

**Draft - MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION - Draft**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**December 10, 2016 Christmas, MI**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Rick Brown at 9:30 am.
- II. INTRODUCTIONS:** Rick immediately moved into the introductions and introductions of all present were made.
- III. ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the Board of Directors was taken and recorded. Ernie Reiman, Tim Long, Don Wing, Dave Cooper, Joe Kuchnicki, Donna Cody, Ron Corbett, and Ron VanderVliet were excused. Due to the large number absent, they are not listed here, but the list is on file with the secretary.
- IV. APPROVAL OF DIRECTOR AT LARGE:** Roger Kilbury submitted a letter to be a Director at Large from a Non Council area. His letter was published in the magazine with no issues.  
*Moved by Stu Volkers, second by Jim Kelts to Accept Roger Kilbury as a Director at Large. Motion Carried*
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Under Old business(a)Swap meet at Saginaw: New business: (a) Federal Labor Laws
- VI. (b)Standard Operating Procedure and Policy Manual (c) Joint ORV and Snowmobile Meeting (d) ORV Grant Sponsors**  
*Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Larry Eder to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.*
- VII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Draft minutes were made available. One correction under the Treasurer's report was noted. Listed as all 00000, it should have been \$12,000.  
*Moved by Jim Duke, second by Jeff Biggs, to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.*
- VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT:** John presented the budget vs actual thru December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It covers approximately a quarter of the budget year. He mentioned the Convention bill had not come in yet so that number was not accurate. One of the highlights was the donations. Budgeted was \$12,000, and to date there over \$15,000. This is attributed to the please donate your extra \$2.00 campaign with the trail permits. John said the mailing labels have gone out and money is coming back from those. Map books and GPS sales are still strong, Another Highlight is we were awarded an ISMA Grant for our Legislative and Congressional rides to help with our expenses in putting those rides together and making them a success. John reported that Trail Permit sales for this year are up about 5% which means revenue is up about 13%. Rick asked about the Snow Show, and the Swap Meet. John explained the loss of money went into Last Fiscal Year. We had to refund the Vendors which is why we have a deficit in the Snow Show/Swap Meet. John reported loss on the show was about \$10,500. Moving on to the Saginaw Swap Meet the expenses were approximately \$700, and the income was about \$5000. John suggested we revisit the budget in March, to see where our financial situation is after the winter season.
- IX. COMMUNICATIONS:** Kay said she used to be notified if someone got sick or passed away, and that isn't happening, to send sympathy cards. Jeff asked if she would be willing to serve on a Bereavement Committee. Please notify Kay if you know of any illness of sickness in the future. Rick asked Bill if he had any communications. Bill said there have been daily communications from various members and non-members. Everyone have been answered, by either Bill or Jeff.
- X. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill provided a report to everyone in attendance, placed on file. Some items of interest are. FMAC Meetings, where Bill is the new Vice Chair. Work with Ron Yesney on the Permanent Trail Fund by conference call on spending the snowmobile portion of the fund. Rick asked about the Three Lakes property and if that was bought with Permanent Trail money. It is owned by Snow Country Trails Conversancy. Rick asked if we are paying property taxes. Bill said we are at this time, but are looking to be exempted because we are tax exempt. Attended the MTAC meeting. Worked on the 10-year budget with Jackie Blodgett, to address Equipment replacement and was there with Don Reed. While there, they noticed something didn't look right and asked Jackie to review it. Bill wanted to stress No One had done anything wrong, however they had found 1.6 million dollars from the previous years being carried over. Richard does still need about \$200,000 in repairs. After the Equipment Sub-Committee met, it was decided they would recommended 6 groomers, and that they would get to review before purchase the bids. This is just to make sure the grant sponsors are getting what they need. Bill, Jeff Goss, Don Reed, and Jim Dickie attended a meeting in Lansing with the Governor's Office. The meeting was chaired by former Lt Governor Dick Posthumus, Staff, and Senator Casperson, Hansen, and Rep Glardon. Also attending was Parks & Recreation Chief Ron Olson and his Legislative person Treaver VanDyke. MSA presented the version of ROI, and they were amazed at how many Dollars we return to the State. After discussion, it was asked how much we need. We said 6 Million but settled on 3 Million. They asked if we could work with the DNR to come up with a realistic number, and have back up for the needs. Ron Olson immediately called Jackie Blodgett to have her clear her schedule to come up with a plan as to where the money would go. That part was easy. Equipment, Infrastructure, and Equipment Repairs. So we are moving forward with the ROI. Jeff said he felt cautiously optimistic. MSA also discovered another flaw with the way business is done in Lansing. If a Grant Sponsor puts in a request for a new bridge, bridge repair, or any other large item, the project is reviewed for that year and is only recorded if approved. Any project not approved has to be put in for every year until approved. We think the program manager should be tracking those kinds of requests in a database.
- XI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. LEGISLATIVE:** No new Legislation at this time, however, we will have to get back on it after the first of the year. There are no dates as of now for a Legislative Ride. Dates will be out shortly.
  - B. MEMBERSHIP:** Jim Kelts said its time to do a mailing and challenge each member to sign up a new member, Jim said John Griffin suggested an award of some kind for the person who brings in the most members. The committee is working on a few new ideas. Jim said the Membership Committee and Publications Committee need to work together. Dave Neuchterlein suggested instead of an award, you put a name in a bucket for a gift certificate.

**5 Minute Break**

- C. **TRAIL COORDINATION:** Don Reed and Don Britton commented about the issue happening with Trail #14 from Marquette to Big Bay. It is cutting off a 4-miles stretch of trail because of a Meijer's being built. Some suggestions were to contact Meijer's Corporate, which Don Britton and Don Reed will do, and report back. Don Britton reported Trail #33 to Hermansville is now open. Don Reed stated Trail #43 to Seney there is 11 miles of Logging going on. It should be complete by Christmas. Jim Duke asked about whether the vandals were caught that were damaging the signs on the snowmobile trails. They were not. Bill Manson said the vandals in the lower were very sneaky, actually switching the order of the signs, like the stop and stop ahead signs. John Griffin brought up fixing the sign issue by placing "Smile, you're on Camera" signs on the trail.
- D. **PUBLICATION:** Bill Bradfield started off by thanking the members of the committee. Bill asked for more stories for the magazine. He stated if you have an upcoming ride, please send your details of what you plan to do to Marie as a story. He said he is interested in working with the DNR on their marketing plan. Jeff suggested highlighting a New member every month. Stu Volkers recommended we send out press releases to local papers of some of the articles because our magazines go to members. Kay asked if we should be utilizing social media more. John Griffin brought up having someone sell ads on a commission basis. If we want more stories, that adds pages, we need to get more ads for revenue to make the magazine solvent.

## XII. OTHER REPORTS:

- A. **CONVENTION:** Jim Duke reported on the 2016 Convention at the Garland Resort. Attendance was down, however the event was still a success. Bob King, the Midwest Chapter Chairman was the Guest Speaker for Saturday morning. Looking ahead to next year, the question was raised by Mr. Duke to the Board on whether we wanted to continue with a 2 Day Convention or change it to a one-day annual meeting with elections. After receiving bids back, the committee did hold the dates of October 19-22, 2017 at Shanty Creek. The problem is, if we don't increase our attendance, we won't be able to continue to get the rates we have been getting. (Open for Discussion) Dave Neucherterlein asked if the Convention has ever lost money. John stated no it hadn't. Dave spoke against having the Convention in October because it's such a busy time for him with work.

*Moved by Don Reed to keep things the same this year and revisit at the 2017 Convention, Jeff Biggs second Motion Carried: ( One Nay)*

- B. **SNOW SHOW:** Dates are still being held for the 2017 Snow Show. Bill believes the Snow Show has run its course, and we should cancel, and only do the Swap Meet. Rick brought up some of our dealers are starting to have Snow Shows, and we will get more bang for our buck if we send qualified people to their shows, if we have enough notice. Don Reed asked if we could expand the Saginaw Swap Meet into a Snow Show. Jeff said we can work on it. Bill said there is a small possibility of a local radio station in Grand Rapids sponsoring a Multi-Sports Show. MSA would basically be a sub-contractor of that. Bill will keep us informed.
- C. **WEBSITE:** Bill stated he is very frustrated. He has asked for information several times and not been answered. He has advertisers asking about clicks on ads. Bill even went as far as sending an email saying there is a whole new board, and we are talking about looking for someone else. Bill asked for permission to withhold payment for the month of January. Rick said if we are not getting what we're paying for, it's time to act. Only 7 ads have not renewed from last year. Dave Neucherterlein asked if we withhold payment, what is the likelihood he would lock the webpage. Bill said we would have to look for another provider. John said this would be more to get his attention.

*Motion made by John Houk second by David Low to hold payment for January.*

*Motion Carried: (Two Nays)*

- D. **MICHIGAN TRAILS & GREENWAYS:** Jim Dickie stated he represents snowmobilers on that committee. They are working on their membership ideas as well, and one idea that they had is a donor based membership. Anyone who donates money automatically becomes a member. Then over \$19 they get a hard copy of the newsletter. Jim thought this might be something for us to consider. Another item of discussion was Trail Etiquette. The Michigander Bicycle Ride this year had 770 riders. They rotate the locations every year, so this next year will be in Northwest MI, 2018 will be Central MI, and 2019 will be in Northeast, MI.

### *Lunch*

- E. **FRIENDS OF THE FOREST:** Jim Duke reported that everything is good with the Hiawatha. The Ottawa is looking for small fee increases in some areas to be used for backlog for deferred maintenance, and to conduct patrols on highly used trails. The comment period ended on this November 15<sup>th</sup>. There was no date on the next meeting at this time.
- F. **GROOMER WORKSHOP:** Don Reed stated we need to work on getting the Grant Sponsors that are not coming to the Groomer Workshop, to actually attend. He asked if anyone knew about the new track system available to tractors. He stated as of now, Cadillac has them, and Don has them coming to the workshop. He said this workshop will feature more open discussion between the grant sponsors, as well as breakout sessions. There will also be some discussion of refurbishing equipment, and the pros and cons. Don will have some statistics from the last season at the Groomer Workshop for that. Don reported that Track is in the process of selling. If you call, the Secretary will be the one that answers. Don gave the number for "Get Snow" in Vermont. 1(802)334-7779. His name is Paul Tetreault. The dates for the Groomer Workshop will be March 3-5 in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Please register through the office. Jim Kelts asked if we can get more wheeled vehicles there. Don said he understands the need, and will make every attempt.

- G. **ACSA:** Jim Duke said the last webinar was November 15<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned the issue Pennsylvania had with purchasing a groomer with RTP funds and finding out after that it was manufactured in South America. They now need a waiver because if you use RTP funds you have to abide by the "Buy America" Guidelines. The NFS is being sued again because they neglected to list the Wolverine on the Endangered Species List. The draft comments were due by Nov 17<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for the litigation the State of Idaho, the Western Chapter, ACSA, and ISMA, have all contributed from their Legal Defense Funds. Jim reminded everyone it only costs \$10 to be a member of ACSA.
- H. **CHARITY:** Kay stated to everyone to please keep track of all the charity hours you do on an individual basis, as well as a club. She also reminded the group it doesn't have to be snowmobile related.
- I. **MIDWEST CHAPTER:** Nothing to report
- J. **BY-LAWS:** Nothing to Report
- K. **NON-DUES REVENUE:** Nothing to Report
- L. **RECREATION:** Lizz reported there had been some changes made to the Ride In. It will begin Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, and Check out Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Rooms are \$85 per night plus tax, based on double occupancy. Food Package will be \$42, per person. It will be at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. Lizz still is looking for guides. The Campout will be at the Timberline Campground in Benzonia. Phone number (231)882-9548. Lizz asked that when you make your reservation you say it's under Lizz from MSA. There are 15 FHU and 15 Electric only. The dates are June 22-25. The website is timberlinecampgroundinc.com

### XIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **SAGINAW SWAP MEET:** Rick asked the question if we wanted to do the Saginaw Swap meet again, and was it a worthwhile and profitable endeavor. Dates will be Sept 22 and 23, 2017. Saginaw Co. Fairgrounds in Chesaning.

*Moved by Jim Kelts second by David Low to do the Swap Meet again. Motion Carried.*

Rick asked Jim Dickie to set that up again.

### XIV. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **FEDERAL LABOR LAWS:** Rick explained he received a bulletin back in July, and it looked like we were going to have to keep track of overtime on salaried employees that fell below certain guidelines. It only affected Karen. Since that time, the overtime rule has been delayed indefinitely. No further action required at this time.
  - B. **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE & POLICY MANUAL:** Rick stated somehow over the years pages got deleted. He said between Jim Dickie, Jim Duke, himself, and a few others, he feels everything is back the way it should be. He asked if there is anything else that should be added into it. Jeff Goss stated the August 2016 version is the most complete version.
- Moved by Jeff Biggs to accept the August 2016 Policy Manual, David Low second. Motion carried.*
- C. **JOINT ORV/SNOWMOBILE MEETING:** Rick asked Bill to inform the group what is going to happen and what they want. Bill reported the meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> down at the RAM Center at 10:00am. The ORV program has money, and the Snowmobile Program doesn't. So we need to work together, and this is a stepping stone. Bill said he doesn't believe there is anything sinister going on here. Joe Chavis commented his club has been a longtime snowmobile club, and they were dying. Last ride they had 2 people attend, him and his wife. They changed to an ATV/Snowmobile Club and their club has exploded. He stated if you have Multi-Use Trails, you should be a dual club, and trying to get dual funds. Lizz asked if the Forest Service would be in attendance. Bill spoke about Act #288. Right Now, for ORV's and Snowmobiles in the Upper its open unless posted closed. In the Lower, its opposite. Act #288 is going to take State Forest Land, and open them to ORV's. But they have a deadline to get the inventory done on the roads and this will not be complete until 2018. Jessica is on the Road Inventory Committee, so she stated she and Paul Yauk are adamant about keeping the public aware. Stu asked if a synopsis would be put out on the Fresh Tracks to keep everyone informed about what happened at this meeting. Bill said he would make sure he had that done.
  - D. **ORV GRANT SPONSORS:** Don Reed said they are also now a dual club, because they have several multi-use trails. There is money available, he said they might as well get it. Rick stated that would make a great seminar at the Groomer Workshop. John Griffin asked if Don was using 100% owned equipment to take care of the trails. Don said No. Don Britton stated he also used some ORV restoration funds for their trails, however, he cautioned they are for public lands only.

### XV. TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:

**REGION 1:** Already Covered

**REGION 2:** Nothing to Report

**REGION 3:** David Low reported an issue in the Green Lake area. Hopkins to Yankee Springs. David said he believes the issue is covered. Bill Manson said he and Jim Duke had been reappointed to the SAW committee for a two-year term.

- XVI. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Karyn reminded everyone that the American Income Life Scholarship is still at \$2000, and being in the financial situation that we are in, it may be a good idea to drop that down now to \$1000.

*Motion by David Low to drop the AIL Scholarship to \$1000, Second by Jeff Biggs. Motion Carried.*

Rick asked where we stand on Snow Bikes. Don Britton said they need to get a permit to have an event and cannot restrict snowmobiles. That was for Fat tire bikes. Snow bikes are a different issue. Don Reed stated he doesn't believe snow bikes will be an issue right now, but we do need to keep an eye on it.

Rick handed the gavel over to President Elect Jeff Goss. Jeff Thanked Rick on behalf of the entire group for stepping up and Running again, and for the dedication to our sport!

- XVII. **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be January 14<sup>th</sup>, Location to be announced.

- XVIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by David Low to Adjourn. Motion carried*  
Adjourned at 2:05pm