8:40 AM. Introductions were made.

Agenda Item: Approval of previous minutes from the July 8, 2015 meeting.

**Dick Merrill made a motion to accept the July 8th minutes, Gordon Gamble seconded.
Vote: 8 (unanimous) motion carries.**

Agenda Item: Snowmobile Advisory Council Terms.

Scott recommended that we briefly look at the 4 council members whose first terms are running out on September 1st to find out if they are interested in being recommended to the Commissioner to remain on the council. Marie Candeloro – Yes, Richard Merrill – Yes, Terry Thurston Hill – Yes, Bob Hansen – Yes. Scott will let the Commissioner know that all are interested.

Agenda Item: End of Year Financial Reports.

Scott reviewed the end of the year reports.

- Income Expenditure Breakdown/Snowmobile Trail Fund: There has been a 4% increase in DICAP to 16.869%. This is a tax on everything we spend, except grants. \$50,000 will be transferred into the Disaster Relief Grant-in-Aid program (there have been no requests yet). This will bring the program \$90,000 in the red based on income.

- Error/Adjustments contain sales tax that the program pays on groomers that are purchased that year. Terry asked why admin was up? There was an extra pay period this year resulting in a 53 week year instead of 52 weeks. Grants were up because it was a long winter. Rail Trail was up because we had several RTP projects. The bulk of which were covered by the ATV program. The DEST costs are paid for by MDOT. Grading, mowing, maintenance contracts and some of Charlie's expenses.
- Registration and Gas Tax Income Breakdown: IFW has reported 3,780 snowmobile registrations for the month of July/August. For this program they will be reported in 2016 fiscal year. IFW will show them as being registered last year so our numbers will be different.
- Club Grant Summary: The program paid out \$829,216 and the total club expenditure reported was \$1,712,799 resulting in a \$883,583 gap. We would need an additional \$618,000 to reach our 70% goal, which is not going to happen.
- Municipal Grant Summary: The program paid out \$2.2 million and total expenditures was \$4.2 million resulting in a \$1.9 million gap. To reach the 70% we would need \$1.4 million, which is not going to happen.
- Capital Equipment Purchases: We ended up at 20.98%. The average is 27.73% so we were below average payout this year. A lot of small equipment was bought this year.

There was some discussion about non-motorized users not contributing to trail maintenance. In the future we want to talk about a line item in the budget to help with maintenance of the multi-use trails. There has to be a way to acquire \$ from non-motorized because they use the trails. Bridges are built to accommodate non-motorized users.

Agenda Item: Discuss and plan for LD 716 revenue distribution.

LD 716 includes the following:

- Registration increases or additions: Residents increase \$5.00, Non-resident increase \$6.00 for 3 day, \$11.00 for season and added a 10 day for \$75 dollars. Transfer to STF: \$12 from each resident reg, \$6 from each non res 3 day, \$6 from each non res 10 day and \$11 from each nonresident seasonal.
- Creates a Snowmobile Trail Fund Donation Sticker: 3 stickers will be designed. One for each level of donation - \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00. \$2.00 from every sticker will go to the IF&W the remainder will go to the STF.
- The Commissioner shall develop policies specifying the criteria to distribute these additional revenues raised pursuant to this act. The policies must distribute the additional revenue to eligible snowmobile organizations using a per mile reimbursement formula. To the extent feasible, the additional revenues must be distributed in a geographically equitable manner. Directs the Commissioner of ACF to develop written policies specifying the criteria the department will use to distribute additional revenues raised pursuant to this amendment and submit those to the IFW Committee no later than January 15, 2016.

There was some discussion on how the language of this bill was developed. Who was involved, who wasn't, who drafted the language, etc.

It is estimated that \$493,719 new money will be raised off registrations based on last year's count. Scott suggested that for the first year a conservative approach be taken and only base the per mile increase on half of the estimate. We should use this approach in case registrations are down. We don't want to promise something we cannot deliver. It was asked whether or not the law supported the program only distributing 50%? For clarification, it was stated that \$493,000 establishes an allotment and gives the program flexibility from "whatever" to \$493,000. The program should keep an even keel.

Is the sticker money included? No that is an unknown, it could be thousands it could be zero.

There was some discussion on if the sticker donation would take away from donations to local clubs. For resident local riders some thought it would reduce donations. For non-residents club donations, the concern was not as great.

Scenarios were put forward by the ORV office (see attached).

- Flat rate increase per mile
- Flexible increase by category

There was some discussion on not allowing increasing miles of trail and that we need to change the mindset to we are helping not fully covering costs of grooming and maintenance.

It was mentioned that the Legislature is looking for an increase to every club in the state.

After much discussion, \$20.00 per mile was suggested. Bob H. would like to see \$24.00 be taken from the resident registration on all miles and an additional \$36.00 from nonresidents for the ITS in northern Maine. At \$20.00 per mile it would be \$247,120 at \$24.00 a mile it would be \$296,544. After discussion, Bob H. withdrew his suggestion. It was mentioned that funding by the mile is easy to understand but unrealistic given the varying terrain, number of bridges and snow fall amounts. What happens if registrations are high and we bring in more money than was estimated? The amount per mile could be increased incrementally over the coming years. There is always a one month lag in the budget, we need to be conservative. We may always have to run a year behind and that way we know what we have on the books. We can discuss these amounts next August and adjust accordingly. This is brand new and we may change the way the money is distributed in coming years.

Frank Clukey made a motion to increase grants \$20.00 per mile municipal and club, up to 30 club miles. Dick Merrill seconded. Vote: 8 in favor – unanimous - motion carries.

There was much discussion about making it mandatory that clubs GPS their trail systems. It was mentioned that groomers should be required to submit grooming records based on this technology. They can do this electronically with a Delorme, InReach or Spot unit. This of course would only support the grooming side not the maintenance. It was suggested that we look at the money that comes in from the sticker sales to buy GPS systems to put in the groomers. This is so grooming hours/miles can be documented.

Scott mentioned that the Commissioners group will be coming back together to discuss the State maintained areas between September 21 and 25. An invitation will be sent out electronically and this will be held in Augusta.

Overview:

Frye Mt. – pretty well set with legislative approval to turn over groomer to one club.

Evergreen Valley – state does one more year. Club applies for CEG for new machine.

Mt. Blue – State stays there for now.

Beddington – solid offer. Legislation is needed to turn over groomer to club.

Next meeting – TBA

Gordon made a motion to adjourn and Dick seconded. No vote was taken.

Adjourn – 11:15 a.m.

260 Snowmobile Clubs effected by a increase in fees

As is \$125.00 per mile up to 30 Miles

151 Clubs with 30 or more miles of trails. (4530 funded miles)
109 Clubs with less than 30 miles or 2268 miles of trails

Scenarios of \$ per mile increases:

- \$25.00 increase per mile = \$169,950.00
- \$30.00 increase per mile = \$203,940.00

- 2014 – 2015 Total Funding \$849,750.00
- 2015 – 2016 (\$25.00 increase) \$1,019,700.00
- 2015- 2016 (\$30.00 increase) \$1,053,690.00

Current funding for Municipal Projects

• 8 Clubs receiving less than \$200.00 per mile for	\$30,270.98	Pool A
• 46 Clubs \$200.01 to \$300.00 per mile	\$341,997.78	Pool B
• 32 Clubs \$300.01 to \$400.00 per mile	\$412,278.97	Pool C
• 30 Clubs \$400.01 to \$500.00 per mile	\$415,787.99	Pool D
• 21 Clubs \$500.01 to \$600.00 per mile	\$665,319.41	Pool E
• 9 Clubs \$600.01 to \$700.00 per mile	\$272,412.39	Pool F
• 4 Clubs \$700.01 to \$800.00 per mile	\$108,191.00	Pool G
• 1 Club receiving over \$800.00 per mile	\$ 49,330.00	Pool H
Total	\$2,295,588.51	

Flexible increase by category

Pool A - 8%, Pool B - 7%, Pool C - 6%, D - 5%, E - 4%, F - 3%, G&H - 2%

$\$30,270.98 \times 8\% = \$2,421.68$

$\$341,997.78 \times 7\% = \$23,939.44$

$\$412,278.97 \times 6\% = \$24,736.74$

$\$415,787.99 \times 5\% = \$20,789.40$

$\$665,319.41 \times 4\% = \$26,612.78$

$\$272,412.39 \times 3\% = \$8,172.37$

$\$108,191.00 \times 2\% = \$2,163.82$

$\$49,330.00 \times 2\% = \986.60

Total increase to these grants \$109,822.83

If increase each pool by 1% more, total increase \$132,779.11

Examples of Increasing Municipal Funding by the Mile

Total Municipal miles 5,558

$5,558 \times \$20 \text{ per miles} = \$111,160.00$

Club A with 8 miles of trails now receives a grant for \$2,333.00

Club A would now receive \$2,493 (\$160.00 increase)

Club B with 82 miles of trail now receives a grant for \$23,156.32

Club B would now receive \$24,796.32 (\$1,640.00)