

General Membership Meeting

October 14, 2023 10:00 a.m. Gaylord, MI

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- I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance / Welcome (Todd Maschke)
- II. Introduction of Officers, Guests, and Others (Todd Maschke)
- III. Approval of Agenda (Todd Maschke)
- IV. Minutes of Previous General Membership Meeting (Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen)
- V. Nomination of Officers
- VI. Vice-President's Report (Todd Maschke)
- VII. Executive Director's Report (Karen Middendorp)
- VIII. Treasurer's Report (Mark Pankner)
- IX. Standing Committee Reports
  - a. Legislative (Paul Anderson)
  - b. Trails Coordination (vacant)
  - c. Membership (Brad Beardsley)
  - d. Publication (Brad Beardsley)
- X. Special Committee Reports
- XI. Final Nomination of Officers
- XII. Public Comment
- XIII. Vice-President's Closing Remarks (Todd Maschke)
- XV. Adjournment (Todd Maschke)







**Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association**  
**Proposed Budget 2023-2024**  
**Through Twelve Months Ending August 31, 2023**

| <b>INCOME</b>           | <b>Annual Budget<br/>2022-2023</b> | <b>As of<br/>8/31/2023</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Budget<br/>2023-24</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ACSA                    | \$1,200.00                         | \$1,665.00                 | \$100.00                               |
| Board / Annual Meetings | \$1,250.00                         | \$1,248.00                 | \$0.00                                 |
| Clothing & ACC.         | \$15,000.00                        | \$12,984.95                | \$5,600.00                             |
| Donations               | \$40,000.00                        | \$27,658.15                | \$26,000.00                            |
| Fund Raising Non Dues   | \$3,000.00                         | \$554.00                   | \$4,000.00                             |
| Grand River Interest    | \$200.00                           | \$1,853.35                 | \$30,000.00                            |
| Groomer Workshop        | \$30,000.00                        | \$43,337.95                | \$46,000.00                            |
| ISMA Grant              | \$2,500.00                         | \$2,500.00                 | \$3,000.00                             |
| Membership Dues         | \$125,000.00                       | \$121,108.00               | \$125,000.00                           |
| MSEAF Contract          | \$35,000.00                        | \$32,202.00                | \$40,000.00                            |
| Newsletter              | \$5,000.00                         | \$4,378.00                 | \$6,000.00                             |
| Postage - Trail Permit  | \$4,000.00                         | \$4,319.00                 | \$4,200.00                             |
| Member Events           | \$5,000.00                         | \$0.00                     | \$1,000.00                             |
| Ticket Sales            | \$12,000.00                        | \$10,345.88                | \$5,000.00                             |
| Web Ads                 | \$2,000.00                         | \$1,050.00                 | \$2,000.00                             |
| Web Links               | \$6,500.00                         | \$10,800.00                | \$10,400.00                            |
| Trail Permits - \$1.00  | \$9,500.00                         | \$9,482.00                 | \$9,500.00                             |
| Trail Permit Agents     | \$28,000.00                        | \$16,790.75                | \$17,000.00                            |
| Agent Processing        | \$1,500.00                         | \$1,850.00                 | \$2,000.00                             |
| Internet Shipping       | \$0.00                             | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                                 |
| Memorials               | \$500.00                           | \$0.00                     | \$0.00                                 |
| Reimbursement Exec Dir  | \$0.00                             | \$1,777.66                 | \$2,500.00                             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     | <b>\$327,150.00</b>                | <b>\$305,904.69</b>        | <b>\$339,300.00</b>                    |

**EXPENSE**

| <b>Administrative Expense</b> | <b>Annual Budget</b> | <b>As of</b>        | <b>Proposed</b>     |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Accountant                    | \$5,000.00           | \$199.05            | \$4,200.00          |
| Legal Fees                    | \$0.00               | \$3,357.50          | \$0.00              |
| Computer Services             | \$2,500.00           | \$8,016.27          | \$4,000.00          |
| Insurance & Security          | \$3,000.00           | \$2,136.00          | \$2,500.00          |
| Office Equipment              | \$10,000.00          | \$5,513.77          | \$6,500.00          |
| Salaries & Payroll            | \$120,000.00         | \$121,490.34        | \$150,000.00        |
| Utilities                     | \$8,000.00           | \$7,632.91          | \$9,000.00          |
| <b>Total Adm. Expense</b>     | <b>\$148,500.00</b>  | <b>\$148,345.84</b> | <b>\$176,200.00</b> |



## MISORVA

General Membership Meeting (annual) – Wednesday October 22, 2022

Location: Gaylord, Michigan

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/WELCOME:** Meeting was called to order by President John Newman at 10:02 a.m.
- II. **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS, GUESTS, AND OTHERS:** President John Newman introduced Vice-president: Jeramey Valley, Secretary: Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen, Treasurer: Mark Pankner, Past President: Jim Kelts, and Executive Director: Karen Middendorp.  
Meeting attendees included Brian Hicks, Darlene Hicks, Lee Palmer, Gudrun Prestine, Dan White, Mark Sellner, Bryan VanNett, Steve Veltman, Ken McCrum, Bradley Potter, Dan Bergen, Roy Hart, Judy Hart, Pat Peterson, Archie Cole, Pete Finch, Chuck Pope, Jeff Mariucci, David Satchell, John Hurry, Greg Ruppel, David Low, Dave Gentry, Todd Maschke, Scott Matteson, Gary Blaser, and Roger Kilbury.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** No changes presented.  
*Motion by Ken McCrum to accept the agenda. Agenda approved by unanimous vote.*
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:** Minutes were made available at this meeting. (Placed on file.)  
*Motion by Brian Hicks to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- V. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** Welcoming of attendees was given by Michigan State Representative Michelle Hoitenga. As an avid hunter, fisher, and rider, she will work tirelessly for our sports as she expands her abilities by running for a Senate seat.
- VI. **NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:** The Nomination Committee consists of Brad Potter (chairperson), Archie Cole, and Pete Finch. Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen nominated Jeramey Valley for President. Jeramey Valley nominated Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen for Secretary. Ken McCrum nominated Mark Pankner for Treasurer. All three individuals accepted their nominations. All nominations are suspended until after lunch.
- VII. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** John Newman. See Addendum.
- VIII. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Jeramey Valley. See Addendum.
- IX. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Karen Middendorp. See Addendum. Jeff Mariucci questioned the effectiveness of our lobbyist group, Karoub Associates. Karen stated that they instrumental in our acquisition of the Miracle Millions grant. Gary Blaser suggested that we e-mail our legislators and express the need for dirt grading equipment. Please cc Karen Middendorp on any correspondence.
- X. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark Pankner. Balance Sheet and Statements were provided and reviewed. (Placed on file in office.)
- XI. **AWARDS:** Ogemaw Hills Snowmobile Club was awarded the Snowmobile Club of the Year award for 2022-23.
- XII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. **Legislative:** Paul Anderson. See Addendum. Chuck Pope expressed gratitude on our stance towards the Camp Graying Expansion Proposal.
  - b. **Membership:** Brad Beardsley. See Addendum. Please forward any ideas to the committee members.
  - c. **Publication:** Brad Beardsley. See Addendum. Brad would like to have a goal of additional MISORVA news in the magazine (i.e. individual and club highlights).
  - d. **Trails Region 1:** Todd Blanchard. Todd spoke with Steve Hamilton of Gogebic Range Trail Authority. Trail 2 has been closed. The new ski resort landowner, who wanted extremely high insurance and local indemnity, walked out of their talks. Alger Co. Road Commission (RC) will be repaving approximately 1.1 miles of Trail 422 (Miner's Castle). Snowmobiles will not be allowed on this pavement. They are estimating \$1.25 million for a reroute. The trail may close for the 2023-24 season.
  - e. **Trails Region 2:** Ted Truckey. Pete Finch reported that due to more hard pack on the trails they have experienced less destruction on the Manistee National Forest (NF) trails. Wexford County RC has been maintaining these roads. Jim Kelts reported that Ogemaw County RC maintains the roads in Huron NF. Jeramey Valley reported that Canada Creek Ranch Snowmobile Club has resigned as a grant sponsor. Great Lakes Dual Sporters has petitioned and been accepted as the new grant sponsor. They currently have one tractor and drag and there is a possibility of them leasing a second one.
  - f. **Trails Region 3:** Jim Berens. See Addendum.
- XIII. **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
**Charity:** Kay Houk. See Addendum.  
**By-Laws:** Roy Hart. See Addendum.  
**Public Relations:** Jeff Mariucci. See Addendum.
- XIV. **FINAL NOMINATION OF OFFICERS:** Mark Pankner nominated Jim Kelts for Vice-President. *Motion by David Low to close the nominations for Officers and vote. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*

Jeramey Valley accepted the nomination for President. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect him as President.

Jim Kelts accepted the nomination for Vice-President. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect him as Vice-President.

Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen accepted the nomination for Secretary. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect her as Secretary.

Mark Pankner accepted the nomination for Treasurer. Attendees unanimously voted, by show of hands, to elect him as Treasurer.

**XV. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chuck Pope thanked the Executive Board and the Executive Director for all of their hard work this year. Brian Hicks suggested holding annual district meeting for Board of Director elections. Mark Pankner thanked John Newman for his dedication in the role of President.

**XVI. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS:** John Newman thanked everyone for getting through another crazy year. If anyone is interested in a MISORVA banner, please contact him or the office. They can be customized with membership info, QR codes, etc. for local clubs.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion by Roger Kilbury to adjourn. Adjournment of meeting approved by unanimous vote.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.*

DRAFT



## **ADDENDUM to 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes:**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** In addition to phone calls and emails I attended the following events. I tried to remember them all but may have missed a few.

October - MISORVA ORV Ride Gaylord, MISORVA General Membership Meeting, DNR Grant Snow Sponsors Pre-season UP, Officers Coffee Zoom, Region 2 District 4-6 BOD Elections, ORV Advisory Workgroup (ORVAWG) Teams  
Region 3 District 7-9 BOD Elections, DNR Grant Sponsor Pre-Season LP, Grace Performance Open House

November - Region 1 District 1-3 BOD Elections, NOVI Snowmobile Show, NOVI Snowmobile Safety Class, Region 1 District 1-3 BOD Elections, Officers Coffee x2, Michigan Trails Advisory Council Teams, Support the Sport Zoom, MISORVA BOD Meeting, Sportsmen's Caucus Breakfast State Capital, Saw Equipment Sub Committee Meeting Naubinway  
December - Officers Coffee x3, Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) Teams, December BOD Meeting, DNR Event Manager Training Class. Western UP Grant Sponsors Teams, Support the Sport x2 Zoom, OnX Offroad Zoom, DNR Catch Up Zoom Meeting

January - Officers Coffee x2, MISORVA BOD Zoom, DNR Safety Instructor Teams, Snow Trails Conservancy Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom x2, DNR Catch up Zoom, SAW/ORVAWG Zoom HB 4535 x2, DNR Land Use Teams

February - DNR Grant Sponsor Workshop, Officers Coffee Zoom x3, Legislative Committee Zoom, Miracle Millions Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom, Groomer Workshop Zoom

March - Groomer Workshop Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom x2, March Ride St. Ignace Michigan, Legislative Committee Zoom, MISORVA BOD Zoom, Officers Coffee Zoom x2, MSEAF Zoom, Michigan Trails Advisory Comm. Teams, Publication Committee Zoom

April - Legislative Committee Zoom, Officers Coffee Zoom, ORV Trail Improvement fund Grant Sponsor Teams, Publication Committee Meeting Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom, Gateway Trail on Belle Isle Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, MISORVA Budget Planning Meeting Saginaw

May - MISORVA ORVAWG/SAW HB 4535 Zoom, MISORVA Budget Zoom, ORVAWG Teams Meeting, Legislative Committee Zoom, MSEAF Meeting Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom x2, Public Relations Committee Zoom, Miracle Millions Zoom, Publication Committee Zoom, MISORVA BOD Zoom, Miracle Millions Meeting Gaylord, Legislative Luncheon Planning Zoom, Legislative Luncheon Lansing, Support the Sport Zoom, May ORV Ride Indian River, MISORVA BOD Zoom, American Council of Snowmobile Associations Teams, Officers Coffee Zoom

June - Huron-Manistee National Forest 10-yr plan Zoom, Legislative Committee Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom x2, MISORVA BOD Zoom, ORV Safety Instructor Safety Class by DNR Higgins Lake

July - Officers Coffee Zoom x2, ORV Activity Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom

August

Officers Coffee Zoom x2, BOD Ride with Ride Allegan County Group, Legislative Committee Zoom, Support the Sport Zoom, MISORVA BOD Zoom, Public Relations Committee Zoom, ORVAWG Teams

September - Officers Coffee Zoom x2, SAW Teams, International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Eagle River WI, ASCA Trails Committee Meeting, Central UP Grant Sponsor Teams, Western UP Grant Sponsor Teams, Eastern UP Grant Sponsor Teams, North Central LP Grant Sponsor Teams, SW LP Grant Sponsor Teams, MISORVA BOD Zoom

October

American Trails Using Social-Media Teams, Membership Committee Zoom, Officers Coffee Zoom, ORV Ride with DNR Trail Coordinator Tim Novak, Guest speak at Rosco Higgins Trail Cruisers ORV and Snowmobile Club Kick-off Party  
Thank you for all your help and support. – John Newman

**VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The Vice President's role is to serve in the absence of the President, and to lead with the officers in guiding the association. To that end, for the past year, I've not had to fill in for John Newman since he's made it to every meeting and, I believe every function. I did get to fill in for Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen as secretary for one meeting. With the Officer's, we've had bi-weekly meetings, I've also participated in several committee meetings, but certainly not all of them. That's what the VP has done for MISORVA.

Related to that, I groom and maintain trails with my club. That's 54 miles of ATV trail that we brush, sign, and grade with my son three times per season. We also do trail repair work, where we bring low spots back up to grade and generally work to stop erosion. We use ATVs, utility tractors, dump trailers, mini-excavators, and our grading equipment to make this happen. This fall, we've also taken on the snowmobile trails around Atlanta. We've started fall brushing and sign work and are looking forward to grooming this winter and hope to start grading it in the summer.

Outside of trail work, I've also been in attendance at DNR trail maintenance workshops and other meetings. – Jeramey Valley

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** 2022 Will this be the new normal? This past year has been a very big learning year, due to the continuing restrictions and sudden uptick and down turn of positive cases of COVID, many meetings were held

virtually which allowed me to attend literally hundreds of meetings! Actually, a big benefit to me, many I would not have otherwise been able to attend. So, for that extremely small, very tiny piece of COVID I am thankful! Thank you also for allowing me this job, to do what I love every day and sincerely hope you all are as satisfied with my performance as I am to give it

Virtual and Hybrid meetings have been the norm for longer than we care to remember, while we have been able to gather and ride a few times, it sure will be nice when we finally find that new normal with the meetings.

I continue my position as Region 3 representative on the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup and have thrown my hat in the ring as a snowmobile or ORV representative on MTAC. I am also pursuing a representative position with NOHVCC, the national association representing OHV. While not elected to the committee yet I do attend all meetings and keep a watchful eye on their progress.

MISORVA has had many successes in the past year! Our membership continues to increase, and we all can thank Brad Beardsley and his committee for their diligence and commitment to the task! You guys have done well again for the second year in a row!

I continue to work with all the committees, as each one is moving along at their own pace, all are making strides for a better MISORVA!

In February, I worked with Legislative Chair Paul Anderson, together we facilitated a legislative lunch. Due to the Covid the Legislative Ride usually held in person with our legislators on snowmobiles was canceled due to a sharp rise in COVID cases. So always thinking on his feet Paul Anderson suggested a Legislative Luncheon! The event was well attended by Representatives, Senators and lots of staffers! Some good conversations and connections were established! The event was held in the Capitol Building and all costs to the association were covered by a grant from the International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association. We invited ACSA Exe Director Christine Jourdain and ISMA Exe Director Ed Klim both attended and joined in the education we were hoping to achieve with the legislators! The event was very successful and a great source of networking. We are planning another in person ride for the upcoming season! Fingers crossed that we receive another grant from ISMA! Each year we are able to facilitate a snowmobile ride with our legislators to help them understand not only why we love motorized recreation of all types but also to observe the economic impact first hand, that motorized recreation is a boost to the economy in Michigan!

We continue to work with Representative Ken Borton and the DNR to pass HB 4535 and HB 4536 through the Senate committee. We are still waiting on the Senate floor for a vote although I do not expect that before elections. The legislation passed through the House with a 101-2 vote! Representative Borton and the others that are helping us pursue the legislation are true champions to all motorized recreation!

MISORVA partnered with Representative Steve Johnson and Representative John Roth, SAW and DNR to introduce HB 4205 & 4206 this legislation allows Free Snowmobile Weekend. This Legislation has passed and the date for Free Snowmobile Weekend 2022 will be Feb 11&12 2023!

There have been many recreational law changes introduced this last year. I have enjoyed working with Paul Anderson and the Senators and Representatives as the legislation is moved along the legislative sequence to become a law. Thank you, Paul, for your diligence!

State Trail Coordinator Tim Novak has been on board for a few months and is proactively working with MISORVA to plow through some changes, shortcomings and improvements needed in the programs! Recently I had the opportunity to have Tim Novak join Paul Anderson and John Newman, the area Snowmobile trail sponsor and myself on an ORV ride. Tim had only ever been on the old gator that his family had on their working tree farm. He drove my cart and had the best time splashing through the puddles! The rain held off for the most part and while it was cold we had a good ride! Paul pointed out some beautiful areas in the Traverse City area and also some areas that need work. We talked about relationships, accountability and working together to improve the programs and how we might do things a little better together! Tim seems to be excited to experience our recreation and learn about the changes and improvements we would like to see in the future! I invited Tim to the Dec meeting and he took up the offer! So, for those of you that plan to attend the meeting in Munising you will have an opportunity to meet Tim as well!

In June I traveled to Iowa to attend the International Snowmobile Congress. At this event all the snowmobile states come together and share ideas and talk with manufacturers. This is an educational event with great speakers and gives an excellent forecast of what we may be seeing in our state either currently or possibly in the near future. The networking at the event is a wealth of resources of leaders from all the snowmobile states.

We are continuing to keep a vigilant watch on the Camp Grayling Expansion, this could have a large impact on the area trails. We are asking for clearer answers to the impact this will have on the area and until we as an association have the answers to the many questions, we remain opposed to the expansion. (see the press release)

Support Your Sport meetings have paused as I pursue some new ideas for the program, stay tuned! Watch the MISORVA calendar on the website for more information!

We have received notification from Tim Novak that the snowmobile trail improvement fund will pay for 2 volunteer registrations from each maintenance club to Groomer Workshop 2023! This event is open to anyone that would like to

learn more about the snowmobile program and what our volunteers do to keep us riding! Watch for more information soon!

We have a draft of proposed legislation to remove the sunset clause in the ORV legislation, we are currently working with ORVAW and DNR to establish the appropriate language. This legislation change is necessary to help propel the ORV program forward. ORV trail improvement fund is not going away and therefore we need the sunset removed. ORV travel is here to stay!

Senator Curt VanderWall is seeking a legislative change to help enable law enforcement with ORV travel, SB4003 - it is written with compatible language to the snowmobile law enforcement capabilities.

I attended the Permanent Trails meetings and we are definitely gaining miles! Snow Country Trails Conservancy was instrumental in obtaining an integral part of the trail near Big Bay that will remove 2 road crossings. This purchase was completed in the spring by SCTC and then added to the permanent trail miles managed by the DNR. Should you have a landowner ready to allow the permanent easement please let me know and I will get you to the proper parties!

At the request of the SAW chair, I have been working with a few sponsors and Jessica Holly - State Motorized Trail Specialist on the Snowmobile Grant Handbook. There were many sections that needed language clarification and wordsmithing. Now it will need to work through the rest of the channels in the DNR to eventually get into the hands of the sponsors by next season.

I continue to work with the DNR in the Ride Right Ride Here Program to promote safety and awareness. Although the meetings have not currently started, I look forward to working with DNR on an Off Trail Riding team.

Miracle Millions update!

September 24 2021 is a day I don't think I will ever forget. The first ever that I am aware of, the MEDC Grant, \$1.15 million awarded to MISORVA for our trail maintenance volunteers! It is good to see the voice of motorized recreation being heard in other aspects! Motorized recreation & Trail Maintenance groups received a grant for 1.15 million dollars. MISORVA is the facilitator for the grant, all Michigan Snowmobile Grant Sponsors and ORV trail maintenance Groups were eligible to request funds for their club needs that were not provided in the program. For instance, chain saws, pole saws, help with a groomer barn. Perhaps it is safety training, safety lights for a disabled groomer. There are many items that our volunteers need to complete the job they have signed on for that are not provided under the Snowmobile Trail Improvement Funds. The grants are being dispersed and we can see the improvement for the volunteers and the daunting job they do!

This is your membership dollars being used in the best way possible, by working together with our legislators! As our legislators learn more about our chosen recreation, they see the value of motorized recreation to the economy and are willing to step up to help.

I want to thank the BOD and the members for the opportunity to work with you and I will continue to work diligently for you, the members and supporters of MY chosen recreation. - Karen Middendorp

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:** Progress from May - September 2022

1. HB 4535 - Draft 8 has addressed many of the concerns that other groups have had with the bill. Currently our committee is happy with the current language and is back in the hands of legislators.

2. Bill 1004 was submitted by Curt VanderWall which would allow agencies to deputize a member of the public after training. This already exists in the snow and marine program and works very well. It's now in the hands of legislators.

3. HB4332 ORV Stickers on 2 wheeled vehicle placements has PASSED. You may now place your stickers on the forks of a motorcycle.

4. Future projects include the ORV Sunset which expires in 2024. Still waiting on movement of this change. To my knowledge nobody has picked this up

5. The Legislative Luncheon was held on May 24th in Lansing and was a huge success.

6. Camp Grayling Expansion - Letter of opposition was generated signed by the President and released to the public.

7. The survey we put out to see who was buying permits for what purpose and where they operate their ORV's was completed. SxSs and ATVs were the majority and they used them on Forest Roads and ORV Routes.

8. UP Wild stays on our radar but as of July the Republican-led Michigan Senate approved a resolution to oppose the wilderness designation that was authored by Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan. - Paul Anderson

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** We had a great year for membership and this is due to all of us who work to spread the knowledge of what MISORVA does for motorized recreation. As a committee we met almost every month and the all members attended them, as the chair of the committee I really appreciate that. We bounce a lot of ideas around in each meeting some are good and some are not, some have been tried before with not the best results. IN our last meeting we discussed the biggest win of the year and we all agreed it is the Key Card that will be a real nice perk for our members. - Brad Beardsley

**PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:** I was named the chair of the publication committee a month and a half ago. We have not had any meetings since I was named the chair and I was not a part of the committee earlier in the year so I am unable to relay what they may have worked on this year. I do look forward to the committee writing some articles about MISORVA

and making the magazine more about what we are doing and the great opportunities motorized recreation in Michigan. - Brad Beardsley

**TRAILS REGION 3:** A few items of interest from 2022...

The West shore council (Muskegon area) has a new warming trailer provided by the 231 club to take the place of the Tee-Pee that was so popular for many years in that area.

West Michigan Snowmobile Council reported that the Tucker groomer received new tracks, and rebuilt the drivetrain, costing around \$33,000. Land was lost near Middleville and the clubs are working with the DNR to secure passage through the Barry game area. There is also a long stretch of pavement by the Thornapple River crossing that is needed to connect to the Alto trail. Update-a re-route is in place in Middleville now, but still need to **remove** a few tree stumps this fall. Snowbusters Club had a 12ft disc donated to help with trails, and they are getting a **roller** with the funds from the special grant money. They have a bridge that needs new decking this fall, which will **help** with their wider grooming equipment.

Allegan county and several surrounding counties continue to open more roads for **ORV** use **as the** trend for ORV access continues to move into the southern part of the state.

The Ride Allegan Club held an event that I attended. There were a few others from MISORVA on hand, as we were invited to join them for a ride and some group games. I don't have the final count but there were 4 groups of about 12 machines in each group, (SXS, ATVs and me on my motorcycle). The president of the Cycle Conservation Club rode to the event on his adventure bike and addressed the group with words of encouragement.

The Silver Lake ORV area is busy as usual. There is a new "dune ready" access this year to help alleviate some lines on the weekends, it was nice to be able to drive right in. There was talk of maybe having a 3 way permit specifically for the dunes with both the ORV required decals and the REC passport on **the same sticker**. Not sure if that will happen.

The ORV parks in region 3 continue to be busy with expansions at **Holly Oaks** this summer. There should be more in the future as more land becomes available.

I have contacted several clubs in region 3 but have **not received** a response in time for this report. Hopefully next month I will have more information for everyone. - Jim Berens

**CHARITY:** Not much to report except that only 15 clubs responded to the request to report their individual volunteer/charity hours to Survey Monkey. Let's hope **more clubs** will respond next year. - Kaye Houk

**BY-LAWS:** The Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association, Inc. Amended & Restated Bylaws were last approved in General Session on October 23, 2021. Since then, no requests for addressing any Articles or Sections have been received by the Committee. - Roy Hart

**PUBLIC RELATIONS:** The Public Relations Committee wasn't as active as we'd hoped to be this year. It was our plan to generate a series of articles for publication throughout the year in our magazine, as well as other publications and social media sites related to snowmobiling and ORVing. The goal of these articles was to promote MISORVA, the sport of motorized recreation and educate the riding public on subjects where there appears to be a lot of confusion and ignorance. In doing so we hoped to show the sport that we can be a reliable source of information and truly are here to help. We wanted these efforts to pay off by gaining more members to the association through actively keeping our name in front of everyone, as well as hopefully convert those in the ORV community who still have misgivings about us. As it turns out, there aren't any Ernest Hemingway's on this committee and we struggled to reach those goals and for our efforts have only produced one article which has yet to be published.

On a more positive note, the committee continues to fight the good fight on social media. Whenever one of us sees a post that is incorrect or negative about the MISORVA or motorized recreation in general, we try to provide the correct information in an enlightening way. I'm happy to report that the number of on-line conversations that turn into "battles" or where people would continue to argue against the facts just because they refuse to believe them, is greatly reduced from what it was just a year or so back.

We want to continue our efforts as we go forward and we are always looking for new members who would infuse new ideas into the committee as we work to promote MISORVA, Orving and Snowmobiling. - Jeff Mariucci