

MISORVA

Board of Director Meeting (regular) – Wednesday November 11, 2021

Location: Electronic (Zoom) Meeting

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by President John Newman at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the BOD was taken and recorded by Secretary, Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen. The recording of the meeting is available upon request. Excused absences included: Rob LaLonde, Keith Lynch, Stu Volkers, and Ron Schroeder. Unexcused absences include: Tony Harry, Sean O'Neill, Grant Dewitt, Cindy Hammers, Andrea Eder, Roger Kilbury, David Low, Michael Marz, Bob Meyers, Todd Maschke, Ed Richter, and Mark Evans. Guests include: Dave Titus, Nick Ferrante, Mike Keith, Josh Driscoll, Jim Schuler, Jeff Kuchnicki, Jessica Holly-Roehrs (MDNR), Carly Kraima.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** "Committees" added as line "a" under New Business by John Newman.
Motion by Ken McCrum to accept the agenda with addition. Agenda approved by unanimous vote.
Motion by Don Britton to take agenda items out of order. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file.)
Motion by John Houk to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- V. **TREASURER'S REPORT & PAYMENT OF BILLS:** **Mark Pankner.** Balance Sheet and Statements for September and October 2021 were reviewed. (Placed on file.)
Motion by John Houk to accept the September Treasurer's report. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
Motion by Jim Berens to accept the October Treasurer's report. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:** **Karen Middendorp.** Karen reported that a request that was received by the office from a concerned member regarding the legal battle that is being ensued by Bear Belly Bar/Lac La Belle Lodge with Mt. Bohemia ski resort. We do not assist with legal expenses. They are not MISORVA commercial members. Contact Karen if you would like a link for further information.
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. **Legislative: Lyle Curry.** HB 4205/6 regarding the free snowmobile weekend appears to be stalled in committee therefore the possibility of having it this season is minimal. HB 4535 regarding the wheeled vehicles on groomed trails is also stalled in committee. No other bills appear to moving either. Lyle plans to schedule a committee meeting by the end of the year.
 - b. **Membership: Brad Beardsley.** The Novi show had a good turnout. We are waiting on final figures from the office. Calls are being made to expired commercial members. Carly Kraima reported rough figures from Novi show: Friday – 18 new, 16 renewals, Saturday – 44 new, 28 renewals.
 - c. **Publication: Rich Rottier.** Please send items in for the Jan/Feb magazine.
 - d. **Trails Region 1: Rob LaLonde.** No report.
 - e. **Trails Region 2: Alan Kava.** Alan was just given chair position yesterday. He will begin presenting a report next meeting.
 - f. **Trails Region 3: Mark Evans.** No report.
- VIII. **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - a. **ACSA/Midwest Chapter: Ron Corbett.** ACSA was present at the Novi show. Ron was surprised how many snowmobilers were unaware of ACSA and MISORVA.
 - b. **Charity: Kaye Houk.** Please remind your clubs to document volunteer hours. This includes any time given without payment (church, service organizations, meal deliveries, etc.)
 - c. **By-Laws: Mark Evans.** No report.
 - d. **Friends of the Forest:**
 - i. **Ottawa Forest: Ernie Reimann.** No report.
 - ii. **Hiawatha West: Sean O'Neill.** No report.
 - iii. **Hiawatha East: Stu Volkers.** No report.
 - iv. **Huron: Gary Blaser.** USFS roads are open! Fall work is near completion.
 - v. **Huron Manistee: Pete Finch.** USFS roads are open! There is increased traffic due. Winter prep is complete.
 - e. **Public Relations Committee: Jeff Mariucci.** Social media saw some increased comments when the announcement was made regarding HR 4535 being passed by the House. Most discussions have been internal within our Board.
 - f. **Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup: Keith Churill.** MTU is currently conducting a study on groomer maintenance. The Equipment sub-committee will recommend SAW specifications on purchases. The Snow Country Conservancy is still funding trail easements and acquisitions for permanent trails. SAW requested an update on the delayed 2020 acquisitions. The funding is delayed in the state budget office. Ride Right placemats are available from the MDNR. SAW motioned for the Trail Improvement Program to pay for two members from each grant sponsor to attend our Groomer Workshop. Don Britton also mentioned that the Equipment sub-committee will be meeting November 20th in Naubinway to put discuss new groomer specifications due to the

many requests for extras on the equipment. Keweenaw Trails has received both of their new groomers and Presque Isle received their drag last week. Many may not see their new equipment due to the supply chain and the John Deere strike. Don believes that sponsors could switch brands if they can locate a piece of equipment equivalent in price.

g. **ORV Advisory Workgroup: Keith Lynch.** No report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2021 Annual General Membership Meeting: John Newman.** Treetops Resort was a nice place our annual membership meeting that was held October 23rd. We had approximately 15 ORVs for a ride on Friday. Tally's in Lewiston picked up our lunch tab.
- b. **Novi Snowmobile USA Show: Karen Middendorp.** This year's show was significantly smaller in size but the Suburban Showplace spread out the displays to make it appear full. We sold approximately 1700 trail permits. The warm weather may have had an impact on the lower attendance. Some dealers opted out due to reduced inventory and staff.
- c. **MDNR Safety Instructor Program: John Newman.** The new MDNR system is difficult to use but it will be very nice once it is fully available. Karen Middendorp reminded individuals to contact Mike Hearn from MDNR for assistance. John Newman offered his assistance as well. Mike Hearn may put together a Zoom call for instruction on accessing the system.
- d. **2020 Appropriations: John Newman.** While attending the Sportsman's Legislative Congress in Lansing today, John spoke with Senators Ed McBroom and Rick Outman regarding the delay in funding. Both senators have agreed to check into it. Karen Middendorp reminded everyone that the delay is at the state budget level not the DNR level. If the money is not received soon the grant sponsors will see a second year's delay in equipment.
- e. **House Bills 4535/4536: John Newman.** John stressed that we need to work constructively on this issue and not attack one another. It is not a perfect bill and was drafted by legislative professionals. He thanked the ORV community for bringing their concerns to our attention. There does need to be some clarifications to make it enforceable. We forwarded the concerns to the legislators and will await their response. This may take a while. Please treat one another with respect when discussing this legislation.
Motion by Ron Corbett to table the review of House Bills 4535 and 4536 until the evaluation is received.
Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- f. **Law Enforcement: John Newman.** Smaller communities are unable to enforce ORV ordinances if they do not employ specifically trained law enforcement officers (LEO). John has reached out to the president of the Fraternal Order of Police. He will investigate and supply John with further information. John explained the particulars of why certain law LEOs cannot write specific citations. This will be a huge undertaking as changes may very well require adjustments to current state laws.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

a. **Committees: John Newman.** It is very important for every director be on a committee. If you do not volunteer for one that peaks your interest, you will be assigned one in the near future.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT: Mike Keith asked for a list of committees. New directors will receive a list in the packets. Please send an email to the office about which committee you would prefer. Gary Blazer asked about the \$1.5 million grant. We are waiting on specifics from the state before putting together a committee. Dave Nuechterlien questioned any new snow trail closures. Lake Linden are still under repair and the Trail 109 reroute will remain. Jessica Holley-Roehrs reminded everyone to use the MDNR webpage for a list of current closures. Don Britton stated that the December SAW meeting should be in person on December 2nd also at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste Marie.

XII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste Marie on Saturday December 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**If you cannot attend, please contact the MISORVA Secretary via email, call, or text prior to the beginning of the meeting. **

Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen 586-524-5802 or shb16@sbcglobal.net

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: ***Motion by John Houk to adjourn. Adjournment of meeting approved by unanimous vote.***

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.