

# MISORVA Board of Directors Meeting

October 14, 2023 immediately following the annual General Membership Meeting  
(time approximately 2:00 p.m.)

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## Agenda Item (Presenter)

- I. Call to Order / Welcome (Todd Maschke)
- II. Roll Call/Agenda (Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen)
- III. Approval of Agenda (Todd Maschke)
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Todd Maschke)
- V. Board Member Updates (Karen Middendorp)
- VI. Treasurer's Report (Mark Pankner)
- VII. Executive Director's Report (Karen Middendorp)
- VIII. Standing Committee Reports
  - a. Legislative (Paul Anderson)
  - b. Membership (Brad Beardsley)
  - c. Publication (Brad Beardsley)
  - d. Trails Coordination (vacant)
- IX. Special Committee Reports
  - a. Public Relations (vacant)
  - b. Grooming/Grading - Dirt (Steve Haver)
  - c. By-Laws (Todd Maschke)
- IX. Representation Reports
  - a. ACSA (Karen Middendorp)
    - i. Charity (Kaye Houk)
  - b. Friends of the Forest
    - i. Ottawa (Ernie Reimann)
    - ii. Hiawatha West (vacant)
    - iii. Hiawatha East (Roy Hart)

- iv. Huron (Gary Blaser)
    - v. Huron Manistee (vacant)
  - c. Snowmobile Advisory Group (Don Britton)
  - d. ORV Advisory Group (vacant)
- X. Old Business
  - a. 2023-24 Budget Proposal (Mark Pankner)
  - b.
  - c.
- XI. New Business
  - a. December Meeting (Todd Maschke)
  - b. Policy Manual Revisions (Karen Middendorp)
  - c. Annual Dues (Karen Middendorp)
  - d. District Meetings (Karen Middendorp)
  - e.
  - f.
  - g.
- XII. Public Comment
- XIII. Time & Location of Next Meeting and Committee Reports (Todd Maschke)
- XIV. Adjournment (Todd Maschke)

**Michigan Snowmobile & ORV Association**  
**Statement of Activity**  
**Through One Month Ending September 30, 2023**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2023-24</b>	<b>As of 9/30/2023</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
ACSA	\$100.00	\$0.00	0%
Board / Annual Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Clothing & ACC.	\$5,600.00	\$56.00	1%
Donations	\$26,000.00	\$5,845.23	22%
Fund Raising Non Dues	\$4,000.00	\$50.00	1%
Grand River Interest	\$30,000.00	\$96.86	0%
Groomer Workshop	\$46,000.00	\$0.00	0%
ISMA Grant	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Membership Dues	\$125,000.00	\$22,735.00	18%
MSEAF Contract	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Newsletter	\$6,000.00	\$750.00	13%
Postage - Trail Permit	\$4,200.00	\$436.00	10%
Member Events	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Ticket Sales	\$5,000.00	\$225.00	5%
Web Ads	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Web Links	\$10,400.00	\$700.00	7%
Trail Permits - \$1.00	\$9,500.00	\$1,961.00	21%
Trail Permit Agents	\$17,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Agent Processing	\$2,000.00	\$275.00	14%
Internet Shipping	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Memorials	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Reimbursement Exec Dir	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0%
Dirt Workshop	\$0.00	\$1,065.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$339,300.00</b>	<b>\$34,395.09</b>	

**EXPENSE**

<b>Administrative Expense</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>As of 9/30/2023</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
Accountant	\$4,200.00	\$1,575.90	38%
Legal Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Computer Services	\$4,000.00	\$820.40	21%
Insurance & Security	\$2,500.00	\$45.00	2%
Office Equipment	\$6,500.00	\$365.53	6%

Salaries & Payroll	\$150,000.00	\$9,541.64	6%
Utilities	\$9,000.00	\$549.11	6%
<b>Total Adm. Expense</b>	<b>\$176,200.00</b>	<b>\$12,897.58</b>	<b>7%</b>

<b>General Expenditures</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>As of 9/30/2023</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
ACSA	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	0%
ACSA Fly-In	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Board Meetings	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Campout	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Clothing & Acc.	\$5,000.00	\$25.00	1%
Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
Ex. Dir/Operation Exp.	\$10,000.00	\$213.00	
Fund Raising Non Dues	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Gen Office/Adm Exp	\$22,000.00	\$1,392.88	6%
Groomer Workshop	\$26,000.00	\$0.00	0%
ISC 2022	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0%
Legislative Advocate	\$18,000.00	\$1,500.00	8%
Legislative Events	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Membership	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0%
MSA Vehicle	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	0%
MISORVA Magazine	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	0%
E-Newsletter	\$2,400.00	\$227.00	9%
Novi Show	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Postage	\$13,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Public Relations	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0%
Member Events	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Ticket Sales	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Web Page	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Trail Permits-UPS	\$3,000.00	\$16.69	1%
<b>Total General Expense</b>	<b>\$163,100.00</b>	<b>\$3,374.57</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Adm. Expense</b>	<b>\$176,200.00</b>	<b>\$12,897.58</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Adm/Gen Total Expense</b>	<b>\$339,300.00</b>	<b>\$16,272.15</b>	<b>5%</b>

**Net Ordinary Income** \$18,122.94

**Checking Account Balances As of 9/30/2023**

Grand River Checking \$47,977.97

**MISORVA**  
**Board of Director Meeting (regular) – Saturday, July 29, 2023**  
**Location: Gaylord, MI**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Jim Kelts at 10:00 a.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the BOD was taken and recorded by Secretary, Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen. The recording is available upon request. Absences include: Jim Berens, Todd Blanchard, Don Britton, Donna Cody, Mark Coe, Grant Dewitt, Josh Driscoll, Nick Ferrante, Mike Fik, Pete Finch, Mike Keith, David Low, Keith Lynch, Jeff Mariucci, David Satchell, and Chad Vogelheim. Guests include: Don Reed, Rick Brown, Pat Peterson, Howard Campbell, Christine Jourdain, Mary Newman, Dan Bergen, and Bob Middendorp.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Request to remove ORV Initiatives as a Special Committee due to the continued vacancies. Jeramey Valley questioned the continued ability of the Vice President to chair the meeting based on legal information that he received and previously provided to the Board. MISORVA also received legal advice via email from an attorney per Karen Middendorp.  
**Motion by Don Reed that President Jeramey Valley is not allowed to have any responsibilities or duties of this organization . Motion passes by majority vote (22 Ayes, 8 Nays).**  
**Motion by Todd Maschke to take agenda items out of order. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion by Dan White to accept the agenda as amended. Agenda accepted as corrected by unanimous vote.**
- IV. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Bryce Tracy/911 Coordinator & Assistant Emergency Manager for Mackinac County, MI. Bryce gave a presentation on emergency GPS location using the what3words app. Eastern UP law enforcement is promoting this app for safety. Bryce can be reached at btracy@mack911emOrg or 906-643-3391 if clubs or groups would like any additional information.
- V. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) Changes to March's meeting minutes (draft 3) included removing the word "hybrid" from the header and adding the word "groups" to item XI-d 2023 Snow Groomer Workshop. Secretary, Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen, notified the Board that going forward the committee reports would be added to minutes due to the inability to link the reports and the minutes on our website. This will make future minutes lengthier, but allow information to be retained together.  
**Motion by John Houk to accept the March (Draft 3) minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**  
**Motion by Paul Anderson to accept the May minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**
- VI. **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: Karen Middendorp.** Andrea Eder has resigned leaving a vacancy in District 4. Prospective Board members, Bryan Vannett (District 8) and Scott Veltman (District 6) were presented.  
**Motion by Paul Anderson to accept Bryan VanNett and Scott Veltman as new board members. Motion approved by unanimous vote.**
- VII. **TREASURER'S REPORT & PAYMENT OF BILLS: Mark Pankner.** Balance Sheet and Statements were reviewed. (Placed on file in office.)
- VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Karen Middendorp.** See Addendum. We settled the 2022-2023 Trail Permit account and matched MDNR's accounting. The 2023-24 trail permit contract has been signed and they should be received soon.
- IX. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. **Legislative: Paul Anderson.** Legislature is out for their summer session. Karen Middendorp has provided a definition of a groomed trail for the legislator that is sponsoring HB 4458/59. Karoub Assoc is trying to get an appointment with the legislators to discuss possible changes.
  - b. **Trails Region 1: Todd Blanchard.** John Newman stated that the Dollar Bay to Lake Linden trail should be open 12/1/23. Ernie Reimann reported that there is a prospective reroute for the closure on Trail 15.
  - c. **Trails Region 2: Vacant.** No report.
  - d. **Trails Region 3: Jim Berens.** Karen Middendorp read an email from Jim Berens. There are discussions regarding a possible wildlife habitat issue on the Allegan County trail system.
  - e. **Membership: Brad Beardsley.** There has been low attendance at the meetings. The office is working on the new sponsor cards. A mailing was sent to 104 commercial members that were lost between 2019-2021. One return membership will cover the cost of the mailing.
  - f. **Publication: Brad Beardsley.** The last meeting was well attended. Discussion was had with MSPN regarding the publisher timelines.
- X. **OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a. **Public Relations: Jeff Mariucci.** No report.
  - b. **Dirt Grooming/Grading: Steve Haver.** See Addendum. Registration forms will be sent out soon.
  - c. **By-Laws: Todd Maschke.** See Addendum. Some of the by-law revisions were discussed. Those in attendance at the General Membership Meeting will have to decide to vote on specific line item revisions or the revisions as a whole.
- XI. **REPRESENTATION REPORTS:**
  - a. **ACSA: Karen Middendorp.** See Addendum. Karen stated that she feels we need to educate our future leaders by sending them to the International Snowmobile Congress in the future. Christine Jourdain commented that Michigan

representation has been missed by ACSA. She also mentioned that there has been federal legislation regarding grooming snow depths that could possibly affect some of our trails in the future.

i. **Charity: Kaye Houk.** Kaye provided the ACSA Charity Reports. There was a low response rate to the survey. Christine Jourdain reported that ACSA was disappointed with the low responses as well. Kaye will provide a list of those that responded to the office for nudging next year.

**b. Friends of the Forest:**

i. **Ottawa Forest: Ernie Reimann.** No report.

ii. **Hiawatha West: Keith Churill.** No report.

iii. **Hiawatha East: Roy Hart.** See Addendum. Don Reed stated that Nunn's Creek Bridge is at a standstill.

iv. **Huron: Gary Blaser.** Large police presence was in the Sand Lake area recently.

v. **Huron Manistee: Pete Finch.** No report.

c. **Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup: Don Britton.** No report.

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

**XII. OLD BUSINESS:**

a. **Resignation Process: Joe Bartlett.** There was discussion regarding complaints against MISORVA on social media. Negative comments are not viewed as a resignation. There is a possible Policy Manual addition of a Code of Conduct. Christine Jourdain/ACSA offered to send a sample Confidentiality Agreement/Conflict of Interest form.

b. **Legislative Initiatives: Jeff Mariucci.** No discussion due to Jeff Mariucci's absence.

c. **Removal of Presidential Power: Don Reed.** Don reminded everyone that the Board of Directors runs our organization. The Executive Board takes direction from the Board. They manage the day-to-day business as well as implement the Board's directives. Discussion changed course and centered around our organization's representation of snowmobile, ORV, and dual enthusiasts. Christine Jourdain suggested a Strategic Planning session and offered assistance in acquiring the help. Discussion tabled until after lunch. Commencement of the item resumed around the Executive Board's direction.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Attendance Policy: John Newman.** Discussion ensued regarding the validity of virtual attendees at the March Board of Directors Meeting.

***Motion by John Houk to make an exception to the rule of removing a member for absences. Motion not seconded. Motion by Don Reed to count March meeting virtual attendees as absent and allow them to request to become a Board member at another meeting. Motion passes by majority vote (19 Ayes, 7 Nays).***

b. **2023/2024 Budget Proposal: Mark Pankner.** Mark presented next year's budget proposal and answered some questions.

c. **Policy Manual Update Proposal: Karen Middendorp.** The Policy Manual update proposal was previously provided to all directors. This proposal will be brought up for discussion and possible vote at the next Board meeting based on discussion.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Paul Anderson reported that ORV trail permits are delaminating. Karen Middendorp will take the info to ORVAW. Karen also showed the attendees the Zoll Trauma Kit that will soon be available on our website. Jim Kelts resigned as Vice-President immediately effective after this meeting.

***Motion by Rich Rottier to appoint Todd Maschke Vice President pro tem. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

***Motion by Jim Kelts to accept nominations for 2024 President, Vice-President, and Secretary.***

Don Reed nominated Paul Anderson for President. Paul Anderson nominated Todd Maschke for Vice President.

The Treasurer position will most likely be available for the 2025 season. Mark Pankner offered to meet with anyone that may be interested in the position to provide some insight on the duties.

**XV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** In-person meeting to be held October 14, 2023 in conjunction with annual General Membership meeting at 10:00 a.m. in Gaylord, MI.

Committee chairpersons are requested to have a written report turned into the office by October 6, 2023.

\*Reminder: Pursuant to Article III, Section 7 of our By-laws, Board members can miss two meetings during the calendar year. Please make every effort to attend all meetings for the year even if you are late or leave early within reason.\*

\*\*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

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Things are moving along in the office, unfortunately Vanessa has moved on to another job. I have Gina and Mary currently. Mary will focus on memberships with Commercial members and clubs and Gina will work with the individual memberships and BOD members. Thankfully this time of year affords us time to train and learn! I encourage you to get to know them both. - Karen Middendorp

**DIRT/GROOMER GRADING:** The planning for the event is progressing smoothly, and it will take place on Friday, September 22, 2023, at the Ogemaw Hills Clubhouse near West Branch. The afternoon will feature educational classes, while the morning will have equipment demonstrations. To attend the educational classes and lunch, registration will be necessary. - Steve Haver

**BY-LAWS:** By now everyone hopefully has seen what the committee proposes. There are changes I wanted to address the board with and ask if that is the direction you want to take. Unfortunately, I was not able to do that so you do not see those changes in what was presented. We are basically an ad hoc committee and our duty has now been fulfilled. It is up to the members to accept or reject any or all of the changes. For next year, if the board so desires I would like to propose a different Board structure. I find it odd that each December I meet just to accept myself as a delegate to the BOD. I believe it should be a 2 year term. Half elected on even and half elected on odd years. The commercial member position from each district would remain an annual position. Right now the way it currently stands what safeguards are in place to prevent the entire board from rolling over? There are no protections. If half the delegates in each district carried over they would vote to accept the new members in December. This helps safeguard the association. Many Organizations and Associations are bringing in junior members onto the board to encourage involvement. Is this something MISORVA should be looking at? This also would be a Bylaw issue. Members under 18 can not legally vote on a Board in Michigan but it allows them to be part of the board and it gives them insight into the organization as well as a voice in discussion. Should the Board pick a certain week with which to hold a meeting on? Such as "the meeting must fall on the third Saturday and if an electronic meeting on the third Wednesday of a month"? This would allow a person to plan vacation and events more easily around meeting dates. Some things need to be planned over a year in advance and with our current structure we have no clue as to when a meeting may be planned until January. - Todd Maschke

**ACSA:** International Snowmobile Congress June 7-10 ACSA BOD Meeting-

- The trespass committee opted not to create a new Trespass Poster for this upcoming season. They will continue to use past models.
- ACSA Legacy Fund- Any donation amount will be helpful.
- Awards Committee - The awards committee would like all submissions for State awards sent on to ACSA. You can find forms on the ACSA website.
- ACSA Membership - ACSA would like all states to press the importance of being an ACSA member. The value of membership is comparable to a MISORVA membership that oversees and takes the watchdog position for the user group. For example: Would we have been aware of the Over Snow rule for the National Forest currently being challenged? ACSA is staying on top of developments and will alert us if we need to move in a grassroots fashion to stop this initiative. For instance, how would this affect your trials if the 12in over-snow ruling were to pass? What this ruling is effectively trying to accomplish is that there would need to be a minimum of 12 inches of snow to engage in grooming. ACSA is asking the clubs in the states to join ACSA. Much like ourselves, they, too, have a struggling budget... And membership is essential. Memberships to ACSA are as follows Individual, Family, or Club Membership  
<https://snowmobilers.org/ACSA-membership-levels.aspx> Fees: Individual/Family \$15, Club \$25 Your contribution entitles you to: ACSA provides an electronic newsletter to keep you up-to-date on snowmobile issues, listing in the ACSA annual directory of contributors, reports from governmental agencies, and representation on national outdoor recreational coalitions.
- ACSA Elections of leadership - President Bert Miller - Wyoming; VP Dave Newman - Wisconsin; Sec/Treasurer Len Neisle - Indiana. Delegates at Large: Jason Hoell and Stan Studite
- Federal Forest - Bridges are required to be inspected every five years. We have over 1000 bridges in the Forests. To help with bridge inspections, the Forest Service will certify bridge individuals as inspectors. You will be required to complete a training course. Training will consist of 3 1/2 days online and one day in the field. Applicants should contact their local District Contact.
- Stanislaus National Forest Update- The judge assigned to this case of the 12in over snow rule has retired. The new judge would like to continue with the case electronically. You may remember the history. Stanislaus National Forest in California - The Sierra Snowmobile Foundation, a club in the California/Nevada area, has filed a lawsuit against USDA - U.S. Forest Service and the Stanislaus National Forest as a result of lost riding areas, a 12-inch minimum snow depth for grooming, as well as hard start/close dates - regardless of snow depth, as a result of the Stanislaus Over Snow Vehicle decision. Currently, the snowmobilers have access to about 40% of the forest that is open to motorized recreation, which would reduce the riding areas to 10%. This year it is estimated that snow will remain in the mountains until well into

June; however, the trails will close on April 1. California Wilderness Society and Wilderun Guardians immediately met to intervene in that lawsuit and filed a cross-claim. And recently, the same groups filed a Notice of Intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service over the Endangered Species Act over the Red Foxes, estimating 39 remain in the wild and alleging over-snow vehicle use designation will have a negative impact on them. If Stanislaus' plan continues, the snowmobilers will lose another 30% of the riding area. Just as important, this would set a perilous precedent for every National Forest across the United States to follow suit.

In 2005 the Forest Service published regulations requiring specific trails, roads, and riding areas to be designated for motor vehicle use. In 2014, due to a lawsuit filed by Winter Wildlands Alliance in Idaho, the Forest Service began designating specific trails, roads, and riding areas for over-snow vehicle use in all National Forests. How would that impact your trails?

- Bill Townsend Scholarship -There is a fund balance in the Bill Townsend Scholarship account; a suggestion was made that ACSA convert that scholarship to include Avalanche Training. No decision was made.

- Sno Goer will again run the Club Page as in the past. MISORVA can sign up at 59.00, and each club can be listed under Michigan for \$59.00. This year will include an online map with locator pins.

- Youth Ambassadors- Investigation and stipulations for this new program; conversations will continue as more details are added. The result is ACSA BOD would include Youth Ambassadors. They will not have a vote, and I do not believe they can make or second motions; however, they bring value to the table with their knowledge. Perhaps it's time for MISORVA to look into this type of program.

- The International Snowmobile Hall of Fame requests a \$250.00 Sponsorship for this year's event

- The Mountain and Trails region meeting held elections as the 2-year term had expired. Mark Hazzard was elected Trail Region Facilitator and will be seeking a co-facilitator. The Trails Region Ride will be held in Northern Wisconsin from Feb 1-3, 2024. More Details to come. These meetings are open to anyone that would like to attend. You do not need to be an ACSA member.

- The Mountain Region Facilitator is Dennis Jordan, Co-chair is Jason Howell and Lisa Mahoney. The Mountain Region ride will be in West Yellowstone from Feb 22-24, 2024. Again open to anyone wishing to attend. More details are coming soon.

- FYI- ACSA has a legal defense fund and is available for grants when needed. ( Part of our membership)

- FYI, MISORVA sold 302 calendars and will receive a check for 1510.00 for our calendar sales.

- FYI- Blue Ribbon Coalition is in its 23 yr of continued efforts to maintain and continue access to Yellowstone National Park. The park continues to operate under the final rule finalized in 2013.

- FYI- Ski Doo will offer the Snow PASS program to support snowmobile community initiatives.

<https://www.ski-doo.com/us/en/snow-pass-grant-program.html>

- FYI- ACSA and ISMA (International Snowmobiles Manufacturers Assn ) are requesting all members to take the No Trespassing Pledge <https://www.snowmobilerspledge.com/>

- FYI - International Snowmobile Congress will be held in Green Bay next year on June 15-17, 2024

- FYI- October 28, 2023, will be Snowmobile Day! The Snowmobile Day, patterned after the Swedish Snow Day, helped start the snowmobiling season with smiles, fun, and planning for a great winter. Snowmobile associations and clubs are encouraged to contact local Chambers of Commerce, Visitor and Convention Bureaus, and regional media to support and help with a local event. Planning a Snowmobile Day celebration is a perfect opportunity to bring enthusiasts together to kick off the season and enjoy the snowmobile family lifestyle. Grants from ISMA will be available. Stay tuned.

- International Snowmobile Safety Week will be Jan 13-21, 2024. Mark your calendar.

- Take a Friend Riding week will be Feb 10-19, 2024. Mark your calendar

- ACSA will introduce a scholarship; you must be an ACSA member to be eligible. The application is attached to this email.

- ISMA- Speaker Ed Klim Ed offered more than a few snowmobile updates: Snowmobile sales remain steady overseas in Scandinavian Countries. However, there are no sales in Russia. In comparison- in 1995, new snowmobile sales in Michigan were 28630, and in 2023 4309. Sales remain steady in the states. The average snowmobiler is 54 and spends 2500.00 per year on snowmobile events. This amount does not include clothing, snowmobiles, or other tangible items. This is the average for fuel and travel expenses per year. As electric vehicles become more popular, what will happen to the gas tax reduction contributing to the snowmobile fund in Michigan? RTP is stable for three years, but what will happen to that fund as less fuel is consumed? We must stay diligent.

- ISMA will offer grants again this year, and MISORVA will apply

- Mountain Region and Trails Region meeting This meeting conversation included discussions on navigable waters and passage to islands over swamps etc. Precise definitions of "navigable waters of the United States" or "navigability" ultimately depend on judicial interpretation and cannot be made conclusively by administrative agencies. However, the policies and criteria in this regulation are in close conformance with the tests used by Federal courts, and determinations made under this regulation are considered binding regarding the activities of the Corps of Engineers. We will receive further updates. Also discussed was youth member inclusion.

- I attended a session on Grant Writing: The following are a few ideas to be successful in being awarded.

1. Put yourself in the writer's mind, and be accurate and precise with the accomplished goals.
2. Be short and to the point. More details do not necessarily make your request stand out from the others.



3. Grant project requests, as a general rule, should be able to be completed within one year.
  4. Do not be afraid to use bullet points on your request; each needs appropriate spelling and punctuation.
- Groomer Round Table Discussion - Prinoth will have a parts warehouse in the Midwest open for the upcoming season. In some states, RTP funds purchase equipment, making purchase difficult because RTP funding requires Made In America, which includes steel. Tucker will retire the 1100 model. Pisten Bully, like the other manufacturers, continues to test in the electric vehicle platform; however, as suspected, the battery life will not sustain the unit.
  - Volunteer Recruitment Session- Some ideas and suggestions included:
    1. Check with your local high schools for trail help. Many schools offer credits to students for volunteering. The Athletic Director may be helpful as well.
    2. Set objectives when you are looking for help; when volunteers know what kind of help you need, they may be more likely to help. If you need chainsaws for brushing, or maybe you need help with a newly updated website. High School and College students might be beneficial and give them credits they need for graduation.
    3. Be mindful of your meetings; nothing turns a new volunteer off quicker than a poorly run meeting.
    4. Look for hidden skills of your volunteers. - Karen Middendorp

**Friends of the Forest/Hiawatha East:** Following DNR approval of 3 new ORV Routes (Trout Lake to Strongs, Strongs to Hulbert, and Brimley to Strongs), several attempts to schedule a meeting with USFS staff to obtain a letter authorizing trail maintenance & brushing were made. Months later, USFS representative scheduled a meeting at which members of Snow Chasers Snowmobile Club, Chippewa County SORVA, and a DNR Trail Specialist traveled to attend; the USFS representative did not show. An "emergency meeting" was done the next day with a different USFS representative. Verbal agreements were obtained with trail brushing and grooming beginning a few weeks later when the "authorization letter" was received. Sault Ste. Marie Snowmobile Association and CC-SORVA member Steve Lawson spearheaded a hard working, signage crew followed later by Charlie Steffens, CC-SORVA, leading another hard working crew. Brushing begins as of this report with grooming to follow soon after. Many thanks to Charlie Steffens & Steve Lawson, (and their volunteers) plus P.J. Costa, DNR Trail Specialist, & USFS for the hours of effort to see the ORV Routes finally accomplished. Additional ORV Routes will be pursued

