

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday December 8, 2018

Foggy's Steakhouse & Lounge Christmas, MI

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Kelts at 9:30 am. Jim led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Jim went over the housekeeping items. The Introductions then took place of all in attendance.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the Board was taken and recorded. The Secretary has that record available upon request.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Additions: None. Motion to take items out of order on *Moved by Jim Kelts, second by David Low to accept the agenda. Motion carried. Motion to take business out of order - Moved by Don Reed, seconded by Stu. Motion carried.*
- V. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed to the Board of Directors and are available at this meeting.
Moved by Don Reed to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
Forms for joining a committee were available for volunteering.
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark Pankner provided two handouts. One was the balance sheet. The other sheet is statement of Activity for the year. Statement as of Nov 2018 still owe the DNR about 3 million for trail permits. Clothing website has drawn a lot of business. Convention is still in budget. Membership dues are the life blood of the organization, getting close to budget goals but would like to exceed this. Newsletter and web pages are doing good. Magazine needs more Ads.
David low moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.
- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Jim Kelts said currently no communications updates.
- VIII. **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill handed out a copy of his report to all in attendance. (placed on file). Worked on a request to extend the grooming season if weather permits, MSA received a letter for the DNR denying the extension of the snowmobile grooming season. Received email that the trails to Copper Harbor are closed due to logging. Bill and DNR representative will investigate this since the DNR was not informed. Posted by Kewanee visitor and services so need clarification. Up 11,000 trail permits. He touched on some of the highlights which were; trail permits up 11,000, International Snowmobile Congress in Grand Rapids is going as planned. At the SAW meeting learned from the DNR that there are additional funds available in the snowmobile improvement account so will work with the DNR to spend those funds.
- IX. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. **LEGISLATIVE:** Bill Manson said a lot is going on. House bill 6124 and other packages currently on the floor e.g. needing to opt out of a recreation passport instead of opting in, needing a passport sticker to park in snowmobile trail head staging areas owned by the state. Prior to this bill maintaining trail head and plowing money came out of snowmobile budget. Negotiated change of language so that snowmobile funds will be reimbursed out of the passport revenue for trail head maintenance. Bill still needs to go to the house. Legislative ride also planned this year and have an ISMA grant to offset costs.
 - B. **MEMBERSHIP:** Sarah Long challenged everyone to join one new member by January. Sarah said the membership handout are working. Karen Middendorp said MSA membership is slightly under 10,000. Seeing membership increase from non members to members. Please contact Karen in the office for more information. Face to face invitations are very important.
 - C. **TRAIL COORDINATION:** no formal report
 - D. **PUBLICATION:** no formal report
- X. **OTHER REPORTS:**
 - A. **GROOMER WORKSHOP:** Groomer workshop March 1-3 in the Sault. Contact Don Reed if you have questions.
 - B. **RECREATION: Recreations Committee**
Chairman of recreation committee (a non-standing committee) assigned - Rich Rottier. Planning the MSA campout June 14, 15, 16, 2019 (Father Day weekend) in Waters. For RVs \$39/a day water and electric, \$40/a day for full hook up, if 20+ will get a discount.

Have cabins for non-RV individuals. Snowmobile and ORV friendly so can ride right out of the camp ground.

Motion to have MSA campout on June 14, 15, 16, 2019. by John Houk, Motion carried

- C. **ISC/ISC2019:** June 5-8th, 2019 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. Every club and grant sponsor will be getting a letter explaining about the event and inviting them to join. Bill Manson is currently putting all the committees together. Meeting with major sponsors e.g. Woodys, and DNR. Pure Michigan will not be major sponsor but are looking at other ways to assist in the event. Looking at other companies for sponsorship. 8 seminars will be at the event currently narrowing them down from 20 ideas. Detail about the event can be found at <http://www.internationalsnowmobilecongress.com/isc2019/> link to the registration form is at the site.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

- D. **BOD questions:** What direction the MSA should be going? Don Reed shared his thoughts about (1) how ORVs are not organized, (2) over 4 years prior requests from the legislators to have the ORVs join the under the MSA or give the ORVs guidance but the MSA board did not feel it was the correct time, (3) how currently ORVs look like snowmobiling did 30 years ago before snowmobilers were organized, (4) ORVs running helter-skelter since no coalition currently exist, Don Reed feels it is time for MSA to give ORVs a hand, to give leadership to the ORVs.

Important time in MSA since MSA has knowledge and experience to be the leaders for the ORVs. Don Reed said, "Lead follow or get out of the way." ORV and snowmobiling together to make one powerful organization for trails.

Motion by Don Reed that we revisit our status and stand on the joint venture between ORV and snowmobile combined to make one powerful organization for trails. This is the time. For this document ORV is including ORV, ATV and UTV.

Motion carried

Opened the floor for discussion: Some of the comments are: concern MSA is going to miss an opportunity to enhance the trails for both snowmobiles and ORV since the currently work with the same organizations and have a great relationship with these groups e.g. Legislative, DNR, FS. Some snowmobile clubs have become joint ORV and snowmobile clubs. Some club areas do not have designated ORV areas concerned with how it will become synergistic. Concerns that landowners will leave the snowmobile program because of ORV. Organizational level but need to keep certain areas separate. Currently ORV law is really messed up, MSA could help this. Off road vehicles at a group meeting they did not want to talk to each other and would not play together. Need to help the off-road vehicles to see the synergy and what they could accomplish if they work together, they need a leader who has gone down this path, like the MSA has. Jim Kelts communicated that the MSA could be this leader. The MSA could reorganize themselves into a new umbrella organization which would include snowmobiles and ORVs. This is not going to happen overnight, but now is the time to start. Big undertaking so needs to start with a committee. Intention to form a committee to work forward. Need new bylaws. The standing committee would identify pro, cons and what is needed to join snowmobiles and ORVs to form a new umbrella organization. Bill Manson commented that there are so many similarities between ORVs and snowmobiles especially since ORV use some snowmobile trails. There is also a push from the Senate, the house and DNR to have one program focus on trails. Especially since there are many fractures within the ORV, and the similar between ORVs and snowmobiles. 30 years ago, MSA was like the current ORV clubs, we had great clubs but not one organization to communicate a unified front. MSA through their clubs has already helped in molding a functioning funding program and laws for snowmobiles using the snowmobile clubs' voices which is currently much better than what exists for ORVs. The ORV law pushers, mostly the Cycle Conservation Club, have done a lot of work and have a great trail system. But as things grew, the DNR has put cycles, ORV, ATV, three wheels, UTV, jeeps, big tires, and mudders altogether as off-road vehicles. At off road meeting there is helter-skelter because they all want and need something different. Off road vehicles allows the DNR to write the law for this group which are not

in the group's best interests. An Umbrella organization is needed to mold the funding program and laws for snowmobile and ORV trails, so we have a united front.

Jim Kelts will form and appoint a committee which would look into forming a new organization, an umbrella organization for snowmobiles and ORVs. Vote 30 for 2 against.

Lunch break revisited this topic in the list of BOD opportunities. What MSA needs to do? See the attached spreadsheet for list.

XII. TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:

REGION 1: Jim Duke said since we just had a SAW meeting Bill Manson will cover updates in his report. Stu Volkers reported that funding to do replacement bridge in Duksert?? area, engineering is going to request bids, will be a 2 to 3 years before completion since in Federal forest. Going to be ½ million-dollar bridge.

REGION 2: Nothing to report

REGION 3: Bill Manson said no problems and some area just finished pulling out the corn.

SAW MEETING Bill Manson reported on the highlights. Michael gave new financial sheets. There were late money coming in from the last 3 years so now have an additional 6 million to spend in the snowmobile account. SAW Equipment subcommittee will be working with the DNR for recommendation for new grooming equipment, repair of equipment and special Maintenance projects. Will look to see if need special appropriation. Law enforcement division looking at revamping the division. Gary Haggler, Chief of DNR law contacted Bill to find out what we want and sent him questionnaire. Bill will be sending questionnaire to all directors for responses. Lower peninsular DNR to bring on land person on to spend permanent easement fund to create permanent trails between state land. There is 4.7 million available in the fund collected from \$8 of every registration. DNR has just appointed an off-trail snowmobile subcommittee, to communicate that off-trail is permitted in certain area. Sign committee have a couple of new stay on trail signs. Trail to Copper Harbor is closed because there is logging being done on private land. Hopefully opened by Christmas.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments about ORV is on the opportunity list

XIV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING: The Next BOD Meeting will be **March 16 2019**

XV. ADJOURNMENT: *Moved by David Low, second by Liz Holzwarth to Adjourn. Motion carried*
Adjourned at 3 pm