

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council
February 12, 2016 ~ Comfort Inn, Deadwood, SD

Call to Order

Chairman Scott Erstad called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Scott Erstad, Bruce Hintz, Dave Kennedy, Al Nagel and Gary Ulmer.

Members Absent: Russell Johnson and Todd Wilkinson

Game, Fish and Parks Staff Present: Bob Schneider, Shannon Percy and Ryan Raynor

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Hintz to adopt the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Kennedy and was seconded by Ulmer to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2015 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Legislative Update

Schneider gave a brief description of two bills that could have had some impact on the snowmobile trails program. An ORV bill was provided to various state agencies which would implement a state wide Off Highway Vehicle program managed by Game Fish and Parks similar to the snowmobile program. After the Representative Verchio received comments from various agencies including staff from Game Fish and Parks, he decided not to introduce it. The last bill Schneider discussed was about extending authority to townships to close off certain sections of right of ways to OHV use. This bill was withdrawn before it could be read in front of committee.

Black Hills Update

Percy gave a brief update on the snowmobile season to date. The grooming season has been limited, only running 2 full shifts to date. Traffic on the trails is down compared to last year and based on future weather forecasts, we expect further decline in traffic. Lack of consistent snow and warm temperatures have made for a below average year so far. Ulmer asked if Shannon was seeing lots of down trees. Percy stated after the 70 mile per hour wind gusts came through a few days ago, bug hit trees were down all over the place and trail staff had been busy removing any hazards from the trail.

Governor's Ride

Percy gave the council a description of the trails he selected for the Governor's Ride. The ride would start on 1 south to trail 11. A 2 mile deadhead on trail 11 to stop at a warming shelter. From this point they would continue on 11 south to trail 12, then trail 12 B, back to trail 12, than heading back north on trail 1.

East River Update

Raynor gave an update on the current trail conditions that exist East River. It's been a different year east river as many clubs who had not groomed for two to three years were grooming consistently. Redfield, Miller, and Beresford had gone multiple years without grooming and saw multiple grooming rotations early in the season. Beresford was still grooming and had the best trail and snow conditions throughout the season to date. Other clubs like Brookings and Clear Lake also saw consistent snowfall and were grooming on a weekly basis. All clubs had groomed at least one rotation but unfortunately the extended forecast was predicting unseasonably warm temperatures so grooming may stopped here soon.

FY '16 Budget Review:

Raynor shared a budget summary report with the council which showed 41.9% of the budget year remaining through January 31, 2016. Raynor told the council that expenditures to date were lower than this time last year mainly due to less grooming in the Black Hills. Both diesel expenses and seasonal salaries were down significantly from the previous

year. Just under \$52,000 has been spent out of the Grant In Aid program, but Raynor expects one of the highest expenditures out of the grant program ever at the end of the year due to all the grooming cycles across eastern SD. The major increases in spending are because of the Sno-Cat equipment cost increase and the purchase of four new maxey drags. Total expenditures to date for the program total \$496,194 out of \$1,371,179 budget authority.

FY '16 Revenue Report:

Raynor gave a brief review of revenue received to date which included:

- Gas Tax - \$433,440 (12,384 Registered Sleds for FY'16 which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016)
- License Fees - \$59,446
- 3% Excise Tax - \$86,917
- Interest - \$13,632
- Other - \$3,788
- **Total - \$597,223 through January 31.**

Safety Report

Schmitt mentioned 9 accidents to date have been reported with no fatalities in the state. Seven reports had been received by Raynor with two more still under review. Raynor stated out of the 7 reports he had received, 5 were rental sleds.

No snowmobile accidents reported on the eastern side of the state.

20 men, women, and children had taken the safety course to date. Overall 10 snowmobilers have received certificates for taking the safety course. Raynor stated more safety courses are scheduled and still need to report attendance back.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2016 at the Capitol Lake Visitor Center in Pierre.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kennedy and was seconded by Ulmer to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. **Motion Carried.**