

**VILAS COUNTY
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 16, 2012 Meeting**

Present: Ralph Sitzberger, Brett Bockhop, Stan Guif, Gina Egan, Renn Karl, Mike Keintz, Dale Mayo, Gerard Ritter and Holly Tomlanovich.

Excused: Sig Hjemvick and Leo Crawley

Also Present: Cindy Burzinski – VC Advertising/Tourism, Tim Price – DNR Conservation Warden, Ray Wolfe – LDF Conservation Warden, Ken Anderson and Joe VanDeLaarschot – Lakeland Times.

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Vice-chair Sitzberger.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Stan Guif, seconded by Mike Keintz. Motion passed. Motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2012 meeting was made by Mayo, seconded by Tomlanovich. Motion passed.

Alliance Report – Renn Karl

Renn reported the Alliance met the night previous to this meeting. Much discussion was surrounding pending legislation on the CAP/STEP bill AB465 and SB365. The Vilas County Alliance voted not to support the current proposed legislation on an 8:3 roll call vote.

DNR Report – Brett Bockhop

DNR patrol logged 71 hours in Vilas County for the month resulting in 10 citations and 54 warnings. Citations were mostly for operating without a registration (3) and Modified exhaust (3).

The DNR did have the Safety Trailer in Eagle River for the January 26-29 weekend. They worked the trailer in a high-profile area next to the trail in front of the Pamida Store. There were less than 10 contacts made in two days of operating the trailer. The Recreational Safety and Enforcement Team (RSET) was in the Eagle River area during the same dates. They recorded 25 citations/arrests versus 111 warnings. Citations/arrests included 8 alcohol related and 12 failure to comply with a regulatory sign. A total of 58 warnings were given for failure to comply with a regulatory sign.

Sheriff's Report - Gerard Ritter

The VC Sheriff's Department continues the snowmobile patrol. In the past month, they logged a total of 89 hours including 77 patrol hours. 37 citations were issued, one written warning and numerous verbal warnings. They also had 6 OWIs.

County Coordinator Report – Dale Mayo

Dale reported that there have been 5 fatalities in the State, down significantly from previous years due to the lack of snow in the rest of the State. We have been getting excellent cooperation

from Eagle River Memorial Hospital and Howard Young. We have reported 54 accidents requiring emergency care, 8 of those were life-flighted out.

On Saturday February 4, he was notified of a car vs. snowmobile accident on Fallon Road in Manitowish Waters. Dale documented that all signing was in place. A second snowmobile blew through the same stop sign while Dale was there and stated there was no Stop Ahead warning of the road. For a reason that was not determined, some snowmobilers were not seeing the Stop Ahead sign. After witnessing a third snowmobiler miss the stop sign, a second Stop Ahead sign was placed on the opposite side of the trail resulting in compliance with the stop for Fallon Road.

Advertising – Cindy Burzinski

There was discussion on a new PSA warning the public of icy trail conditions. Cindy will write the PSA and Dale will record. Cindy thank everyone for recording PSAs, they turned out well. A photo shoot was set for Sunday February 19 at Vandercook Road in Arbor Vitae for pictures of current model snowmobiles to be used in future advertising. The Arbor Vitae Cross-Country Cruises have volunteered approximately 12-14 club members with snowmobiles for this event.

TINS County side map

Dale did not have the map ready for the February Alliance meeting. He will take it to the March 21 meeting of the Alliance for their approval.

Letters and Communication

Discussion regarding a letter to the editor in Vilas County News-Review, JS story/video, and setting speed limits on town roads. Tim Price volunteered to look into getting PSAs on school computers. No formal motions were made.

Next meeting date 22 March, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the courthouse conference rooms.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted
Dale Mayo

Minutes reflect the recorders notations from notes provided by Egan and Mayo and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.