

**MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Mackinaw Beach and Bay Hotel**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Goss at 9:30 am. Jeff led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Jeff 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: (Old Business) {E} Nominating Committee Update (New Business) {E} 906 Festival {F} Hay Days  
*Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by John Houk 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 Sarah Long, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.*
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark provided two handouts. One was the balance sheet. He reminded everyone this was as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, and we are half way thru July now. The other sheet is our statement of Activity for the 10 months. Mark mentioned ISC2019, and said at this point we haven't set up another account for that, but that money in that line is for that. He asked that if you have suggestions for any ads for the magazines, please direct them to John Houk. Mark said he sees a lot of missed opportunities. Mark said at the end of July, Bill and Karen will settle up with the DNR on trail permits, so they will have a good number on amounts at that time. Dave Neucherterlein asked if we were in line with our budget. Bill reminded everyone that a Deficit Budget was approved in December. Jeff said a new balanced budget will be presented further down on the agenda, Karen explained to the group some payback procedures with trail permit agents,  
*Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Don Reed to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.*
- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Jeff said some of you have received some strange communications from him, which we will be talking about further down on the agenda. Other than that, he said there were no communications.
- VIII. **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill handed out a copy of his report to all in attendance. (placed on file). He touched on some of the highlights which were; Had a meeting with Experience Grand Rapids regarding our Congress. He went over the winners of the Start of Summer raffle. Attended the International Snowmobile Congress, got lots of new ideas from the states. Bill stated the attendance was down, with several states unfortunately unable to attend, so let's hope they can come to MI! Had a good SAW conference call on the way back from Halifax, where they introduced the Stay Right campaign. Bill suggested we recommend a Free Snowmobiling Weekend, and we discussed the best weekend to recommend. Jeff stated he would like to make sure MSA received joint credit with the DNR. If we are a partnership, we need to be a partnership.  
*Motion by Jim Kelts, second by Jeff Biggs to recommend Jan 11 - 13, 2019 to the DNR as a Free Snowmobile Weekend. Motion Carried.*
- IX. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **LEGISLATIVE:** Jim Dickie presented a handout to the group of the Legislation that is in the House or Senate at this time. We have several proposals we're hoping for, but all will probably have to wait until after the election year. PA 238, 239, and 240 were all passed by either the House or the Senate, and all were regarding Land acquisitions, land sales, and land management in some way. But they were passed back to the other side. Bill and Jim explained some of the other bills, and the Natural Resources Trust Fund. Most bills in legislation at this time will not affect snowmobiles. The report has been placed on file.
  - B. **MEMBERSHIP:** Jeff Biggs said they did raise the rates, and the president is sending out a letter to explain "Why" we needed to increase the rates. Jeff said the committee is working on putting together a To Go box right now for events. Jeff and Karen are working on a list of questions now on the most frequently asked questions. And finally, if you decide to purchase some membership cards, you get to pick the colors, and the sponsor information. It's a very inexpensive way to advertise! Please contact Karen in the office for more information.
  - C. **TRAIL COORDINATION:** Stu reported they are looking at a re-route to get out of one of the swampy areas. It's in the DNR's hands now, he said. He said it'll take them off private land and put them on state land. Jeff B. said he also has requested a re-route that is now in the DNR's hands.
  - D. **PUBLICATION:** John stated Marie has sent reminders to all those that are writing articles requesting they send them in promptly. She's working on the September issue now. John said we are always looking for more advertisers, so please, if you know anyone, send them to himself, or Marie. Donna asked about the magazines being on the web. Not at this time.
- X. **OTHER REPORTS:**
  - A. **CONVENTION:** Jim Duke reported as previously reported, we have arranged to have a single day annual meeting in lieu of a convention per direction of this Board. The location for the meeting will be in the Headwaters Room at Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord, Michigan on Saturday the 20th of October. Since we are combining two days of agenda into one, we recommend the meeting start no later than 9:00AM, and we must be completed and out of the building no later than 7:00PM. We plan to have a lunch catered so we won't need to pause the meeting any longer than necessary, and will decide cost per person and what it will be, once we

have a number of attendees staying for lunch. We have checked a variety of lodging facilities in the area for the dates of 18 October – 21 October and listed the most reasonable ones. There are no discounted blocks and everyone will be responsible making their own reservations. We are seeking sponsors for coffee & soft drinks for during the meeting, and financial contributions to be listed on our Sponsor Boards, have made contact prior donors, explained the reasoning for a one-day meeting rather than a convention, and have received a couple of pledges for financial contributions already, however, we don't anticipate much response since we aren't offering benefits as we could with a full blown convention weekend, but we will need to have the Sponsor Boards again.

- B. SWAP MEET:** Jim Dickie reported it will be Sept. 21 & 22, 2018. Karen said Jeff Biggs has agreed to help her with the show since Jim will be unavailable. Jim said they currently have 3 sponsors. Times will be Friday 4-8 and Sat 8am- 3pm. Contact Karen about volunteering.
- C. WEBSITE:** Karen said there are new and exciting updates to the website. One is the messenger bubble, which sends messages to bill or Karen immediately from our members and snowmobilers. That's a Great Tool. Karen said Nathan now has the logo on the clothing, which has helped some with our sales. She presented a few new items for the store. A bumper hitch, available for \$50, and a MSA Clock for \$150.
- D. MICHIGAN TRAILS & GREENWAYS:** Jim Dickie reported the Michigander ride started this week. And as of June 30<sup>th</sup> he is no longer on their board, he resigned. They have said anyone he recommends will be heavily considered for the position. So if you're interested, please let him know. Jeff thanked Jim for his 15 years in that position. Thank You Jim!
- E. FRIENDS OF THE FOREST:** Jim Duke stated there was nothing new to report since the last meeting, but the same problems still exist out west where the non-motorized factions are still rattling their swords over the Forest Service's failure to identify what constitutes "adequate snowfall" as well as a revision of Subpart C of the Travel Management Rule (OSV) to prescribe "Minimum Snow Depth". The final OSV Rule does not set or suggest using minimum snow depth or can adequate snowfall be determined by snow depth measurements. Again, this issue doesn't affect us now, but since the NFS is a federal agency, once any change to a federal guideline or regulation is implemented, it becomes applicable to all national forests. He will continue to monitor these issues as they move through the system. Bill Manson let the group know that the Supervisor of the Huron Manistee announced last week that they are going to open up the National Forest Service roads to OHV's. That's a Win for snowmobilers too! Don't go running out there yet, but stay tuned he said.
- F. GROOMER WORKSHOP:** It'll be March 1-3 in the Sault. Don said He. Karen, and Jeff are working on coming up with some classes. If you've never been to one, he encourages you to attend saying they are very worthwhile. He said if you have any suggestions, or anything you want to see, please let one of them know.
- G. ACSA:** Jim Duke said they had a webinar on RTP on the 25<sup>th</sup> of last month. It was fairly well attended and facilitated by Kim Raap. It covered such topics as building good grant applications; dealing with "Buy America"; Snowmobiling as a part of diversified projects; and how to package your projects for better success. ACSA also continues to be the watchdog for the progress with the NFS issues, including the one he just mentioned. Michigan continues to be a major player within the national committees, with Karen Middendorp accepting an appointment to the website committee; Bill being appointed to the Resource Committee as well as the Membership Committee along with Karyn Hautamaki. Finally, Ron accepted an appointment to the Fundraising Committee. All of these were by a request for volunteers.
- H. CHARITY:** Kaye reported out of the 99 clubs only 20 responded for the annual report. Kaye is going to look at putting together a letter or something letting them know where the information goes. More to come.
- I. MIDWEST CHAPTER:** Ron gave the Midwest Chapter report, and gave the group a recap of the happenings at our meetings in Halifax. Midwest Chapter has agreed to be a sponsor of our 2019 Congress! Thank You! The biggest discussion was the idea of changing from 3 councils to 2 regions. There was a committee formed to explore these ideas and others. More to come on this.
- J. BY-LAWS:** There have been no proposals brought to the committee at this time.
- K. NON-DUES REVENUE:** Jeff said no report at this time.
- L. RECREATION:** Jeff said the Campout was at the Antrim KOA, and was fairly well attended. He said it was a dreary weekend weather wise, and to those that stepped in on the officer breakfast, Thank You! Ron Thanked Jim Kelts who cooked all weekend. Thanks Jim!
- M. DNR UPDATE:** Jessica began by going over the highlights. Some are that Jackie Blodgett has asked for an overview of issues that PRD would like to share with the new Administration. She said MSA's input is important to them. ISC participation and interaction with 28 states and provinces is amazing! Sharing of ideas for marketing, issues and concerns, trends are very beneficial. She stated, Frank Wheatlake, who is chairman of MTAC, is asking for opinions on an extension of the snowmobile season. This is an Agenda item for July 23 meeting at the RAM center in Roscommon. She reported the Next SAW meeting will be held in conjunction with the MSA Annual meeting, Oct. 19th at Jays in Gaylord  
There is a NOHVCC conference, (very similar to ISC) August 13-18 in Grand Rapids. There's a Pre Ride Free event at Silver Lake Sand Dunes on Monday Aug. 13. Lean Process is moving forward. Along with that, The Automated Grants Processing bids will be reviewed on Aug 3 & 10. Houghton County – many concerns on the

impact to trails budget for rebuilding and support of the grant sponsors in that area. It will cost a lot of money, and until the breakdown on which trails are impacted, as in what kinds, the funding will be an issue. Scott Slavin reported on projects in the Cadillac region as well as a new trail proposal database. Stay tuned for that. Jeff Thanked Jessica and Scott for attending the meeting and said it has really been a welcome attrition to our agenda this last year.

#### **XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. WEB PAGE ADVERTISING:** Bill explained this is for the Web ads. This is for the Board Members to go to the businesses in their areas and sell for \$150 each, or \$250 if they want to buy 2 of them. He is sending out reminders. He said remember, advertisers can take them out anywhere on any page that's available.
- B. BUDGET:** Mark provided the group with the budget. Bill, and Mark explained some of the reasons for the raising and lowering of the incomes and expenses. They explained the trail permit section in detail to the group. It was noted that the budget was balanced.

*Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by Don Reed to accept the Balanced Budget. Motion Carried.*

- C. ISC/ISC2019:** Bill, Karen, and Christine recently toured the Amway Grand again and started looking at what rooms they were going to need. They were also looking at interesting places for the groomers and how to pull everything together. They have been in talks with Pure MI, but nothing final yet. Bill said in the next few months they will put committees together and start asking for volunteers. So stay tuned, and plan to come. Bill is hoping to get enough sponsors to have one or two people from every club come on the day Ed Klim gives his presentation to show them what organized snowmobiling is all about. He said, it would be great if we could make that happen. It's a great goal! June 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids.
- D. MAGAZINE DATES:** Already discussed. If you have an article, please turn it in, deadlines are passed for first article. Dates are in the magazine.
- E. NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Ron told the group the Secretary position is open, and is available still. If you are interested, please let one of the Nominating Committee know.

#### **XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. TRAIL REPORTS:** Karen explained they are turning the pins off on clubs that do not update their trail conditions. Karen makes several phone calls before this happens. The pins change color depending on how often you update.
- B. COMPROMISED EMAILS:** Jeff's email was compromised, so please be aware.
- C. HOUGHTON COUNTY:** Already discussed
- D. RACING EVENTS:** Bill explained The reason this was put on the agenda is we have been asked by a few to be a supporter several times of various racing events. The question came up about the I-500, and US-131. The concern is we would offend someone by not attending their ride or event. It was decided if you can go, please do.
- E. 906 FESTIVAL:** 1<sup>st</sup> Annual 906 Festival in Manistique on August 4<sup>th</sup>. It would be no cost to MSA, and Donna would be representing MSA. Thank You Donna!
- F. HAYDAYS:** Stu will be going to Hay Days again this year, if anyone is interested in going. The dates are Sept 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup>. As a side note, Stu added the "Les Cheneaux For Woman Only group", which has about 18 members he said, is requesting that something be put in the magazine stating they are one of the charities of choice. Please consider donating. He said anything that says, besides supporting MSA, please also support these charities.

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

**REGION 1:** Jim Duke reported he's sure you've been aware of the devastation to the trails in the Keweenaw and other places across the U P, and the number of both volunteers and agency staff from the DNR and NFS. Trails still closed as of this report are mostly in the Keweenaw, with major damages of about 150 washouts within a 59 mile stretch of trails, including portions of the Bill Nicholls trail; the Chassell-Houghton Grade; the Freda Loop; the Hancock-Calumet Grade; and the Lake Linden Trail. There is plenty of other damage to keep everyone busy on both county roads and state trunk lines, so if anyone has idle time and wants to get their hands dirty, he said he's sure the work crews can find a place to utilize your expertise. He said they are hoping to see some progress on the Doty Trestle Bridge replacement soon, but I haven't been told when the beginning date is, if it has even been selected yet. With all the unexpected damage from the storms, he's sure priorities will be reassigned and some projects will most likely be delayed, or postponed indefinitely. Stu reports some bridges will be replaced,

**REGION 2:** Nothing to report

**REGION 3:** No snow, no problem. Jeff what the progress was on connecting Hart to Cadillac/Baldwin. Bill said the last time he spoke to the Trailriders, they thought it was a go for this year. Someone else raised a question, and said they believed the project hit a snag and Richard turned it down. Jessica will research further,

- XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Karen received a few calls from people who don't want to have a July Meeting. They feel it's way too expensive. Mark Coe suggests we take the meeting somewhere in July where there isn't a boatload of tourists, and the rates aren't so high. Karyn asked Karen to look at clubhouses for the meetings to save on expenses.

*Barry made a Motion, Cindy Second to make one meeting in the Upper and one in the Lower. Motion Rescinded.*

- XV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** The Next BOD Meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Foggy's in Christmas. But don't forget the Annual meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Jays Sporting Goods in Gaylord.

- XVI. ADJOURNMENT:** *Moved by David Low, second by Jeff Biggs to Adjourn. Motion carried*  
Adjourned at 2:12pm