

Minutes

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council

Friday, November 13, 2015 ~ Ramkota - Watertown

Call to Order

Chairman Scott Erstad called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Scott Erstad, Russell Johnson, Dave Kennedy, Al Nagel, and Gary Ulmer.

Members Absent: Todd Wilkinson and Bruce Hintz

Game, Fish and Parks Staff Present: Shannon Percy and Ryan Raynor

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ulmer and seconded by Nagel to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2015 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Black Hills Update:

- **Fat Tire Committee Status**

Craig Bobzien formed a committee to decide if Fat Tire Bikes would be allowed on the snowmobile trails, as currently they are not allowed. A meeting was already held with representatives from the Fat Tire community. The meeting with representatives from the snowmobiling community was canceled and has yet to be rescheduled. The BH Forest Advisory Board also needs to be reappointed as this group oversees the Fat Tire committee. Everything is on hold at the moment until further notice.

- **Trail Re-routes**

Trail #7 right behind Inglewood heading up towards rifle range is being rerouted. This trail is located on BLM land and they want to get about 10 loads of trees affected by the Mountain Pine Beetle out.

Percy is currently working with 2 property owners to complete this reroute.

The last reroute is located south of Flag Mountain on trail #2. This area has many springs and is also part of the OHV trail system. ATV use plus wet conditions has provided many challenges and Percy is moving the trail to a more stable area with less resource damage.

Percy added staff is currently busy removing trees from the trail and has received help from crews with the Forest Service. Bug hit trees seem to be on the downward trend as Custer State Park, the BH National Forest and along the Mickelson Trail are seeing fewer trees impacted then recent years.

- **Sno-Cat Acquisition/Transfers/Trade-In**

The new Sno-Cat is scheduled to arrive at Hardy Camp around early December. The Milbank club will be receiving the transfer from the hills. A 2005 rubber tracked groomer was traded in to Track Inc. for \$38,000.

- **Groomer School**

Groomer School held annually at Hardy Camp and Trailhead Lodge will be held on December 3 and 4. Percy invited all of the East River Clubs that are interested to attend and to let Ryan know if they are attending.

East River Update:

- **ER Groomer Travel to Hills**

Raynor asked the advisory council to approve the reimbursement of travel for a maximum of 2 groomer operators per club if they decided attend the groomer school. It's a long ways to travel and ends up being an expensive trip which benefits the snowmobile program. Council agreed to reimburse any club member who attends for the same per diem and vehicle reimbursement rate provided by the State. Nagel asked if we would still do the groomer school hosted by staff from Track Inc.? Raynor stated this was something he found out

about too late and would line something up next year. This was hosted east river at Oakwood State Park and Raynor would plan for the school to be hosted at the same location next fall.

- **East River Trail Signing Status**

Raynor stated because of the unseasonably warm weather many clubs had a great start or had even finished signing. Raynor had already performed trail evaluations in 3 of the 5 areas he covers and stated with fairly new signing regulations, while some clubs had questions, the areas Raynor had reviewed followed the new guidelines very well.

All of others are evaluated from local park managers. Raynor attended a Northeast Regional meeting prior to the conference where he reviewed the guidelines with those managers as well. Evaluations will continue through late November and should be completed before mid-December.

- **Clean up 2016-2017 ER Trail Signing Manual**

Raynor stated the changes to the manual from his first term had left him with some questions about why the changes were made. Fortunately a week before the convention, Raynor attended a meeting in Sioux Falls and got a firm grasp on these changes from Kim Raap who played a major role in the changes. Raynor stated some fine tweaking needs to come to the guideline before next season which he would work with Kim on.

- **Groomers in Parades**

V and V Insurance will insure a groomer being driven in a parade for an extra \$100. They also mentioned no insurance is necessary if the groomer is hauled on a trailer but the insurance of that private individual would then be liable for the groomer. A few questions had popped up from local clubs and Raynor was sharing this information as he attended club meetings.

2015-2016 Snowmobile Trails Map

Trail maps were distributed to the council and Percy touched on the reroutes which were known about before the map went to print. The biggest change came in the southwest part of the trail system down by moon with trail #12B. Percy stated there are many active timber sales in that area and they will be going all winter long. Percy stated Trail #2 and #7 which were discussed earlier, did not make it to the map before they were printed.

Raynor showed the council the 3 locations on the map which help promote the 2016 ISC in Rapid City. Raynor mentioned the map is developed by the Department of Tourism in cooperation with GFP staff. Raynor said Tourism takes great pride into the map when developing color schemes, photo layout and other detailed information the map provides.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for the Friday of the Governor's Ride. Raynor said he would be in touch with a location and time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kennedy and was seconded by Ulmer to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. **Motion Carried.**