

VILAS COUNTY
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY
COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 20, 2012 Meeting
Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Rooms 1 & 2

PRESENT: Gary Peske, Chair; Ralph Sitzberger, Vice-Chair; Dale Mayo, Vilas County Trail Coordinator; Gerard Ritter, Vilas County Sheriff's Department; Tim Price, DNR Law Enforcement; Cindy Burzinski, Vilas County Tourism/Publicity; Gina Egan, Vilas County Public Health; Renn Karl, Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance president; Mike Keintz, Snowmobile Alliance Rep NE; Holly Tomlanovich, Snowmobile Alliance Rep SE; Stan Guif, Snowmobile Alliance Rep SW; Leo Crawley, Snowmobile Alliance Rep NW

GUESTS: Ray Wolf, LdF Tribal Law Enforcement

Meeting called to order at 10am by Chair, Peske.

Verification of posting of meeting by Mayo.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion by Crawley. Second by Sitzberger. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting. Motion by Sitzberger. Second by Keintz. Motion carried.

Chair Peske welcomed all in attendance with introductions by all in attendance.

Budget Report – Mayo reported \$880 balance of the annual budget of \$1000. An invoice from WJFW is forthcoming to be paid from these funds before the end of 2012.

Public Health – Egan – \$600 from the Maternal Child Grant will be made available to the committee for the payment of the production of Safety Posters.

DNR Report – Price – Mass Communications Class Update

1. The class has narrowed down project activity to a focus on the 2 types of safety posters.
2. The PSA project will be produced at a later date.
3. 11 X 17 is the largest that Northland Pines & the class have the capability of producing. The recommendation is to seek an outside source for the printing & laminating.
4. Several students are set to record Safety PSA's at WRJO. Tomlanovich will follow up to assure this is accomplished. She will do a recording if there PSA's left over.

5. Discussion followed on who would do the production (printing & laminating). Mayo suggested either Hahn Printing or the Eagle River Library. Further discussion in Advertising Public Relations section.

Alliance Report – Crawley – The Alliance met December 19, 2012.

1. Mayo was appointed to the Governor's Snowmobile Rec Council. His appointment was an immediate appointment as D. White stepped down.
2. Trail Opening Policy discussed with one member voicing dissent. Dissent was relative to the phrase.."conditions permitting". At the November Snowmobile Alliance meeting there was a majority vote to open the snowmobile trails on December 10, 2012 at noon.
3. Discussion of Trail Opening & Closing policy. Mayo explained the "close" process. For practical purposes trails will be open until the end of March with the caveat of conditions permitting.
4. A new trail signing handbook has been produced. Mayo handed out copies at the Alliance meeting & to the Safety Committee members.
Mayo went over the highlights & changes in the new handbook.
 - A. Directional sign wording on page 4 reads "placed in advance of the turn & to the right". Mayo aired concerns & stated he has recommended that the Vilas County Snowmobile Clubs maintain the signing they currently have in place. Signing in advance can cause confusion as to where to turn. Further there are situations that require a placement of signs on the left side of the trail. He will bring up this wording at the next Governor's Snowmobile Rec Council meeting.

The general consensus by the Snowmobile Alliance is they favor current signing. It was decided that all Alliance Rep's take back to their club level for their input. The handbook will be on the agenda for the January Alliance meeting. The results will be reported back to the Safety Committee.

- B. Chevrons on page 5. There has been a deletion of minimum number of chevrons. There was discussion of the new Michigan signing in place by Keintz & Sitzberger.

Advertising Public Relations – Burzinski –

1. TV PSA is starting Christmas/New Year's week on WJFW. The PSA is in a format to allow for placement on website.
2. Thank you to all for participating in the photo shoot at the end of last season. This made it possible to update last year's PSA.
3. Thank you to Price for all his hard work & effort on the Mass Communications project.

4. Reported that many ideas from media are coming into her office for messaging opportunities.
5. Mayo spoke of poster ideas. Discussion as to the use of all 3 posters (the one from last season & the 2 new posters from this year). Discussion of where to place the posters. Ideas of Lodging, Restaurants, Bar & On the Trails. Keintz felt that we need to get the signs out now & not wait until the next meeting. Motion by Keintz to have Burzinski & Mayo make the choice as to which posters to use, how many to be printed &/or laminated and as to who will do the production. They will further have additional TIN posters printed & laminated. Second by Sitzberger. After further discussion as to the inclusion of additional posters for other events motion carried.

Sherriff's Report – Ritter – There were some complaints over the Thanksgiving holiday of snowmobile road riding. 1 rider ticketed for multiple occurrence.

Discussion of staffing by Peske. Those on snowmobile patrol are on an overtime basis currently with monies from the State of Wisconsin to cover most cost. There is a requirement of 2 deputies unless they have had safety training & are within distance of back up.

Tomlanovich asked if there is something the Committee can do to help move toward a full time Rec Officer. Mayo suggested County Board member could be present at a Vilas County Forestry Committee meeting to present this idea.

Sitzberger spoke of the use of the "Snowmobile Cubs Trail Patrol". Perhaps trained club members could ride with & serve as the second person on trail patrols with an officer. Discussion of liability.

Price asked if there were any restrictions on time of patrolling. Ritter said they patrol anytime until midnight. Tomlanovich asked what happens after midnight as there are many drinking offenders after midnight. Karl & Crawley said when grooming they are seeing non-drinkers. Price reported that in the hours between 2 & 3 his patrol is seeing an uptick. Karl suggested that the groomer drivers be supplied with the non 911 number to the Dispatch. Ritter agreed. That number is 715.479.4441.

Trail Coordinator Report – Mayo

1. Inspections went well and were on time. Only 47 items for correction were documented, this from 11 clubs & over 500 miles. This included 6 stop signs & 5 stop ahead signs.

2. There will be no SART(Snowmobile Accident Reduction Team) this season. It has been replaced by the RSET(Recreation Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Team) Their focus is on education.
3. Vilas County has been recognized as a leader in the snowmobile community. The county has had hour meters on equipment before it was required by the State of Wisconsin. He added that the State is also watching the activities of the Safety Committee as a model.
4. Peske asked how often the Snowmobile Rec Council meeting. It meets 3 to 4 times a year. There is usually a February meeting but is has been cancelled for 2013. This meeting includes a visit to the annual groomer show in St. Germain. As there will be no equipment rate increase due to the need to get more funding into the program it was decided to forgo the meeting.

Old Business – Mayo – After advice from Corporate Council this Agenda item will be removed from future agendas.

Letters & Communication – Mayo & Sitzberger said that there can be communication but no actual action can be taken. If action is required there must be a separate agenda item.

Date for next meeting – January 24, 2013 at 9am with location to be determined. Motion by Sitzberger. Second by Mayo. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned – 11:20 am

Respectfully submitted

Holly A. Tomlanovich