

Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Bangor – DACF Conference Room
March 27, 2014
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Participants

Council Members:

Marie Candeloro, Chair, Kokadjo Roach Riders
Terry Hill, Co-Chair, Bowlin Matagamon S.C.
Richard Merrill, Snow Valley Sno-Goers
Jim Yearwood, Northern Outdoors - The Forks
Frank Clukey, E. Millinocket, Millinocket, Medway Recreation
Maurice Marden, Piscataquis Valley S.C.
John Monk, MSA
Steve Edwards, Birch Point Lodge
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Woodlands
Bob Hansen, MSA

Guests:

Bob Meyers, MSA
Shirley Raymond, North East Carry Sno Riders
Edward Raymond, North East Carry Sno Riders
Don Simcock, Corundel Raiders
Richard Peck, Sebasticook Valley S.C.

Off Road Vehicle Unit Staff:

Scott Ramsay, Director, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office
Joe Higgins, Snowmobile Program Coordinator, Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office

Marie Candeloro, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and did round table introductions

Motion made and seconded to accept the 2/12/14 minutes as written (vote unanimous).

Scott briefly described the various reports handed out including: Revenue and Expenditure Quarterly Report 2/28/14, Income Gas Tax/Registrations Monthly Breakdown, Snowmobile Registration Count as of 3/19/14 IFW, Snow Club/Municipal Grant and ITS Club Spreadsheet 2014 and Projected Rule Making Timeline.

Several questions/discussions followed each handout for clarity and understanding of the information.

Scott introduced the Drafted Catastrophic Grant Rules (CGR) and “Rules Issue” sheet listing items identified as topics the council needed to focus on, discuss, and move into rules or remove.

Marie lead the discussion on each bulleted item on the CGR and the following is the results of that action. A lengthy discussion resulted on each item and several items were added at the end.

Catastrophic Grant Rules, Item Votes:

Allowed trails category

- ITS trail eligible only (motion vote in favor, 3 opposed) in.

Bridge failure category

- Mandatory site visits (motion against, vote unanimous) out.
- Bridge loss documentation (motion for pictures/email/visit if possible, vote unanimous) in.
- Application approval contingent on appropriate DEP/LUPC permit submission (motion for, vote unanimous) in.
- Accurate mapped project location (motion, vote unanimous) in.
- Document certified DEP contractor in resource protection (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Mandatory three quotes/bids (motion not required, vote 9 yes/1 abstained) out.
- Required pictures before and after project work (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Required written landowner permission for project area (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Required detailed project material/design work (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Document no FEMA declaration for disaster (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.

Erosion and Surface Damage category

- (Motion category in, unanimous) in.
- Document whether event and project location (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Identify poor maintenance/design/location (motion to exclude, vote 9 yes/1 no) out.
- Pictures required before & after (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Design project to avoid future failure (BMP's) (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Mandatory 3 bids/quotes (motion to exclude but add/change to detailed project description cost, vote exclude bid and quote unanimous) quote out project description in.
- Written landowner permission required (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.

Vegetation/Weather Events

- Motion to include ice storms, microbursts, hurricane documented (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Identify/determine lack of regular maintenance (motion exclude, vote unanimous) out.
- Mandatory 3 bids/quotes for contract work (motion to exclude, vote unanimous) out.
- Document exact location (motion to include, vote unanimous) in.
- Mandatory on site visits (motion exclude, vote unanimous) out.

Grooming Equipment Failure Eligible

- Motion to exclude groomer repairs (vote unanimous exclude) out.

General discussion was to have a Capital Equipment Grant that can include repairs if/when funding is provided to cover repairs. We need to use that grant to fund groomer repairs.

Added Items to Catastrophic Grant General Rules

- Setting a minimum and maximum grant funding (motion \$0 minimum/\$20,000 maximum, vote 7 yes/3 no) carried in.

- Setting a maximum % of cost match (motion grants not to exceed 70%, vote 8 yes/2 no) carried in.

A discussion followed as a reminder how the Catastrophic Grant Fund (CGF) will be funded. Snowmobile Trail Fund carried balance that exceeds \$400,000+/- at close of fiscal year books transfer to CGF up to \$100,000 maximum in the CGF fund.

The Committee had a general round table discussion surrounding a possible revisit of Capital Equipment Grant Program with an eye toward holding back a year to set up the program so we have the funding in the account prior to grant applications. Then developing a committee/group to review all applications and set priorities (who gets funding and who doesn't) based on needs assessment setting a guaranteed percentage (40% +/-) payout. Further discussion of including machine rehabilitation allowed.

Group asked Scott to research other states (NH/VT/NY) maybe others that help purchase groomers to investigate their rules.

The council does want to include in future agenda, time to discuss possibility of higher than 70% funding on grants.

Council discussed a question of why ACF-ORV does not allow "purchase of tracks" as a stand-alone eligible item on Capital Equipment Grants. The answer is as a stand-alone item it would have to be considered repair not groomer purchase. No different than existing equipment needing new tracks.

Council had a general roundtable discussion of adding back into eligible grant items (plowing parking and road crossing, kiosk signs, groomer storage). No action taken.

Item brought to the council for help. Issue is hurting with high powered rifles on snowmobile trails dangerous for riders. Apparently a growing number of hunters (primarily coyote) are posting/setting up on groomed trails and/or shooting down trails. Snowmobilers have complained that they have actually had rifles pointing at them when rounding corners/hills.

Scott and Bob Meyers agreed to contact IFW to discuss concerns.

A few other questions had come from committee members.

- Could we go into last year's grooming hours, use this year's rates and recalculate the total grooming cost. Answer is no.
- Copied the council with a copy of MRSA 12 § 1893-B 5A council setup and responsibilities.
- Brief explanation about the trail liability insurance ACF-ORV purchases.
- Providing ATV/Snowmobile stickers to put on signs where shared use trails split. Cost estimate \$.58 each same price as a blazer. Recommend using a snow or ATV blazer with arrow at those locations.

Meeting adjourned 11:20 AM