

**MISORVA**  
**Board of Director Meeting (regular) – Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
**Location: Christmas, MI**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/Welcome:** Meeting was called to order by President John Newman at 10:03 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed in honor of current and former Board members and MDNR contacts that are experiencing health issues. Lunch will be paid for by MISORVA as a thank you for this year's board members service. A donation jar will be also be available.

**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: Ernie Reimann, Dave Karls, Archie Cole, Dave Gentry, Ted Truckey, Todd Maschke, Cheryl Ziola, Mike Keith, and Scott Beltman. Guests include: David Low, Kryton Valley, Mike (Stretch) Fik, Hank Ambrecht, Brian Vennett, Chuck Mayes, Karl Davenport, Darlene Hicks, Bill Bradfield, Gudrun Prestie, and Sean O'Neill.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** New Business additions include: b) Business Cards, c) Communications, d) Curtis Chamber of Commerce, e) New Board Member Election Process, and f) 2023 Meeting Schedule.

*Motion by Keith Churill to accept the agenda as presented. Agenda approved as corrected by unanimous vote.*

**IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed and are available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) The call to order and adjournment times were added.

*Motion by Keith Lynch to accept the minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.*

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT & PAYMENT OF BILLS:** Mark Pankner. Balance Sheet and Statements will be emailed next week as November just ended 3 days ago.

**VI. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a. Legislative: Paul Anderson.** No report as the legislature is not currently working on anything.

**b. Membership: Brad Beardsley.** Report was emailed and is available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) David Low asked for our member count. Karen Middendorp responded that we have approximately 10,000 members and we received about 100 new members from the show. She also stated that there has been a huge number of "switch members" (non-member to member) this year. Please keep promoting our organization while you are out and about. It has been helping! Donna Cody asked if we could market ourselves out of state. Karen suggested utilizing our publication. Please email her with any ideas or suggestions and she will forward them.

**c. Publication: Brad Beardsley.** Report was emailed and is available at this meeting. (Placed on file.) Jim Berens will forward an idea that he had given previously. The deadline for the next publication is December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**d. Trails Region 1: Todd Blanchard.** The Wakefield closure has been temporarily resolved. There is a reroute in progress with a 1-year lease thanks to a local landowner. T109 (Twin Lakes to Alston) is closed due to a 1-mile closed section because of a permit that was denied by the local road commission. Lake Linden-Dollar Bay (LL-DB) is currently taking bid submissions (6 parts) with a proposed December 2023 opening. T120 & T121 will not open for bids until the LL-DB section is complete. There are various temporary closures on the trails due to logging. Karen Middendorp stated that the temporary bridge in Iron River will hopefully open yet this season. Keith Lynch reported that the Miner's Castle reroute needs to be developed by the 2024/25 season as H58 is scheduled to be repaved. A short discussion ensued about this particular reroute.

**e. Trails Region 2: Ted Truckey.** Mark Pankner reported that the Rogers City talks continue due to the diligence of Rep. Sue Allor. Please contact your local representatives as it does help. Jeramey Valley stated that the Great Lakes Dual Sportsters has a grant agreement for the recently available Canada Creek system. John Newman mentioned that the temporary bridge in Cheboygan is now open

for traffic. There is currently a 1-year lease for an area of Cheboygan as landowner talks are under negotiations. Piney Bridge is still an issue with road commission delays.

**f. Trails Region 3: Jim Berens.** Most clubs are waiting for corn to be harvested or the ground to freeze in order to work if it's not already finished. No major issues in the area. Todd Blanchard stated that the T2 reroute is conditionally approved and hopes to be opened by Christmas.

## **VII. OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. ACSA: John Newman.** No meeting since the Congress. There is a trail ride/meeting in Watersmeet, February 3-5, 2023. John gave a brief synopsis of ACSA's importance.

**b. Charity: Kaye Houk.** Please remind your clubs to begin tallying volunteer hours. Any activities outside of the clubs count as well.

**c. By-Laws: Roy Hart.** No report.

**d. Public Relations: Jeff Mariucci.** Report was emailed and is available at this meeting. (Placed on file.)

**e. Dirt Grooming/Grading: Jeramey Valley.** No report.

**f. ORV Initiatives: Joshua Driscoll.** First meeting was just held and initial discussions were about improving the ORV community's perception of our organization.

**g. Friends of the Forest:**

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

ii. **Hiawatha West: Keith Churill.** Sean O'Neill reported that T7, south of Buckhorn, has logging for approximately for 7 miles and there's a strong possibility that it may be scraped down to the dirt. T8 to Shingleton is also being logged. There is extensive damage in this area but the logging company is going to be held accountable.

iii. **Hiawatha East: Roy Hart.** Jeff Mariucci commented that there is a new ORV club, Trout Lake Trail Riders, in the Trout Lake area that has taken over dirt grooming of their area.

iv. **Huron: Gary Blaser.** No report.

v. **Huron Manistee: Pete Finch.** Cadillac area is looking for volunteers to help clear limbs. The National Forest sub-contracted the Wexford Road Commission to repair some forest roads. Cadillac Visitors Bureau recently received a matching \$50,000 grant from the USDA towards education, signage, mapping, etc. in reference to ORV usage.

**h. Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup: Don Britton.** Several clubs received or will soon receive their new groomers. Tucker is supplying used ones until the new ones can be delivered. Possibilities exist to purchase used machines. John Newman stated that Prinroth has 2 available for the snow program. Don explained the Verizon tracking system which is being installed on the groomers. The system is paid for by the Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund (STIP) (trail permits). There was a lengthy discussion on the tracking system. John Newman recognized that David Low was recently inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. According to ACSA, he is the oldest active snowmobiler in the world at 95 years old.

**i. ORV Advisory Workgroup: Keith Lynch.** The Sunset bill was placed on the recent agenda and will be supported by ORVAW. The lighting bill, written by Bob Myers, is being picked up by a legislator. There is \$3.1 million line item in the state budget for law enforcement and dirt grooming. Escanaba opened up the city for SxS during to 2020 summer season with possible changes next year for unlicensed individuals. Delta County will move forward with meeting to open up 90 miles of roads for ORVs. Mike Fik commented about the quality of the placards being used for the safety markers.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**a. ORV Safety Rental Video: John Newman.** Everything was ready to go and then the producer pulled out. Hopefully it will be finished by spring.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. ORVAW Grooming Equipment Sub-committee: Karen Middendorp.** There is no current funding structure for dirt grooming. Can snow equipment be used for dirt? A sub-committee has been formed to investigate.

**b. Business Cards: Karen Middendorp.** A suggestion was recently made by Pete Finch to have a generic business card with a QR code that we could hand to prospective members. Karen Middendorp suggested using the generic cards for everyone including the officers. A label could be placed on the back with individual contact information by the office if requested. Brad Beardsley suggested the ability to purchase a discounted membership in order to sponsor a new member for a year. This would give the new member a year's worth of information and communication beyond the initial discussion with the current member.

***Motion by Todd Blanchard to investigate the opportunity for members to purchase a discounted membership in order to gift one to a new member. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

**c. Communications: Karen Middendorp.** Dan Eichenger, the current MDNR Director, will be moving to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Shannon Lott will be the acting director of MDNR. These changes were made by Governor Whitmer. Hopefully Karoub can provide some insight. Next week Karen will have a meeting with a company marketing a mini-AED that would like to form a sales partnership with us. Snow Groomer workshop is being planned for March 2-4, 2023. The STIP will pay the registration fee for 2 members of every sponsor group.

**d. Curtis Chamber of Commerce: John Newman.** Due to personal conflicts, the Curtis Chamber is no longer grooming. MDNR needs to change the sponsorship but the new club has not yet been formed.

**e. New Board Member Election Process: Brian Hicks.** The By-laws state that Board of Director elections are to be held at annual district meetings and it fails to address vacancies. Discussion resulted in a consensus that a policy change is necessary, not a By-law change. Vacancies can be filled by appointment of the BoD after the initial election.

***Motion by Todd Blanchard to appoint Mike Fik to District 1. Motion approved by unanimous vote.***

**f. 2023 Meeting Schedule: Jeramey Valley.** To be discussed during XI. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Keith Churill invited everyone to the Alger SORVA groomer barn to see the new groomer. Donna Cody mentioned that Chamberlin's Ole Forest Inn in Curtis has new owners and they would like to promote themselves to snowmobilers. Dan White will reach out to their partner with suggestions. Jeramey Valley recognized John Newman for his service as our president. John gave a parting message.

**XI. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** Open discussion was had about the volume of meetings. A few directors suggested quarterly meetings plus the general meeting. Others suggested bimonthly meetings. Although it was generally felt that in-person meetings were desirable, most felt that a hybrid format allows more individuals to participate. After the Executive Board discusses options, an email will be sent regarding the meeting dates. Individuals are encouraged to volunteer for any committees that interest them, including chairperson status.

Current committee chairpersons are requested to have a written report turned into the office at least a week prior to the next meeting.

\*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

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

***Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.***

## Committee Reports Dec 2022

### Standing Committees

- **Legislative - Paul Anderson** ~ no activity to report
- **Membership - Brad Beardsley** ~ The Membership committee Did not have a meeting in November. My wife and I helped out the team that worked the MISORVA booth at the Novi show. The show was well attended on the normal busy days and we did very well. Karen and I set a goal of signing up a hundred new members and we were able to sign up 78 new! We had many renew and had some switch as well. We had a very good show and it seemed to be much easier this year to educate the new members on the reason to join. I think this is 100% tied to what we have accomplished in the last year and the public seeing it on social media on a regular basis.
- **Publication - Brad Beardsley** ~ The publications committee had a zoom meeting on Nov 7 and it was well attended by the members of the committee. We discussed several different article ideas to get more MISORVA content into our magazine. A few members have stepped up to write articles so we will see an increase in our content coming in the next magazine. If anyone has an idea for anything we should write about please reach out to me via email, text or a phone call.
- **Trails**
  - ❖ **Region 1 - Todd Blanchard** ~ no written report
  - ❖ **Region 2 - Ted Truckey** ~ no written report
  - ❖ **Region 3 - Jim Berens** ~ no written report

### Other Committee Reports

- **ACSA- John Newman**~ no written report submitted
- **Charity - Kaye Houk** ~ Nothing to report
- **Bylaws - Roy Hart** ~ Nothing to report
- **Public Relations - Jeff Marriucci** ~ Nothing new to report at this time. The committee didn't have a meeting in November due to me not being available. Hopefully the holidays won't be too intrusive and we'll have a productive meeting in December.
- **Friends of the Forest -**
  - **Ottawa - Ernie Reimann** ~ no written report submitted
  - **Hiawatha West - Keith Churill** ~no written report submitted
  - **Hiawatha East - Roy Hart** ~ No activity to report submitted
  - **Huron - Gary Blaser** ~ no written report submitted
  - **Huron Manistee - Pete Finch** ~ no written report submitted
- **SAW ~ Snowmobile Advisory Council - Don Britton** ~ no written report submitted
- **Groomer Workshop- Moving along with planning!** Dates are march 2,3,4 2023 Event will be held at Kewadin Casino Sault Ste Marie MI. Snowmobile Trail Improvement Fund will pay for 2 members of every sponsor group registration fee. Stay tuned.
- **ORVAW ~ ORV advisory Workgroup – Keith Lynch** ~ no written report submitted

## **Board Member Updates**

MISORVA Miracle Million - Karen Middendorp ~ moving along