

MISORVA
Board of Director Meeting (regular) – Saturday December 11, 2021
Location: Electronic (Zoom) Meeting

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by President John Newman at 10:05 a.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 include: Don Britton, Tony Harry, Keith Churill, Grant Dewitt, Stu Volkers, Cindy Hammers, Andrea Eder, Ted Truckey, Michael Marz, Bob Meyers, Rich Rottier, Jim Berens, Ed Richter, Mark Evans, Lee Palmer and Jeff Mariucci. Guests include: Karl Davenport, Mike Keith, Paul Anderson, and Carly Kraima.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** “Committees” added as line “b” and “ORV Groomer Workshop as line “c” under New Business by John Newman. “Permanent Trail Fund” added as line “d” under New Business by John Griffin.
Motion by John Houk to accept the agenda with addition. Agenda approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) Typographical errors brought to our attention.
Motion by Kaye Houk to accept the minutes with corrections. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- V. **TREASURER’S REPORT & PAYMENT OF BILLS:** **Mark Pankner.** Balance Sheet and Statement for September through November 2021 was reviewed. (Placed on file.)
Motion by John Griffin to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- VI. **COMMUNICATIONS:** **Karen Middendorp.** No report.
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. **Legislative: Lyle Curry.** See Fresh Tracks newsletter for good information. Huron Manistee Forest has opened forest roads for motorized use as of October 1st. The USFS District Offices has printed maps as well as digital ones available on their website. The \$1.15 million dollar grant for our grant sponsors additional uses has been approved by Governor Whitmer. Specifics are pending. House Bill (HB) 4026 in regards to the state’s recreational passport has also been approved for two-year registrations. There is no movement on the other bills that we are watching. John Newman stated that HB 4535 (groomed trail usage) is in the Legislative Services Bureau currently awaiting a rewrite.
 - b. **Membership: Brad Beardsley.** Membership is up. Please spread the word to potential members. Carly Kraima reported that the Expired 2015-2020 Members mailing has been completed. The office is beginning to see returns via both mail and website.
 - c. **Publication: Rich Rottier.** No report. December 14th is the deadline for the next publication.
 - d. **Trails Region 1: Rob LaLonde.** Very little grooming due to the lack of snow. There are still closures in the Keweenaw. Donna Cody reported that SCMTA. is actively reviewing changes for Trail 2 between Gulliver and Blaney Creek. Straits Area Snowmobile Club is undergoing some internal turmoil. Further information pending.
 - e. **Trails Region 2: Alan Kava.** JVTC is still experiencing issues with a local land owner on Pinney Bridge Road (Trail 4). Karl Davenport believes that the local road commission is also dealing with the land owner. Representative Ken Borton and lobbyist Tristan Cole are aware of the issues and are apparently working behind the scenes. Karl stated that the MDNR’s local Conservation Officer has threatened trespassing charges for the club. The club is currently leaving the area alone. John Newman reported that the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds have lost a section on Trail 3 to Maple City due to trespassing. They are working on a reroute but it will not be available this year. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the Pinney Bridge Road issue.
 - f. **Trails Region 3: Mark Evans.** No report.
- VIII. **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - a. **ACSA/Midwest Chapter: Ron Corbett.** Please sign up for the ACSA Newsletter on their website or social media. They give detailed information about current issues. ACSA still has raffle calendars. These benefit both 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.** The Sun Lake logging project should not affect much of the local trail system. ACSA is interested in performing the Enlightenment Ride in the forest, but have to wait for gathering restrictions to be lifted at the federal level.
 - ii. **Hiawatha West: Sean O’Neill.** The trail south of Christmas is being plowed by the landowners. Alger SORVA has been working on widening the rideable area.
 - iii. **Hiawatha East: Stu Volkers.** No report.
 - iv. **Huron: Gary Blaser.** Gary received a complaint from a Lewiston area local regarding summer trail maintenance because he is using his personal tractor to groom. Karen Middendorp commented that Gary should suggest to the individual that he contact the MDNR to request the name of the group that purportedly is responsible for ORV grooming as the Lewiston Area Groomers are only a snow grant sponsor.

- v. **Huron Manistee: Pete Finch.** The local ranger reached out to Pete regarding a social media post from a group called the Dirt Dudes riding through the forest in a negative manner and ending their ride in the parking lot of Coyote Crossing Resort. Pete assured the ranger that he did not endorse the group or their riding habits. The ranger stated that the recently opened forest roads could be closed if they were not respected. The USFS has the trails digitally mapped but there are not yet any physical markers.
- e. **Public Relations Committee: Jeff Mariucci.** Ron Schroeder relayed that the East Jordan Snowmobilers and the South Arm ORV Club will be merging to form a combined interest group. Kudos to Kalkaska County Sand and Snow for doing a great job on the ORV trails this year.
- f. **Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup: Keith Churill.** Karen Middendorp commented that they also had a lengthy discussion regarding the Pinney Bridge Road issue. There was resolution created about the purchase of standard equipment on the groomers. The current sponsor handbook is to be revised via a committee. MDNR has approved two registrations for each grant sponsor to attend the Groomer Workshop. There was also discussion about GPS devices being placed in the groomer. Many groups are opposed to perceived "open tracking" of groomers. Further discussion within SAW will occur.
- g. **ORV Advisory Workgroup: Keith Lynch.** There will be a combined SAW/ORVAW meeting next week regarding House Bill 4535. Many individuals have expressed the need to know when trails are groomed so that they can be avoided.

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **2020 Appropriations: John Newman.** Trail restoration money for the Keweenaw area was removed from the current appropriations by the budget office. We are hopeful that the equipment money will be appropriated during the next approval step. There will not be enough time to order equipment for this year.
- b. **Law Enforcement: John Newman.** John contacted the Fraternal Order of Police president. There have not been any meetings. This will be a long-term project as state laws will need to be revised.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **2022 Meeting Schedule: John Newman.** Meeting schedule dates were provided via an attachment. The in-person meetings will continue to be assessed for gathering restrictions and safety. As we near specific dates we will solicit local clubs to guide rides. Jim Kelts questioned the February Legislative Ride. Karen Middendorp is working on it with Karoub, but we are at the mercy of Covid restrictions to finalize it.
- b. **Committees: John Newman.** Please volunteer for your committee of choice by next week. Assignments will be made by the end of the month.
- c. **ORV Groomer Workshop: John Newman.** There are several clubs that have taken on summer grooming for the ORV community. Hopeful that we can put something together this spring even if it is via an electronic meeting. Ron Schroeder questioned if a list is available for dirt sponsors. Karen stated that we know about them if they are a grant sponsor, but a group as large as the Cycle Conservation Club farms it out to individual groups within their club. ORVAW board needs to be made aware of the trail issues so that they can hold these groups accountable.
- d. **Permanent Trail Fund: John Newman.** John Griffin stated that many non-motorized groups would like to push motorized groups out of the public areas. He feels that acquiring permanent trails is the key to saving our sports. Karen Middendorp commented that there are active discussions with some large timber companies to acquire land for trails and off-trail riding areas. If you know of any available land please contact MDNR (Ron Yesney or Rob Katona) or Karen.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ron Schroeder questioned the Novi Snow Show permit sales. Karen Middendorp responded that it was approximately 2000 permits which was lower than the last show but memberships were increased. Dan White stated that dirt grooming was overwhelming. Sponsors need to request funds from the ORV program. Jim Kelts responded that his group requested ORV funds for summer grooming. The fall grooming was charged to the snow program. Gary Blazer stated that he believed grooming through December 1st should be funded from the ORV program. Ken McCrum expressed his discontent that the Rogers City project will be spending additional funds for EGLE consulting fees. John Houk questioned the dates of the snow Groomer workshop. It will be March 3-5, 2022 in Sault Ste Marie. Registration will be \$175. Info will be mailed this week. John Newman received a request from onX OffRoad (mobile app) for a sponsorship from MISORVA. We will wait for further information. He also reminded us to support our website sponsors as they help us move motorized recreation forward.

XII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will tentatively be held at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste Marie on Saturday January 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a ride on Friday January 7. More info to follow via email as we continue to assess each in-person meeting and ride for our safety during the continuing pandemic.

****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 Ron Corbett to adjourn. Adjournment of meeting approved by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. Electronically signed by Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen on January 8, 2022