

**MISORVA**  
**Board of Director Meeting – Saturday January 11, 2020**  
**Location: Kewadin Casino St. Ignace, MI**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jim Kelts at 10 am. The Pledge of Allegiance was given. Introductions of the group were done.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the BOD was taken and recorded. A quorum was verified. Secretary has the recording available upon request. And WELCOME TO OUR THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS!
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *New Business (e) PA system (e) ISC*  
*Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by Mark Evans, to accept the Agenda. Motion carried.*
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file)  
*Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by Alan Kava, to accept the minutes. Motion carried.*
- V. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Two handouts. (Placed on file) Mark said the report is pretty self-explanatory. The donations are down, as is the Membership dues. The web ads have picked up considerably in the last 10 days. Please consider to push these. General expenses are all in line. Truck will be put up for sale after a replacement is found.  
*Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by David Low to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.*
- VI. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Karen said it's a work in progress, as these are some pretty big shoes to fill. She has been working hard to get Tara trained in the full time position, and work on the Legislative ride. Right now, the dates are scheduled for February 20-22, 2020. Karen has been working with Ann, who has said to plan for around 30, which is where it has been in the past. Karen reported Senator Stamas is very excited about a possible dirt Legislative ride this summer, so watch for that. Karen talked about us recommended the one permit for the ORV, and how we plan to approach that with the Legislators. It was mentioned again that all DNR personal is absent from our meetings again. She encouraged everyone to attend your town hall meetings and inform them how important snowmobiling is to us, our economy, etc., and especially our trail permits to our organization. Karen said please let her know if there is something you want her to do that she isn't,
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **LEGISLATIVE: Mark Evans.** Mark thanked the group for the get well card from the December meeting. He stated he isn't as familiar with the legislative ride as he needs to be, so he will get up to speed on that ASAP. On the docket to get thru legislation, or what we hope to get accomplished, is, of course, the pre-printed permits, as well as getting SAW signed into law, and getting wheeled vehicles off marked groomed trails between Dec, 1 and March 31. The legislative priorities are listed in the Sept/Oct issue of the magazine. If you need that list, please email Mark and he can get you that list,
  - B. **MEMBERSHIP: Ron Corbett.** Ron said he would like the membership committee to target District 7 for the ORV community. He spoke to a group who felt they are not being represented. By our group. He said, let's try to fix that. Ron stated Membership cards are available here, so please take some to pass out. Please sign some new members up. We are going to be watching for the Holly Oaks Park to be opening up, so we can be there. (Oakland Park) The Public relations committee was brought up at this time, it will be discussed further down. John Newman spoke about Novi and the cramped space and how the selling of trail permits vs. memberships went. More to come on that. Ed Richter recommended the two booths be split apart at Novi.
  - C. **TRAIL COORDINATION: Brian Hicks.** Brian commended the volunteers that are out there doing the work. On a local level, in Flint on January 15<sup>th</sup> there is a town hall meeting where they are looking at opening all roads to ORV's. Brian will be in attendance,
  - D. **PUBLICATION: John Houk.** John said he spoke with MSPN, and we are on target. If you have any articles you would like in the magazine, please send them to Karen in the office. The Jan/Feb issue will be proofed this next week. Jessica is writing articles for us again.
- VIII. **OTHER REPORTS:**
  - A. **ACSA: Jim Duke.** Jim reported on the National front, the House & Senate have agreed on a modified budget and has sent it to the President for consideration. It raises the debt ceiling by increasing both defense and non-defense spending, but RTP also will get an increase, although it has not yet been identified as to how much. Currently, Off-Road Motorized Recreation (including snowmobiles) generates nearly 300 million dollars to the Highway Trust Fund in revenue annually with about 33% being returned to the states for recreation programs. Congress has directed the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a study on how much money is contributed to the Fund by non-highway motorized use. Once completed the report should indicate how much gas tax revenue is generated by motorized recreation and a determination can be made on what percentage should be refunded. In no case will there be a decrease from what is currently being returned.  
The on-going controversy about the Department of Interior's decision to move the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) out of Washington, DC and relocate its headquarters in Colorado continues to be a hot ticket, but is gaining momentum. The DOI recently revamped its authority into 12 regions, encompassing the entire United States. Although Michigan does not fall under BLM jurisdiction, Pictured Rocks and other National Parks Lands are

managed by the DOI and we are in Region #3 designated Great Lakes Watershed, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Remember the International Snowmobile Safety Week begins on Saturday, 18 January and runs through Sunday, the 26th. If any clubs or associations hold events during this time, take pictures and let us know about it so we can promote the clubs or associations. The ACSA Calendars have finally arrived and are for sale, still at just \$20 each. Due to receiving them late, the first drawing for January will be held on Tuesday, 14 February so no one misses out on a chance to win. Remember, MISORVA gets \$5 back for each calendar sold in Michigan, so anyone selling to a non-resident be sure to mark the coupon as "sold in Michigan". Finally, don't forget about the Trespass Poster Challenge. Entries must be submitted by January 15th to be considered for one of the three winning prizes.

- B. **Charity: Kaye Houk.** Kaye reminded the group every year we ask you to keep track of your volunteer hours. This includes Any Non-Paid hours. Please update your officers lists with the office, as they are the ones who receives this information for the club. This information is used for the International Snowmobile community to explain to their different levels of government how important snowmobiling is as a revenue source, as well as what volunteer work is done. The more information that is provided as statistics to them, the better. Watch for Survey Monkey!
- C. **Midwest Chapter: Ron Corbett** Ron talked about the two different riding areas now, The Mountain riding areas, and the Trail riding areas. There is a Mountain Riding Summit Feb 21- 23 in West Yellowstone. He explained who is in the Midwest Chapter. They are going through the By-Laws now.
- D. **By-Laws: Jim Duke.** No new proposals at this time.
- E. **Friends of the Forest (UP only): Jim Duke.** The **Hiawatha** Headquarters in Gladstone is seeking a date compatible with all user groups for the Spring meeting. So far none submitted have been accepted or approved. The Ottawa no longer has a valid Friends Group. Of interest in the HNF West Zone, the RTP grant and the bid has been approved to commence work on the Doty Trestle Bridge replacement this Spring. The **Ottawa** Headquarters is located in Ironwood and has published the following statement: Trails in the ONF are primarily on forest roads including gated and bermed roads are open to snowmobiles unless specifically closed, in which case it will be signed as such. All gated gravel roads are open to all motorized and non-motorized use unless otherwise specified. All users are directed to stay on the roads and trails to prevent or reduce erosion. Due to the vast acreage of the Ottawa National Forest (almost 1 million acres) and more than 450 miles of designated snowmobile trails, it is recommended that contact with the grant sponsor for the trails in the area of choice be made for current trail conditions and possible closures during trip planning. Pete Finch will touch base with one side of the Huron- Manistee, and Brian Hicks will do the other side.
- F. **Groomer Workshop: Don Reed.** Don was unable to attend, but sent in a report, which Karen read, He reported that two days ago he had a conference call with Richard Kennedy and the other three members of the sub-committee for equipment. They had a discussion in great length and came to consensus to what the DNR and the sub-committee would like to see at the upcoming groomer workshop. By the end of the conference call, I think everyone understood what criteria is needed for the grant the DNR is proposing for two grant people from each grand sponsor @ 150 per person. This information will be passed back to Paul Yauk for his approval. Kennedy stated that he is 95% sure that this is going to happen. Everyone on the conference call understands that this is a work in progress and there's going to be bumps in the road but everyone thinks this is a great step forward. Accountability was a big topic. I think that has been resolved by a sign in sign out list for each class that is given. He wanted to make sure everyone understands that this money is not coming from the DNR itself it's coming from the Snowmobile Program. Dates are March 5-7; 2020 Room rates are \$81.00 per night.
- G. **Recreation: Rich Rottier.** Rich gave the dates for the Ride-In, coming up in less than a month in Watersmeet Hope to see you all there, there are some fun games planned Summer Ride-In is June 19-21, 2020 at the Headwaters Campground in Frederic. You can make your reservations now. More information to come in the upcoming months.

#### IX. Old Business:

- A. **Awards Program:** John went over what was recommended by the committee. The Applications to Nominate an individual have all been updated and will be placed on the web as soon as this is approved. We need to create a new trophy for the Almost ORV/ATV rider of the year. The deadline for submissions would be September 1st of Every year! We need an article in the magazine as well. Alan Kava asked about the committee taking care of judging the awards. The answer was not at this time. It has always been the officers, and at this time, it will remain this way. We can revisit it in the future.  
*Motion by Keith Churill, second by John Houk to accept as presented. Motion carried*
- B. **MISORVA Logo:** After a vote by the attending Board of Directors, the First Logo Presented was Chosen!
- C. **Dual Trail Maintenance Committee:** Dan Moore was the Chair of this committee, but has since stepped down. Don Britton stated they would like to find a way to work with the DNR to take the trade-ins from the snowmobile program, and have the ORV program purchase them for use of summer maintenance. There are several tractors that would work in the program. We all need to work together for the betterment of the trails. Members on the committee: Don Britton (Chair) Jeff Biggs, Keith Churill, Keith Lynch, Grant Dewitt.

- D. **\$6M Appropriations:** The appropriations have been released! There are 6 Tractors coming and 3 drags. Your letters are coming if you were told you had a piece of equipment coming.

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Grant Sponsor Feedback – MAGG Program:** Several members are stating they just can't get in. Alpena, Newberry. John Houk heard over 50% can't get in, and Karen said of every grant sponsor she has talked to, only one has managed to get in. Moving forward, we will be making recommendations to the DNR.
- B. **Public Relations Committee:** Stephanie Hubbard-Bergan commented we need to advertise ourselves better. She stated she has only been involved for a short time, however talking to the public, no one knows about MISORVA, or what we do. Ron Schroeder asked for this to be added to the agenda for this reason. We need a committee to handle the mis-information put on the internet. We need to get Proactive! Ron would like a fact sheet provided by the next meeting, that way any bad press online can be combated by Any member.

***John Houk makes a motion to establish a Public Relations Committee, Jeff Biggs second  
Motion Carried***

- C. **BOD Alternate Selection Process:** Jim Kelts went over the reason for the BOD alternate process. An email will be coming from Karen in the coming weeks for 2 members from your district. IF you plan to miss your meeting, YOU must contact your alternate.
- D. **SAW Positions:** The Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) has some vacancies, and we made some recommendations. The following was done. Scott Lacombe, Joe Bartlett, and Karen Middendorp.

***Jeff Biggs made a motion to support the recommendations to SAW, David Low second. Motion carried***

- E. **PA System:** John Newman recommends we get a new system. John said they have been shopping around already. He asked for a motion for about \$300.

David Low made a motion to allow for \$300 for a PA system, Brian Hicks second. Motion carried

**ED RICHTER DONATED \$400 TOWARDS A PA SYSTEM FOR US!! THANK YOU ED!!!**

- F. **Computer System:** The office computers are still working under Windows 7. We are looking at about \$3500. Mark and Karen have talked to a few different people about bids and what's needed with the server.

***Motion by Jeff Biggs, second by David Low to purchase the computer systems needed  
Motion Carried***

***Several Members have pledged \$100 towards the computer systems***

- G. **ISC:** The International Snowmobile Congress is in Regina, Saskatchewan this year! We need to know who all is going so we can sell back the other registrations. We have 12. As of now we have Karen, Bob, Lizz, Ron, David, Jim Duke, Karyn, and possibly one more.

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

**REGION 1: Jim Duke.** At the December SAW meeting, most of the major concerns were in Region 2 and only a couple for Region 1, both of which have already been discussed. On the issue of liability insurance, Paul Yauk said it's a good idea to shop around for the best deal, but be sure the policy is the same before dropping what you already have. The 2-day meeting for all MTAC Subcommittees is still scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at the RAM Center to review Trail Plan Updates. This is in lieu of the SAW preceding the groomer workshop, even though the SAW voted against it. Stu Volkers said the east side isn't really rideable right now.

**REGION 2:** Jeff Biggs reported there is a lot of water on the trails and still a lot of trees down.

**REGION 3:** David Low joked there are signs up that say motorized boats only. Just waiting for snow,

- XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Houk said there is a Trail stop in Millersburg on Feb.15<sup>th</sup>. Alan Kava, Feb 21-23 there is a Bikini Radar Run in East Jordon. Keith Churill asked again to Please get the name changed on the website from MSA to MISORVA.

**Ed Richter then Presented a Check to MISORVA for \$5000 for All the Help at the Sno-Motion! Thank You ED!!!!**

- XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** ***Motion by David Low, second by Jeff Biggs to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned***

**MISORVA Board of Director Meetings:**

May 16, 2020 - TBA

July 11, 2020 - TBA

Sept. 19, 2020 - TBA

October 17, 2020 – Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

December 5, 2020 - TBA

***\*\*If you cannot make the meeting, please contact the MISORVA Secretary for an excused absence. \*\****