

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council

Saturday, May 13, 2017 ~ Capital Building Room 413, Pierre South Dakota

Call to Order

Chairman Russ Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Roll Call

Members Present: Todd Wilkinson, Dave Kennedy, Russell Johnson, Gary Ulmer and Al Nagel

Members Absent: Bruce Hintz and Scott Erstad

GFP Staff Present: Shannon Percy and Ryan Raynor.

Adoption of the Agenda

Raynor added Spearfish Canyon Update as heading A under Legislative Update.

A motion was made by Wilkinson and seconded by Kennedy to adopt the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Ulmer to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2017 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Legislative Updated

Raynor stated a bill was passed which allows vendors to charge a \$2 vendor fee for selling 5-Day Temporary Snowmobile permits. With this change, more East River businesses will be asked to sell 5 Day Temporary Permits. Raynor hopes to have at least one business selling these permits per trail system.

Spearfish Canyon Updated

Percy stated the project has been put on hold and the contract with the vendor who was helping GFP provide project oversight has been cancelled with all the documents turned into GFP. Percy did remind the council that GFP continues to manage over 100 acres including Spearfish Falls and Roughlock Falls in the canyon.

Black Hills Season Review

Overall it was a poor snow year in the Black Hills stated Percy. Grooming began on December 15th and ended on February 20th. During that time frame, 26,688 miles were groomed in South Dakota and 3,000 miles were groomed in Wyoming, almost double of what was groomed the year before. Percy stated all six groomers averaged about 700hrs this season.

Wilkinson asked how the equipment held up this season? Percy stated earlier in the year they did have a problem with differentials in 4 out of the 6 groomers. Fortunately 3 out of the 4 repairs were warrantied. The repair shop stated over tightening was most likely the cause of the failure in all cases.

Wilkinson then asked how the season went with the buyout of Track Inc. Percy stated there was some frustrating conversations with GetSno due to shipping parts from Oregon, all the way to Vermont and then back to South Dakota. Fortunately Track is unloading crates and getting established in their new location.

Trail counts jumped significantly in the majority of areas from last year's counts. Over 91,000 counts were recorded this season compared to 42,000 last season.

Percy shared the following groomer hours.

Tucker	Total Hours	Total Miles
#1	772	5,487
#2	776	4,641
#3	672	4,834
#4	679	5,331
#5	657	4,263
#6	749	5,132
Total	4,305	29,688

Black Hills Revenue

Revenue collected from the Black Hills to date included:

- 5-Day Temporary Permit: \$16,280 (407 permits)
- State of Wyoming: \$12,000 (3,000 miles groomed)
- Trail Directory: \$ 3,550 (28 entries)
- Commercial Permits: \$ 250
- Motorcycle Permits: \$ 160 (8 permits)
- Donations: \$ 650
- Towing Service: \$ 180

Total: \$33,070

Trail Re-Routes

Percy stated that the annual meeting with the Forest Service to discuss re-routes for the 2017-2018 snowmobile season finished earlier this week. Percy stated the Mystic district was not able to attend but there is a lot of timber activity in that district.

Brownsville Trail #7 –Percy stated we are currently in the road ditch, located by the Country Club and unfortunately DOT wants to close the ditch to all motorized forms of travel due to ATV destruction. Percy stated ATV's are not staying on the designated ATV route and instead stay in the road ditch that the snowmobile trail is located. Percy did not think it was a big issue to move the trail.

Mystic District Timber Activity – Percy showed the council a map which showed active timber sales near the Deerfield area. Trail 1 and trail 2 junction on the very

southern portion of the trail system all the way up to trail 2 to 9 are heavily impacted. Percy does not know the impact on the trails but will work closely with the Mystic District on potential reroutes.

Trail #5 – Percy showed a map which highlighted 180 slash piles near the Dumont Trailhead. The FS is proposing from December 15th to Christmas, the snowmobile trails close down to allow them to get in and burn these piles. Depending on conditions, they could get these piles burned sooner.

Trail #3 – Boilermaker Timber Sale – A couple active timber sales are located up by Elmore and Savouy on trail 1 and trail 3. Based on the timber activity, no reroutes may be necessary but smaller sections of trail may need to be moved to accommodate the timber activity.

Slap Shot Timber Sale – Located near Schoolhouse and Wagon Canyon Road, this reroute will get off of a roadway and border Hank's property so loggers can use the road. Percy said this reroute is already GPS'd as well.

Status on Fat Tire Bicycles

Percy called a special meeting with the FS after the timber meeting which included staff from the Custer office and Northern Hills office to discuss options for Fat Tire Bike Trails. The Forest Service is going to get a meeting together with all parties involved to discuss the future of this recreation and whether or not Fat Tire Bikes on snowmobile trails is plausible.

Many options are on the table, but one promising option included having the Fat Tire Bikers groom their own trails similar to how the East River Snowmobile Program operates using existing FS roads which are not plowed for any other recreational activity.

The council along with members in the audience shared their concerns about safety of both recreationalists on the same trails. It will always be the motorized person getting the black eye and who holds the liability when an accident occurs?

After much discussion back and forth about trail safety and other options for Fat Tire Bikes, Percy told the council that 2 members from the Advisory Council and 2 members from the SDSA Board would be present at the meeting sometime in late June or early July. Percy stated he would like 2 people per group and would be in touch as soon as the date is set. For East River, Wilkinson asked to be the first choice and Ulmer would be the second. The West River choices are Kennedy and Hintz.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Review

Raynor gave a summary report of the expenses through April 29th, 2017. East River expenses totaled \$108,073 out of a \$409,716 budget. Raynor reminded the council that the majority of expenses out of the Grant In Aid Program have not been submitted through fiscal yet, but that number would be presented later in the presentation. The Black Hills budget showed a few more dollars spent compared to East River. Out of a \$896,987 budget, just over \$777,000 in spending had incurred.

A summary is listed below which combines the budgets of the Black Hills, East River and Administration into the Snowmobile Program Budget:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
➤ Personnel Services	\$397,592	\$ 295,884
➤ Travel	\$ 22,550	\$ 12,150
➤ Contractual Services	\$142,311	\$ 82,348
➤ Supplies/Materials	\$181,750	\$ 176,909
➤ Grants	\$312,500	\$ 61,789
➤ Capital Outlay	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$ 303,071</u>
➤ TOTAL	\$1,306,703	\$ 1,019,127

FY 17 Revenue

Raynor reminded the council that the gas tax formula jumped up from .22cents to .28cents and the excise tax was back at 3% due to a misinterpretation in laws.

Revenue totals as of April 29, 2017 includes:

• Gas Tax (11,623 x 125 gal x .28)	\$406,805
• 3% Excise Tax	\$239,883
• License Fees	\$102,169
• Charges for Sales/Services	\$ 95,973
• Interest	\$ 17,636
• 5 Day Temp Permit	\$ 16,280
• Motorcycle Permit	\$ 340

Total Revenue **\$879,086 (-8,910 from FY16)**

Fiscal Year 17 Grant-In-Aid

A total of \$105,986 was spent to date out of the GIA budget. Raynor reminded the council these costs are covering our fixed expenses including, signing costs, private easements, insurance and storage. We anticipate the final costs out of the GIA to be no more than \$110,000.

The following is a breakdown of the club's total expenses through the GIA budget.

Aberdeen – \$6,175	Miller – \$2,763
Beresford – \$2,783	Mitchell – \$4,206
Brookings – \$11,032	Poinsett – \$7,931
Clear Lake – \$11,092	Redfield - \$5,780
De Smet – \$19,511	Siouxland – \$5,280
Huron – \$3,530	Sisseton – \$7,514
Milbank – \$5,723	Watertown – \$6,083
Webster - \$8,029	

Total Budget:	\$341,220
Total Expenses:	\$105,986

Raynor shared the following breakdown of hours put on the groomers:

Aberdeen –	54	Miller –	32
Beresford –	5	Mitchell –	5
Brookings –	250	Poinsett –	118
Clear Lake –	175	Redfield -	24
De Smet –	221	Siouxland –	19
Huron –	9	Sisseton –	85
Milbank –	52	Watertown –	67
		Webster -	55

Total Grooming Hours – 1,171

Fiscal Year 17 Grant-In-Aid Proposals

Raynor discussed the proposals received for next season including the use of 12 state-owned groomers, 3 privately-owned groomers, 1,194 miles of trail and 1,619 groomed miles.

Most of the G.I.A. proposals are keeping their trail systems the same as the previous season. The following are the proposed trail changes for the Eastern South Dakota trail system for the 2017-2018 snowmobile seasons:

Brookings: Added a 1 mile spur to Bushnell for safer riding to a local business

De Smet: Removed trail from Iroquois to Willow Lake and added a trail section from JCT of HWY 25/28 to HWY 212 connecting to Henry.

Siouxland: Trail would now connect to Trent and other reroutes provide wider ditches and safer riding conditions.

Sisseton: Adding a 1 mile spur to a gas station already heavily visited by snowmobilers.

The following chart shows the Grant-In-Aid requests for the 2017-2018 snowmobile season broken down by each expense category:

Club	Fuel	Maintenance	Grooming	Signing	Lease	Insurance	Rental	Total
Aberdeen	\$6,318	\$3,040	\$4,750	\$1,440	\$0	\$1,075	\$1,500	\$18,123
Beresford	\$0	\$0	\$20,148	\$1,460	\$400	\$923	\$0	\$22,931
Brookings	\$9,709	\$4,672	\$7,300	\$2,500	\$0	\$1,850	\$1,500	\$27,531
Clear Lake	\$0	\$0	\$29,256	\$1,340	\$0	\$976	\$0	\$31,572
DeSmet	\$0	\$0	\$62,652	\$3,180	\$0	\$1,002	\$0	\$66,834
Huron	\$5,486	\$2,640	\$4,125	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,030	\$1,500	\$15,881
Milbank	\$6,983	\$3,360	\$5,250	\$1,320	\$0	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$19,538
Miller	\$3,990	\$1,920	\$3,000	\$600	\$0	\$950	\$600	\$11,060
Mitchell	\$2,660	\$1,280	\$960	\$680	\$0	\$924	\$1,500	\$8,004
Poinsett	\$9,975	\$4,800	\$7,500	\$1,440	\$0	\$940	\$1,500	\$26,155
Redfield	\$7,448	\$3,584	\$3,388	\$1,120	\$0	\$925	\$1,500	\$17,965
Siouxland	\$8,628	\$4,152	\$6,487	\$1,860	\$200	\$925	\$1,460	\$23,712
Sisseton	\$8,811	\$4,240	\$6,625	\$2,120	\$0	\$950	\$1,500	\$24,246
Watertown	\$5,054	\$2,432	\$3,800	\$1,520	\$600	\$923	\$1,500	\$15,829
Webster	\$9,144	\$4,400	\$6,875	\$2,200	\$0	\$925	\$1,500	\$25,044
Totals	\$84,206	\$40,520	\$172,116	\$23,880	\$1,200	\$15,443	\$17,060	\$354,425

Safety Report

Raynor gave a brief overview of the past years reported accidents. There were 14 accidents reported with no fatalities (14 accidents in the Black Hills and 0 accidents East River.)

Aberdeen, Beresford, Poinsett, and Sioux Falls offered snowmobile safety courses this past season and 18 children were certified with 30 attendees.

Promoting Trail Conditions

In the February meeting, Raynor and Percy were tasked with finding ways to further promote trail conditions in the Black Hills. While the Governor's Ride was not the best snow conditions, better snow conditions existed on the trails than what people noticed based on the 60 degree temperatures and bare ground you saw driving through Rapid City or Sturgis.

Percy and Raynor met with the department's communications team to brainstorm ideas which included, enhancing the current trail conditions page, further promotion on Twitter, using the department Facebook page, and sending out a weekly newsletter through email were some of the main ideas brought forth.

Percy and Raynor then presented information about utilizing the same camera's that DOT uses on the Safe Travel USA website to promote trail conditions. These cameras have the ability to take pictures as frequently as you want, along with rotating to take 2 or 3 pictures from different directions. They do require electricity and good cell phone coverage as well. DOT has been very helpful in providing GFP with all the information shared, along with a close estimate. DOT stated using a solar powered setup has not been highly received in the department due to the high maintenance of the batteries for storage and potential vandalism.

Based on the settings you choose, pictures are taken and uploaded to a FTP site, then after a brief delay, they are then uploaded to the live link you choose. Weather sensors are also

utilized on these stations to provide various reports such as wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity to name a few.

Percy stated the areas proposed at this time are at Spearfish Canyon, the Mickelson Trail, and utilizing the camera already existing at Hardy Camp. The southern portion of the trail system is the tricky area to find due to cell phone coverage and electricity.

In closing, Raynor stated DOT is fortunately willing to play a key role in purchasing and setup of the cameras along with troubleshooting down the road. A rough estimate came in at just over \$20,000.

A motion was made Nagel and seconded by Johnson to further pursue the purchase and use of these cameras to promote trail conditions. An update at the August meeting will be provided. **Motion Carried.**

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Capital Building in LRC room 413 in Pierre.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. **Motion Carried.**