

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council

Saturday, May 7, 2016 ~ Capital Building Room 413, Pierre South Dakota

Call to Order

Chairman Scott Erstad called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Roll Call

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

Members Absent: Todd Wilkinson

GFP Staff Present: Shannon Percy and Ryan Raynor.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Nagel to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2016 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

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 March 4th. During that time frame, 13,298 miles were groomed in South Dakota and 2,727 miles were groomed in Wyoming.

Trail counts were down in all areas from the previous year. Over 49,000 less counts on all traffic counters combined compared to last year. Percy reminded the group that last year was also a below average year. Percy stated Trail #7 counter had some issues with batteries all year so those counts were skewed.

Percy shared the following groomer hours with the council.

Tucker	Total Hours	Total Miles
#1	294	2,231
#2	371	2,578
#3	491	3,581
#4	282	2,267
#5	501	3,542
#6	303	1,826
Total	2,242	16,025

Black Hills Revenue

Revenue collected from the Black Hills this past season included:

- 5-Day Temporary Permit: \$10,200 (255 permits)
- State of Wyoming: \$ 10,908 (2,727 miles groomed)
- Trail Directory: \$ 3,625 (29 entries)
- Commercial Permits: \$ 0
- Motorcycle Permits: \$ 20 (11 sold state wide)
- Towing Service: \$ 720

Trail Re-Routes

Percy stated that the annual meeting with the Forest Service to discuss re-routes for the 2016-2017 snowmobile season finished on May 5th. Percy showed the council multiple maps highlighting the areas listed below

2A – This trail leaves Trailshead and had low snow conditions all year Percy stated. Percy is pursuing this reroute because of the aggressive curve, and while no accidents occurred on this trail, he feels a reroute on this small spur will benefit grooming operations and snowmobile driving conditions.

Turkey Trail – This area affects trail #1 North above Rough lock Falls. This reroute is being pursued by the FS and Timber Industry and will affect 3 different segments of the trail. Percy met with FS staff to look into the area and more scouting is necessary. A map was not available.

Trail #7 – Near Brownsville, this reroute is located between Mad Mountain and Mystic Hills in the highway ditch. Percy is trying to get the trail out of the highway ditch. Percy showed the council a map which showed the potential reroute. Percy still needs to meet with a private landowner to connect the reroute on FS lands. This reroute will follow north of the Brownsville store

Percy stated he may be moving 12B back to where 13 and 12A were located by Moon. These trails were removed last season to accommodate the timber industry. Percy still needs to talk to the landowner to gain permission before he can reinstate 13 and 12A. Percy may also keep 12B along with 13 and 12A.

Unfortunately two trails were lost during the snowmobile season. Trail #5W into Whitetail Court. The business owner told Percy he was tired of snowmobilers running through this parking lot. Finally, a small spur which goes into a large parking lot in Deadwood off the Mickelson trail will probably be left off the map next year. Percy stated we tried to do a dual use there, but there city received to many complaints to worry about pursuing it next year. The trail will now end where it historically has at the Bulk plant.

Program Update

While all reimbursement requests had been sent in to Raynor, he still has a few to process. It was a great snow year for Beresford and the central eastern trails such as Brookings and Clear Lake.

All signs had also been removed from the trail system with some remaining on fence posts since the local club received permission to do so.

FY 16 Budget Balance

\$707,095 has been expended from the snowmobile trails budget to date which is about a \$100,000 increase from this same time last year, due in large part to additional money spent in capital assets as less RTP money was awarded to the snowmobile program. The budget expenses as of April 30th, 2016 included the following:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Balance</u>
➤ Personnel Services	\$387,450	\$ 262,053
➤ Travel	\$ 22,550	\$ 9,650
➤ Contractual Services	\$141,929	\$ 91,229
➤ Supplies/Materials	\$181,750	\$ 107,327
➤ Grants	\$312,500	\$ 51,696
➤ Capital Outlay	\$325,000	\$ 185,140
➤ TOTAL	\$1,371,179	\$ 707,095

FY 16 Revenue

Raynor reminded the council that the gas tax formula jumped up from .22cents to .28cents and the excise tax jumped up from 3% to 4% due to changes in laws brought forth by the Department of Transportation last legislative session. Due to these increases revenue is up from last year approximately \$95,000. Revenue totals as of April 30, 2016 includes:

• Gas Tax (12,384 x 125 gal x .28)	\$433,440
• 4% Excise Tax	\$298,176
• License Fees	\$103,685
• Charges for Sales/Services	\$ 27,941
• Interest	\$ 14,334
• 5 Day Temp Permit	\$ 10,200
• Motorcycle Permit	\$ 220

Total Revenue **\$887,996_(+95,730 from FY15)**

Fiscal Year 16 Grant-In-Aid

A total of \$124,687 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 around \$135,000.

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

Aberdeen –	\$5,867	Miller –	\$3,483
Beresford –	\$12,353	Mitchell –	\$3,405
Brookings –	\$11,991	Poinsett –	\$6,706
Clear Lake –	\$17,648	Redfield -	\$4,635
De Smet –	\$23,750	Siouxland –	\$7,392
Huron –	\$4,858	Sisseton –	\$6,445
Milbank –	\$5,780	Watertown –	\$5,705
		Webster -	\$4,669
Total Budget	\$345,745		
Total Expenses	\$124,687		

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

Aberdeen –	52	Miller –	21
Beresford –	139	Mitchell –	14
Brookings –	283	Poinsett –	138
Clear Lake –	219	Redfield -	33
De Smet –	297	Siouxland –	102
Huron –	33	Sisseton –	57
Milbank –	43	Watertown –	52
		Webster -	0

Total Grooming Hours – 1,483

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, 1,181 miles of trail and 1,556 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 2016-2017 snowmobile seasons:

Brookings: Rerouted a 2 mile spur to the MN border South 2 miles through the Knotty Pine Supper Club, which also connects to a MN trail.

Clear Lake: Removing spur from HWY 22 North to Goodwin and west to Watertown due to lack of use and difficulty to groom.

De Smet: Removed trail from Lake Preston to Badger due to lack of use and lack of interest to continue signing this trail segment.

Milbank: Closed the loop on the south side of Milbank

Miller: Removed spur north of Ree Heights then East to HWY 45. Added a spur from Ree Heights on HWY 14 West to Highmore.

Sisseton: Rerouting around the north side of Sisseton instead of the south side.
Eliminates crossing highway unless fuel is needed and avoids going through town

Watertown: Dropped signing to Kranzburg. Potential reroute coming before August meeting.

The following chart shows the Grant-In-Aid requests for the 2016-2017 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	\$9,576	\$4,608	\$7,200	\$2,480	\$0	\$1,850	\$1,500	\$27,214
Clear Lake	\$0	\$0	\$29,256	\$1,340	\$0	\$976	\$0	\$31,572
DeSmet	\$0	\$0	\$53,820	\$3,260	\$0	\$1,002	\$0	\$58,082
Huron	\$5,486	\$2,640	\$4,125	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,030	\$1,500	\$15,881
Milbank	\$6,983	\$3,360	\$5,250	\$1,680	\$0	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$19,898
Miller	\$3,990	\$1,920	\$3,000	\$600	\$0	\$950	\$600	\$11,060
Mitchell	\$1,895	\$912	\$684	\$660	\$0	\$923	\$1,500	\$6,574
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	\$7,282	\$3,504	\$5,475	\$1,560	\$400	\$925	\$1,500	\$20,646
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	\$81,962	\$39,440	\$161,896	\$23,980	\$1,400	\$15,442	\$17,100	\$341,220

Safety Report

Raynor gave a brief overview of the past years reported accidents. There were 11 accidents reported with no fatalities (11 accidents in the Black Hills and 0 accidents East River.)

Aberdeen, Beresford, Poinsett, Milbank and Sioux Falls offered snowmobile safety courses this past season and 10 children were certified with 20 attendees.

Vintage Snowmobile License

Raynor shared a power point slide presented in 08-09 about the number of sleds older than certain tiers and the amount of revenue lost if a one-time vintage snowmobile license was created. This discussion was brought back up because of the difficulty many people have trying to register/license older snowmobiles in various counties across the state. Due to the age of the sled, many times title paperwork was not even being used back then, and even when states did implement a titling process, that varied state to state and paperwork is also lost over the decades as it exchanges hands. Snowmobilers are complaining of the inconsistencies from county to county trying to license older snowmobiles with a bill of sale and no previous title paperwork available.

Raynor stated he will work with the Department of Revenue to make sure we are more consistent across the state in all counties and if legislative change is required as it seems like the current titling and registration laws are being interpreted differently county to county.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Capitol Lake Visitor Center in Pierre.

Adjournment

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