

**MISORVA**  
**Board of Directors Meeting (regular) – Saturday, October 14, 2023**  
**Location: Gaylord, MI**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by Vice-President pro tem, Todd Maschke at 2:39 p.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: Brad Beardsley, Don Britton, Joe Chavis, Mark Coe, Josh Driscoll, John Houk, Kaye Houk, Lee Palmer, Ernie Reimann, Rich Rottier, Greg Ruppel, and Dave Satchell. Guests include: Randy Ackerberg, Darlene Hicks, Jim Kelts, Pat Peterson, Skip Schultz, Kevin Meyers, Kenny Meyers, Joseph Shaffer, Dan Bergen, Bob Middendorp, Stacy Hoover, and Gina Hassevoort.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** No changes presented.  
*Motion by Brian Hicks to dispense with reading of reports (agenda items VI - IX) unless a chairperson wants to speak. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- IV. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) Secretary Stephanie Hubbarth-Bergen requested that the minutes from the May Board of Directors (BOD) meeting be amended to have Jeff Mariucci removed as absent.  
*Motion by David Low to accept the July minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*  
*Motion by Paul Anderson to amend the May minutes to reflect that Jeff Mariucci was present. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- V. **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES: Karen Middendorp.** Prospective Board member, Greg Forbes (District 8) was presented. Todd Maschke asked Mike Keith if he would step up as chairperson for the Public Relations Committee. Mike accepted.  
*Motion by Brian Hicks to accept Greg Forbes as a new board member. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*  
*Motion by Paul Anderson to appoint Mike Keith as chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT & PAYMENT OF BILLS: Mark Pankner.** Statement of activity was previously presented at the annual General Membership Meeting (GMM) earlier in the day.
- VII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Karen Middendorp.** See addendum.
- VIII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - a. **Legislative: Paul Anderson.** Paul explained the proposed change from the legislators in regards to the requested definition of a groomed snowmobile trail versus hard dates (Dec 1 - Mar 31) for HB 4459. Karen Middendorp expressed the opportunity that MISORVA has to support MDNR Land Use Orders for individual areas. Paul would like us to push forward on locating new trail opportunities for the areas that will be directly impacted by this bill. Paul also reiterated his goals for the Legislative Committee that were presented at the GMM.  
*Motion by Brian Hicks to move forward with HB 4459 Draft 2 (removal of the definition of snow covered and groomed trail - p9, line 2B of legislation). Motion approved by unanimous vote.*
  - b. **Membership: Brad Beardsley.** See addendum.
  - c. **Publication: Brad Beardsley.** See addendum.
  - d. **Trails Region 1: Vacant.** No report.
  - e. **Trails Region 2: Vacant.** No report.
  - f. **Trails Region 3: Vacant.** No report.
- IX. **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a. **Public Relations: Vacant.** No report.
  - b. **Dirt Grooming/Grading: Steve Haver.** No report.
  - c. **By-Laws: Todd Maschke.** See addendum.
- X. **REPRESENTATION REPORTS**
  - a. **ACSA: Karen Middendorp.** No report.
    - i. **Charity: Kaye Houk.** See addendum
  - b. **Friends of the Forest:**
    - i. **Ottawa Forest: Ernie Reimann.** No report.
    - ii. **Hiawatha West: Vacant.** No report.
    - iii. **Hiawatha East: Vacant.** No report.
    - iv. **Huron: Gary Blaser.** No report.
    - v. **Huron Manistee: Vacant.** No report.
  - c. **Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup: Don Britton.** No report.
  - d. **ORV Advisory Workgroup: No report.**

**XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **2023-24 Budget Proposal: Mark Pankner.** Mark explained that the current proposal was created after careful review by the Executive Board. He fielded questions on specific line items.

***Motion by Paul Anderson to accept the 2023-24 Budget Proposal as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

**XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **December Meeting: Todd Maschke.** Todd questioned the BOD on their desire to keep the next meeting (December 6th) as a virtual meeting as that capability was recently approved with the recent by-law revisions at the annual GMM. Karen Middendorp gave the dates of the December SAW meeting as well as the ribbon cutting ceremony for the soon to be completed Lake Linden Trail. Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to have a hybrid meeting. Due to the lack of volunteers for a technology committee, the motion to create it was amended to create a technology liaison. Greg Forbes accepted the appointment.

***Motion by Brian VanNett to change the December BOD meeting to December 2, 2023, in person, in the Munising area. Motion approved by majority vote (12 Ayes, 5 Nays).***

***Motion by Steve Haver to create a Technology Committee to investigate the feasibility of hybrid meetings.***

***Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

***Motion by Steve Haver to amend his previous motion and remove the Technology Committee and appoint Greg Forbes as Technology Liaison. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

- b. **Policy Manual Revisions: Karen Middendorp.** Policy Manual revisions were previously emailed and were available at this meeting. Brian Hicks questioned which sections of the manual were created directly from the by-laws and by virtue could not be changed by the BOD. Karen stated that several items were moved from the By-laws to the Policy Manual to allow the BOD the flexibility to change items when necessary instead of waiting for an annual or special GMM. She also talked about the addition of the Code of Conduct Policy to the manual. Karen will email the revised manual to all members of the BOD.

***Motion by Jim Kelts to accept the Policy Manual as revised and presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

- c. **Annual Dues: Karen Middendorp.** Karen talked about the need to have a fee structure that can support our organization. She questioned the need to suspend Life Memberships as presently they do not accurately cover the expense of a long term member. Greg Forbes questioned the data behind the need for an increase in dues.

***Motion by Jim Kelts to raise the Life Member dues by \$200 in every category. Motion approved by majority vote.***

- d. **District Meetings: Karen Middendorp.** Karen expressed the need to have in-person meetings. Unfortunately with our time frame of needing delegates installed by January 1, 2024, it would currently be unmanageable. Therefore, we need to have virtual meetings this year. We need to be more proactive next year and possibly combine District Meetings with Strategic Planning Sessions. Joe Shaffer questioned sending a representative to a meeting of every club.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joe Shaffer feels that MISORVA needs to create relationships with the MI Nature Conservancy and similar groups. Working together may be beneficial for all parties. Karen Middendorp stated that the dates for the Snow Groomer Workshop had to be changed to Feb 28-Mar 1, 2024 due to a conflict with MDNR attendees. Todd Maschke requests unanimous consent to appoint Paul Anderson as President pro tem for the remainder of the calendar year. There were no objections to such an appointment. Paul Anderson accepted the appointment.

**XIV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** December 2, 2023 10:00 a.m. in the Munising, MI area. Details to follow. Committee chairpersons are requested to have a written report turned into the office by November 24, 2023.

\*Reminder: Pursuant to Section 4 of our Policy Manual, 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

**XV. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by David Low to adjourn. Adjournment of meeting approved by unanimous vote.**

***Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.***

## **ADDENDUM to July 29, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes:**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** I would like to express my gratitude to our Legislative Committee for their unwavering hard work and dedication. I am pleased to announce that the bills they support have been renumbered as HB 4458 & 4459. The committee works closely with our lobbyist firm, Karoub, and they have played a pivotal role in advancing these bills. Despite the resubmission, the committee continues to hold meetings and educate various entities, including our sheriff's department and county officials, on the legislative agenda. The committee considers all aspects that impact our recreation and works tirelessly to bridge the gap between users. The new staff has done much training and are doing their best at keeping up perfectly. We continue to educate elected officials about the benefits and stumbling blocks of motorized recreation. - Karen Middendorp

**MEMBERSHIP:** In 2023, no new membership offerings were introduced, but the committee has discussed a few ideas that must be addressed during upcoming meetings. As always, we set up our booth at Snowmobile USA, which was a big draw for permit sales. We were able to educate many snowmobilers about the importance of their membership for motorized recreation and how it helps us to achieve our goals. We were very close to achieving our target for new memberships. The show required a lot of hard work, and we extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped out. We had a booth at the Nelson's Speed Shop Sno Motion show where we could sell several trail permits and a few memberships. Most attendees were diehard snowmobilers who were already members, many of whom were life members. However, we did have the opportunity to explain our mission to a few new snowmobilers, which is where we gained new members. Myself and another member of the Board of Directors recently attended the first-ever Leaders Fest in September, which was held at Leaders RPM. As it was an ORV show, we did not sell trail permits, but we did interact with visitors and addressed their concerns regarding ORV in the state. The show also helped me realize that many motorized recreation users need to be made aware of MISORVA and its purpose, even though they have many questions and concerns about the ORV situation. The attendees we talked with don't feel the need to join MISORVA, which is not due to any bad publicity that the organization has received from other groups. In fact, most of the visitors had never heard of MISORVA. Leaders Fest has the potential to grow in the future and help create more awareness about the organization. Our membership card's KEY card sponsors have been a bright spot this year. Thanks to the hard work of our office staff, the number of companies participating has more than doubled in just the second year. The staff also did a mailing to those with contact information, including past members and customers who bought items from our website. This effort brought in additional memberships. - Brad Beardsley

**PUBLICATION:** We want to inform you that some changes have been made to the magazine, and the committee is working closely with the editor to ensure that the articles are relevant and informative. We hope that you have noticed these improvements! It's important to note that the magazine is a significant part of the MISORVA budget, and your dues pay for the subscription. Once you finish reading it, we kindly ask you to pass it on to a future member or drop it off at a local stop. Your help will enable us to continue providing you with a high-quality publication. Thank you for your cooperation and continuous support. - Brad Beardsley

**CHARITY:** Now is the time for all clubs to remind their members to be thinking of the time they spend helping others. Perhaps a paper could be passed around for members to note hours used. One doesn't need a member's name, just their hours and for what event/organization they worked for. Also it is a good time to jog your member's memories from this past summer! Reporting period should be from April 1, 2023 - Kaye Houk

**BY-LAWS:** Nothing to report as all proposed changes have been made and sent to print for Annual Membership Meeting. No new items have been brought to the committee for consideration. - Todd Maschke