

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Meeting
Saturday December 9th, 2017
Foggy's Steakhouse Christmas, MI

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Goss at 9:30 am.
- II. INTRODUCTIONS:** For the First time, the Pledge of Allegiance was done and a moment of silence observed for Pearl Harbor Day. Jeff thanked those that have served. The Introductions then took place of all in attendance.
- III. ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the Board of Director's was taken and recorded. Several were absent or excused.
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Additions: (New Business) {B} Trail Presentation- Steve Dove {C} Almost Snowmobiler of the Year Presentation {D} Foggy's Presentation {E} MSA dues {F} Snow Bikes – Dave Neucherterlein {G} Clean Snowmobile Challenge- Stu Volkens {H} Social Media Etiquette {I} 2018 Meeting Dates
Moved by Ernie Reimann, second by Jeff Biggs to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.
- V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed to the Board of Directors, and are available at this meeting.
Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Larry Eder, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jeff took a moment to congratulate Mark and then Thanked John for his 8 years of service to MSA, and also Kaye. Thanks John for all of your work! John provided a budget vs. actual to all in attendance, as well as a budget for the upcoming year. Jeff stated to everyone that what they vote on today will probably change some, as the officers have a budget meeting in a few weeks. John went over some of the highlights on the budget vs, actual. The SnoGoer Magazine payback, as we were not paid from last year. John talked about the donations, which have already exceeded \$21,000 for this fiscal year. He also said he has set up a smile.amazon.com account for MSEAF, so if you shop amazon, please go to smileamazon.com and use us as your charity of choice. We will get money for you shopping. Stu asked for that to be added into Karen's fresh tracks newsletter. Dave Neucherterlein asked if any money had been borrowed from MSEAF or any individual person in 2017 to make the bills. John answered that we had, to make sure we didn't run out of funds, MSEAF gave us an interest free \$10,000 loan. The loan was paid back in September. Jeff reinforced there are some meetings taking place over the next few weeks to look at cost savings for the association. He then asked for a motion to accept the budget as submitted.
Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Stu Volkens to approve the Budget as presented. Discussion
Rick Brown said he doesn't see how we can pass the budget when it is a guess, and it is going to end up a deficit budget. Jeff explained he felt that it had been three months and since it wasn't quite where we wanted it yet, we still felt it was important to present something to the Board to approve, until we met again. Jeff also explained that as Mark Pankner had said earlier, this is only a worksheet to work off of, and revise at the next meeting.
Call for the Question. All in Favor of Approving the Budget as Presented. Most Yay, (6) Nay, Motion Carried
- VII. COMMUNICATIONS:** Jeff had none, and asked if anyone else had any. Jim Duke went over the lunch. Jim also introduced April from the Munising News.
- VIII. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill handed out a copy of his report to all in attendance. (placed on file) He stated the report is pretty self-explanatory, and asked if anyone had any questions. Rick Brown asked about PA288 and how it affects snowmobile trails in the lower. Bill answered that Only Region 2 right now is affected, and it is this; In the Lower Peninsula (Region 2), snowmobile trails that were closed to ORV's may now be open! In a low snow year, like in the last two years, we may see more wheeled vehicles in the winter. The DNR at the time, has no plans for seasonal use of ORV's or UTV's. The Upper Peninsula (Region 1) has always been open unless posted closed, however, by the end of Dec. 2018, they will have gone over the Upper for any changes, and done the Southern Lower (Region 3). This only affects public state land. When it turns into Private land or Federal land, the rider becomes illegal. And it is Their Job to know where they are going! Bill said we will be encouraging the groomer drivers and grant sponsors to carry a camera and if they see something, document it. We can't make a complaint until there is an issue. Dave Neucherterlein asked as an individual snowmobiler, if there is an incident with a UTV, is there a method for reporting that? Bill said you can go to the MSA website, and go to the poor trails area, remove the poor trail, and report your concern. From there the proper people get copied on the situation to fix the problem. Stu Volkens asked about a way to get funding from the ORV program to help offset the cost in the winter time. Bill said no, although there is a program in place now to apply for a grant and repair the trails from ORV's before the snow flies. That is only for public land, there is nothing in place for private lands.
- IX. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- A. LEGISLATIVE:** Jim Dickie gave an explanation to the group of what the Legislative hopes to do in the next year. He explained the Legislators are all on winter break as of right now and won't return until after the first of the year. Some of the items have been a work in progress for years. First, they would like the SAW committee put into law, so the next governor doesn't just decide that a snowmobile workgroup isn't needed. Next, the definition of a snowmobile needs to be revised again with all of the new things coming out and being added. Jim asked if you see these on the trails, please take pictures as well so that when they meet with legislators, they have proof. There is concern with putting a date on the Historic Snowmobile. The change will be from 25 years old, to manufactured before "1993". Jim also added more than 80% of that money goes into the snowmobile program. They also plan to try and restrict wheeled vehicles between Dec 1 – March 31st on Marked Groomed Trails. Some

others are, increase the fines in the snowmobile act, increase fines for no trail permit, discuss permit costs, update standard sound test. Jim talked about the trip to Lansing back in the Fall, and as many remember they had asked for several million dollars and the snowmobile program was allocated \$226,200. The Governor had vetoed 51 items, ours being one of them. At the last minute, the Governor must have changed his mind! Bill said the important thing to remember is this is the First Time the snowmobile program has ever gotten general fund dollars. The lobbying that is done is very important! Don Reed said he feels now would be a great time to tell the group about what happened at the SAW meeting and the 10 projects the snowmobilers are getting from the Trust fund. For the first time, the Department got behind the idea of getting funds from the Natural Resources Trust Fund for projects other than acquisitions. They have to spend some money on acquisitions, but there is also development. Thursday the announcement came that \$75 million dollars was spent from the trust fund. The final step is this has to be approved by the House and the Senate. Once we get a bill number we will be asking all of you to call your Representatives and say get this passed. See List Below:

Acquisition:

1. TF17-0135 Ludington SP Sargent Minerals Company Property - \$5,000,000
2. TF17-0143 Fisherman's Island SP Holody Property - \$350,000
3. TF17-0139 Iron Belle Trail Lake State Railroad Property - \$850,000
4. TF17-0205 Snowmobile Trail #109 Trail Easements - \$56,200
5. TF17-0202 Longyear Trail Easement - \$340,000
6. TF17-0187 Former Canadian Pacific Railroad Property - \$193,900
7. TF17-0204 GMO Trail Easement - \$49,200
8. TF17-0203 Weyerhaeuser Trail Easement - \$206,800
9. TF17-0206 Snowmobile Trail #3 Trail Easements - \$82,500

Development:

1. TF17-0106 Belle Isle Oxbow Shoreline Fishing Area - \$300,000
2. TF17-0192 Riverfront Park Observation Trail Development Phase 2 - \$300,000
3. TF17-0117 Petoskey SP Little Traverse Wheelway Reroute - \$300,000
4. TF17-0081 Muskegon Winter Sports Complex Zipline and Lift - \$300,000
5. TF17-0083 Belle Isle Scott Fountain Accessibility Improvements - \$300,000
6. TF17-0172 Baraga to Arnheim Trail Rehabilitation and Bridge - \$300,000
7. TF17-0229 White Pine Trail Paving - \$300,000
8. TF17-0173 Snowmobile Trail #8 Bridge Development - \$210,000
9. TF17-0179 Iron Belle Trail Bissell Creek Culvert Replacement - \$100,000
10. TF17-0181 Sunken Lake Bridge Replacement - \$300,000
11. TF17-0108 Gaylord Gateway Trailhead Development - \$300,000
12. TF17-0147 Hancock to Calumet Culvert Replacement - \$300,000

Projects NOT selected for funding:

- TF17-0092 Island Lake RA Regional Trail Development Phase 1 - \$300,000
- TF17-0178 North Missaukee Trail Bridge Development - \$300,000
- TF17-0085 Holly RA Multi-Use Trail Development Phase 1 - \$300,000
- TF17-0180 Snowmobile Trail #2 Bear Creek Swamp Trail Repair - \$80,000

- B. MEMBERSHIP:** Ron VanderVliet gave the report, and said that he has a few cards available with him. There are 1000 more cards being printed. They will be available at the next meeting if everyone could please take some cards and hand them out. Especially on the trails. Ron said he talked to Karen who said they picked up 100 new members at Novi. Jeff said again how he would like a new member profiled in the magazine, and have that member explain why they joined MSA. He asked Ron to work with Karen and him to make that happen. Karen said those cards work! Anyone who buys a trail permit that isn't a member gets a card in the mail, and they have been coming back in. So for the business owners, it is a very inexpensive way to get your name out there, (\$330 for 1000 cards)
- C. TRAIL COORDINATION:** Stu reported every Region seems to be having a few issues, but they are being handled locally. He is not specifically aware of anything that isn't moving forward at this time. Several areas are having issues after the heavy rain and high winds from a few weeks ago.
- D. PUBLICATION:** Jeff began by saying the magazines have been coming very late, and he has put a call in to our publisher for an explanation. Jeff said he understands this year is probably already gone as far as fixing the dates, but he wants to find the causes so we can make improvements and change. He stated he hasn't received a satisfactory answer, and our members deserve much better. Kay said it may be the postal service. Dan Moore asked about the E-Magazine, and why that isn't available. Dave Campo asked the average cost of an ad and if clubs are allowed to submit articles.

X. OTHER REPORTS:

- A. CONVENTION:** Jim Duke reported the Convention was held at the Shanty Creek Resort on October 20th – 22nd. There was only about 60 people in attendance. He asked if it was time to do away with the Convention and just have the Annual meeting. Jim explained how expensive it is to do them. For example: it cost us \$125 for the campfire at Shanty Creek that 10 or 12 people attended. All of the events cost money. Sponsors are getting harder to get. He explained we have to have an Annual Meeting, we do not have to have a Convention. Several different suggestions were made from the group. Jeff suggested we just have an annual meeting based on lack of participation. Rick Brown suggested changing the time of year. Don Reed asked if it cost the association money. The answer is no. John reported the income and expenses from the convention. The convention did make \$2600.00, but with low attendance, how long will you keep them. Jeff brought up the idea of having a sponsor for our meetings. Another idea was to change the dates into the winter. It was remarked several are grooming in the winter and they don't want to sit in a meeting, they want to be snowmobiling. Jim Dickie said a detailed agenda in the magazine the month prior or more would be very beneficial. We need to work on marketing.
- Motion made by Jeff Biggs, second by David Low to go to an Annual Meeting on Oct 20th this year and revisit again next year, in lieu of a convention. Motion Tied. Jeff Broke the Tie. Motion Passed. **The Motion was recalled and a vote was taken after lunch due to unauthorized voting. (13 Yay, 10 Nay) Motion Passed. There will be an Annual Meeting this Year.*
- B. SWAP MEET:** Jim Dickie reported they had 60 swappers at the Saginaw Co. Fairgrounds with about 500 people thru the gate. \$4000 was raised for MSA. It will be done again next year, and will be the Third weekend in September again. The temps were in the 90's which kept the crowd down. And Jim said they will probably change the times next year. Rick had asked about the reconsideration of going back to 131. Bill said the problem with that was and is, they wanted a full-blown show, and not just a swap meet. Jim explained the benefit of being in Saginaw, and the location.
- C. WEBSITE:** Karen reported we are working with a new provider. Karen said he is doing a great job, and while things are still being switched over, there is some tweaking going on here and there. There are not a lot of changes yet, but they are coming. Karen talked about the store, and getting the logo on the clothing. She said the store orders have doubled. The black pins on the trail reports page will be able to be shut off for less confusion to the users. Karen said if you need help with your page, please call her, she can help you. Karen stated if we want to capture a younger audience we need to hit them where they live. She explained they live on Facebook and they live on their phones. She said we need to all do a better job correcting the misinformation.
- D. MICHIGAN TRAILS & GREENWAYS:** Jim Dickie explained what the MI Trails & Greenways is and what he does on that committee. They have been working on different legislation regarding E-Bikes. Jim gave the different bill numbers. HB4781, HB4782, HB4783.
- E. FRIENDS OF THE FOREST:** Jim Duke referred to Don Reed who stated the purpose of the September Friends meeting was forming better partnerships. Jim told the location of the next RRAC meeting which is in Baltimore, MD, on Feb. 1, 2018. He said one item of importance to us is the Hiawatha National Forest has proposed user fees for Grand Island. It will be discussed and voted on at that time. More information to come.
- The Presentation for Foggy's was done at this time. Line D under New Business.*
- Lunch*
- F. GROOMER WORKSHOP:** Don Reed spoke of the importance of this event and how they have worked over the last few years with ideas to keep it fresh and exciting. Networking is extremely important, and he asked the group how to get more grant sponsors to attend. He then talked about the proposal that was presented to the SAW committee. Karen explained a proposal was put forward to pay for two packages for every group. It would require a sign in for proof they attended the seminars. Don stated the education that the groomer operators receive at the workshop is very valuable. Jessica said she is going to push the issue of investing in our people to the DNR. Karen stated the input from all grant sponsors is what is vital to making the program work. Don finished with telling everyone the dates which will be March 2 & 3. He added if anyone has a class or something they would like to see added to the groomer workshop, please let Karen know.
- G. ACSA:** Jim Duke reported he participated in the Executive Committee Webinar on Nov. 15th and several outstanding issues were discussed. Primarily, the impending lawsuit brought on the Forest Service from the anti-motorized folks out west, that wants them to scrap the over-snow rule as it is now, then research and rewrite it from scratch. NFS says they have neither the funding or the manpower to comply with this demand, and the current ruling stands... waiting to see what shakes out now, but ACSA will be an intervenor if and when it becomes necessary. Another important item that you're not going to appreciate is the manufacturers have decided to discontinue the sneak peeks shows beginning with 2018. Their reasoning is that these events are too costly for the meager return they see for their investments. The 2018 Snow Shoot will be held in West Yellowstone again on the 23rd thru the 25th of February, and it has been suggested that ACSA leadership consider holding a strategic planning session at that location during this event. These planning meetings used to be held every other year, but hasn't been done for quite a while. The last one I remember was in Denver

about nine or ten years ago The Novi show was very well attended and according to Tom Anderson, the total attendance from the Milwaukee show was 11,424 and from Novi it was 17,238. Rick Brown asked if Enlightenment Rides were still being done, and they are. They get moved around.

- H. **CHARITY:** Kay reported emails will be coming soon so watch for them. Please make sure your club email is up to date with the office. Any type of Charity can be reported. Any donations to charity also count. April 1-March 31 are the dates. Forms are due in April. Karen recommended putting something in the mailer with the club dues letter.
- I. **MIDWEST CHAPTER:** Nothing new at this time.
- J. **BY-LAWS:** The bylaws have been amended per conditions voted on at the annual meeting. There are no outstanding proposals at this time. Bill asked if a copy was available for the office, and Jim answered yes. He has emailed them, and he will have the secretary sign a hard copy for the office records.
- K. **NON-DUES REVENUE:** Jeff thanked those that have already put money in the jug. He stated he found if you don't ask you won't receive.
- L. **RECREATION:** Jeff asked Bill to report regarding the ISA/MSA Ride-In on January 18 – 20. Bill attended the planning meeting on December 2 in Brimley. The Ride-In will be at Bay Mills. They are planning games within games. Bill explained some of the details. The cost is \$229 per person for the 3-night event. MSA cost is about \$2000, and we are getting sponsors. You have to be a member of ISA or MSA to participate. Bill said there are 130 rooms blocked at this time.

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **NOVI REPORT:** Karen reported the membership and trail permits sold in the last 2 years at Novi and how it just keeps increasing. She states she wishes she had tracked the rounding up of the trail permit. In 2016, it was 63 new members, 63 renewal members, and 1688 permits. This year was 94 renewals, 104 new members, 3 life memberships, and 1753 permits. The donations were \$2300. Novi is a very successful event.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **DNR UPDATE:** Jessica started off by saying the pre-season are for you. If you feel they can be improved in any way, please let her know. Signing manual has been updated, but wasn't at the time of the pre-season meeting. It is available online. Every manual will be assigned a date to be updated annually. They are working on the Grants manual now. She stated again they heavily rely on our input. She spoke of the bridge in Cheboygan that MSA was instrumental in pushing along. Jessica said 7300 miles will be open to ORV traffic in the Northern Lower Peninsula if Director Creagh signs the order.
- B. **GROOMED TRAIL PRESENTATION:** Jeff introduced Steve Dove to the group who began by explaining his website. He started it about 8 months ago. Discussion followed. Much of the information comes from the public. He is hoping to include trail reports, boon docking areas, etc. His email is sjdove007@gmail.com if you would like more information. This is at the beginning stages and he is here looking for feedback.
- C. **ALMOST SNOWMOBILER OF THE YEAR AWARD:** Jeff presented the award to Jim Dickie who was unable to attend the Convention this year. He told the group how Jim was got food poisoning and didn't make it out of his room the entire time. He then had to be taken back to the US for a hospital stay to get rehydrated before making it the rest of the way home. Congratulations Jim on this most prestigious award!
- D. **FOGGY'S PRESENTATION:** Jeff presented Chad and Sean from Foggy's with the Corporate member of the year award. They were unable to attend the Convention this year. This was done just before lunch. Congratulations!
- E. **MSA DUES:** Dave Neucherterlein said it may be time to increase our dues to cover MSA operations. The current dues are \$25 for a single or family membership annually. Dave said since we continue to take loans from MSEAF, perhaps now is a good time to raise the dues. Dave Campo suggested we leave the single membership alone and separate the family membership. It was recommended a committee be formed to look at the dues structure. The recommendations will be brought back to the January meeting. Jeff said the budget meeting will be in a few weeks, and the dues will be part of that discussion.

Motion by Mark Evans, second by Ron Vandervliet for Membership and Officers to look at dues structure and make recommendations. Motion Carried

- F. **SNOWBIKES:** Dave Neucherterlein feels we are missing a lot of revenue in the program by not putting a trail permit on them and allowing them on our trails. He understands the DNR has classified them as an ORV, however, he believes MSA needs to get behind the idea of them. Jeff said this is a hot topic.
- G. **CLEAN SNOWMOBILE CHALLENGE:** Stu Volkers said it is that time of year again to start thinking about it again. We usually send a crew of people over there and we need to let them know how many, and who is interested in going.
- H. **SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE:** Rich Rottier spoke about some signs being taken after he had put them up. He had Amy post it on the MSA Facebook page, and unfortunately unless you were looking for it, you couldn't find it. He said there is a certain way it needs to be posted. He then referred to Karen to explain more. Karen said she will post whatever anyone wants her to, but then it's your job to follow up. She reiterated to defend misinformation about MSA to those who chose to bash us, but please be professional and make sure you have the right information. And don't be confrontational.

- I. **MEETING DATES 2018:** Every person in attendance received a list of proposed meeting dates for the upcoming year. Bill and Karen will start working on locations for these meetings once the dates are approved. Seeing no issues Jeff asked for a motion. Bill noted the Convention date will be Only Oct. 20th.

Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by Mark Evans to approve the Meeting dates. Motion Carried.

XIII. **TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:**

REGION 1: Jim Duke referred to Keith Churill who is the Grant Sponsor for the Alger Co. area. He reported there is an area on Trail 419 that has been flooded. The issue is taken care of. A temporary bridge is going in there now. The Miners Castle Trail will still have to run on H-58 a little way. Don Britton reported in Marquette Trail 8 there is some bridge repair. Trail 14 north of US 41 won't be open until at least Christmas. Stu Volkens reported they are waiting for good snow.

REGION 2: Dave Campo said besides the Carmeuse property, there is one other project. No word from the DNR yet.

REGION 3: Bill reported they are waiting for Snow. Baldwin got permission to go to Whiskey Creek and possibly Crystal Valley. There is a trail number on that, but it will be changing.

- XIV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dave Campo asked about the membership cards. Ron told him they will be available at the next meeting. Dave said he will be more than willing to carry them in the groomer and hand them out to snowmobilers he stops and talks to. He also said if you have something not getting done, go over your DNR contacts head and contact your State Representative.

- XV. **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** The Next Meeting will be January 13th, 2018 at the Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum in Naubinway. Bill said the notice will go out shortly.

- XVI. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Moved by Ron Vandervliet, second by David Low to Adjourn. Motion carried*
Adjourned at 2:47pm