

**VILAS COUNTY
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY
COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 21, 2012 Meeting**

Present: Gary Peske, Ralph Sitzberger, Dale Mayo, Gerard Ritter, Brett Bockhop, Gina Egan, Mike Keintz, Stan Guif and Leo Crawley.

Also Present: Ray Wolfe, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Conservation Warden, Tim Price Conservation Warden, Sig Hjemvick, Cindy Burzinski, Publicity and Tourism, and Ken Anderson.

Absent: Renn Karl and Holly Tomlanovich.

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Sitzberger, seconded by Crawley. Carried.
Motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2012 was made by Keintz, seconded by Mayo. Carried.

Motion by Mayo, seconded by Sitzberger to make the official date and time of the Snowmobile Safety Committee to be the Thursday following the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The exception would be November 15, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Carried.

- **Committee Appointments**

Motion by Sitzberger, seconded by Mayo to replace Brett Bockhop with Tim Price, both are from DNR Law Enforcement and to reappoint Gina Egan to the committee. Carried.

- **Meeting Frequency**

No change to standing rules will be made at this time regarding meeting frequency.

- **Alliance Report – Leo Crawley**

Tom Tomlanovich and Rocky Cafferella are the new alliance and AWSC director and representatives.

- **DNR Report**

Bockhop reported there is not much to report regarding enforcement. His department has 5 vacancies and 1 person on maternity leave. They are hoping to get some replacements soon. Price had no report.

- **Sheriff's Department**

Deputy Ritter reported that 2 sleds have been leased for this year's snowmobile season for \$3,300.00. Other equipment was also purchased.

- **County Coordinator Report**

Mayo indicated that the Alliance requested the committee to consider a change to the trail opening policy. Dale has safety concerns. There was much discussion. The group feels that there could be provisions allowed for a temporary closure if trails became unsafe or unrideable.

If a temporary County-wide closing of the system occurs, Vilas County has the discretionary authority of reopening the trail system after receiving written notification from the clubs that they have completed an inspection of their trail system and all safety discrepancies have been addressed. The County inspection prior to reopening may be waived.

Motion by Guif, seconded by Keintz to accept the change to the Trail Opening Policy and forward this recommendation to Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee. Carried.

Mayo also discussed the Hwy. 155 crossing. The County has contracted MSA, a private engineering firm, to determine which trail crossing option has the best visibility. This committee will keep this item on the agenda and the committee will determine which crossing is the safest option. MSA Engineering costs are approximately \$4,000.00 and they will be rolled into an existing grant. Peske asked if this situation will be resolved before the next snowmobile season and Mayo is cautiously optimistic that it will be resolved.

- **Advertising PSAs**

Suggestions for topics for PSAs from committee members include Ride Right, Ride Safe, Speed and Alcohol, and Groomer Etiquette. Warden Price presented a poster created by Northland Pines High School technology class for snowmobile safety. He indicated that perhaps this committee could work with the technology teacher this year to promote safety through various media targeting middle school, high school and young adults. Egan shared that the Child Death Review Team would like to partner with this committee in promoting snowmobile safety activities. Representatives from the school and the Child Death Review Team to attend the August meeting. Burzinski will coordinate all media activities.

- **Old Business**

Regarding TINS County map fees, EMS personnel will be asked for a \$5.00 donation, public and commercial requests will be \$25.00. Alliance agrees with these fees. Keintz passed around safety posters. Burzinski will order these posters for the committee.

- **Letters and Communications**

None.

- **Recognition of Past Chair**

Committee recognized Sig Hjenvick with a plaque for his outstanding dedication and support in snowmobile safety in Vilas County and throughout Wisconsin. Some of his accomplishments were the conception of this committee, assistance developing TINS System, introduction of safety PSAs on radio and safety video on Channel 12, a new snowmobile trail map and the most important accomplishment of assisting this committee in obtaining zero fatalities in 2011.

- **Next Meeting Date: August 16, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Arbor Vitae Highway Shop.**

- **Adjourn**

Motion by Crawley, seconded by Sitzberger to adjourn meeting at 11:57 a.m.