

Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Bangor – DACF Conference Room

June 5, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Participants

Council Members:

Marie Candeloro, Chair, Kokadjo Roach Riders
Terry Hill, Co-Chair, Bowlin-Matagamon S.C.
Richard Merrill, Snow Valley Sno-Goers
Jim Yearwood, Northern Outdoors S.C. - The Forks
Frank Clukey, E. Millinocket, Millinocket, Medway Recreation
John Monk, MSA
Steve Edwards, Birch Point Lodge
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management
Bob Hansen, MSA

Guests:

Bob Meyers, MSA
Jim White, MSA
Shirley Raymond, North East Carry Sno Riders
Edward Raymond, North East Carry Sno Riders
Paul Napolitano, Ragged Rider S.C.
Jim Stedman, Canaan Bog Bouncers
Matt Stedman, Ashland S.C.
Rick LeVasseur, Jo Mary Riders S.C.

Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office Staff:

Will Harris, Directory, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Clerk of the Board
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, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and did round table introductions

Scott briefly described the IASA Trail Signing Guidelines: These are minimum signing guidelines at the national level. Other signs are discretionary. This in theory puts the burden to operate responsibly back onto the rider.

Question to the Council is: Do we like what we are doing now? Should we change?

Several questions/discussions followed concerning sign usage, redundancies, and safety. This resulted in **Dick Merrill making a motion to eliminate the 7" X 7" Blazer, 12" x 12" Winding Arrow, 12" x 12" Service Sign and the 12" x 12" Yield to Groomer 24/7 from this year's sign order. Seconded by Frank Clukey. Vote: 9 in favor – unanimous.**

Will Harris arrived and he announced that he will be retiring the end of the month. He praised the Council for their hard work and recognized their ability to take hold and make decisions. He said he feels good about where he is leaving things with the Council.

Scott briefly went through the Snowmobile Trail Fund expense report and the Snowmobile Trail Fund income report. There was little discussion on these reports. He also explained that the Disaster Relief Fund rule making process has been delayed. First, it was mistakenly thought that since rule making was mentioned in PL 48, that we did not need to place it on the Legislative Regulatory Agenda. The Legislative Council looked into the situation and determined it does indeed need to be placed on the agenda. Second, the Commissioner's Trail Fund Committee did not wrap up their meetings until November of last year, so it was too late to make it on last year's agenda. It will be on next fall's agenda, which will be submitted in September or October.

Scott then went on to discuss the Capital Equipment Grant applications. His question to the Council is: if we press the button tomorrow at 19.08% (on 6/9/14 updated allotment is \$400,135.90 / 21.61%) and some applicants do not purchase by July 15th do we hold the money, which will roll into next year or do we request the Director and the Commissioner to authorize a second round of payments, using the remaining money? There was much discussion on this issue. Gordon asked Will if the money can be protected. Will's response was "as much as any dedicated fund is protected. If the money is not there, it's not there". **Frank Clukey made a motion to make second payments with the remaining money after July 15th. Terry Hill seconded. Vote: 9 in favor – unanimous.**

Scott brought to the Council's attention Brownville's Tucker SnoCat and the fact that they bought it sight unseen at a good price of \$13,000. They needed to change the sprockets and convert from a high altitude carburation so it would run properly. The fixes cost \$5,379.74. Scott's question to the Council is should we include the fixes in their Capital Equipment Grant application? There was much discussion on this issue concerning the precedent it would set. **Terry Hill made a motion to allow the repair costs to be included in the grant application. John Monk seconded. After much discussion - Vote: 2 in favor of allowing the repairs to be included in the grant (Terry Hill and John Monk) and 7 against. Motion does not carry.** Brownville's groomer purchase approved cost will be \$13,000 for that portion of their grant application.

Capital Equipment Grants:

Scott brought up the question as to whether or not the Council wants to proceed with prioritizing/scoring Capital Equipment Grant Applications similar to the RTP scoring system. Scott referenced the report on the history of CEG and noted that there is a lot of equipment out there now. Matt Stedman voiced his concern about his club not being able to afford a groomer and he would like to see a change in how the grants are awarded. He supports a "ranking system". The general consensus was that with comprehensive questions and precise geographical representation on the scoring team a prioritized system could work. **Frank Clukey motioned to go to the scoring process to grant capital equipment grants, John Monk seconded. Vote – 8 in favor and one abstention (Jim Yearwood).** After the vote Jim Yearwood expressed his reason for abstaining. He said he has a problem with a group of people trying to figure out what is needed for equipment around the state. He suggested eliminating the CEG program and increasing the per hour rate. Paul Napolitano asked if this would need to go to rule making? The answer is yes.

Scott went over the Capital Equipment Grant Application questionnaire and asked that the Council give some thought to what questions might want to be added, changed or removed.

John Monk asked if the next meeting could start at 8:30 A.M. The Council agreed.

Meeting adjourned 11:05 A.M.