**Meeting Minutes**

Governor’s Snowmobile Advisory Council

February 11th, 2022 ~ LRC Room 413 State Capital Building, Pierre, SD

**Call to Order**

Chairman Dave Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Roll Call**

Members Present: Dave Kennedy, Todd Sprang, and Gary Ulmer.

Members Present via Zoom: Al Nagel, Scott Erstad

Members Absent: Todd Wilkinson and Bruce Hintz

Game, Fish and Parks Staff Present: Matt Snyder and Shannon Percy via Zoom, and Ryan Raynor.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Erstad made a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed. Sprang seconded. **Motion Carried.**

**Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Nagel and was seconded by Sprang to approve the minutes of the November 5th, 2021, meeting. **Motion Carried.**

**Legislative Update**

Raynor stated no bills have been introduced that could impact the statewide snowmobile program.

**Black Hills Update**

Percy gave a brief update on the snowmobile season stating it had been very slow start to the season, with only 3 grooming rotations taking place. Traffic has been down due to low snow conditions and just wasn’t much to report. Things are looking up though as it was snowing as of the meeting.

Todd Sprang asked about the fulltime position GFP was trying to hire. Percy stated they are close to offering the job to someone but that they are still in the process.

**East River Update**

Raynor stated it’s been a slower than average grooming season for the 14 clubs who participate in the Grant in Aid program as well. Clubs who had at least one grooming rotation or more, include Aberdeen, Webster, Milbank, Watertown, Clear Lake, Brookings and Sisseton. The rest of the clubs had not groomed yet and the best snow conditions were in Milbank who had the most grooming rotations thus far.

Raynor gave a brief update on the rebar adaptors which had seen mixed reviews thus far. Raynor stated clubs had said it worked great, other clubs had issues with the adaptor failing and needing repairs. Raynor stated he has yet to connect with the fabricator to discuss the issues and what improvements would be necessary. Raynor reminded the council these have not been paid for yet as he wanted to vet their durability. Raynor will provide an update in May.

**SDSU Veteran’s Affairs Snowmobile Ride**

Raynor reminded the council this event was cancelled due to low snow conditions in the hills. Raynor reassured the SDSU Veteran’s Affairs Office the commitment that GFP and the Snowmobile Community has to the event, and we all looked forward to it next year.

**Kalkomey Online Snowmobile Safety Course**

Raynor shared a report he receives monthly from Kalkomey which shows number of classes taken and other demographic information. Raynor stated payment has been submitted for 50 free codes which will be shared to those wanting to take the course. This cost was $1,475.

A member of the audience asked if GFP can receive contact information so these participants could be contacted and encouraged to take a local course where further snowmobile operation instruction would take place. Raynor stated he’d have to check but remembers where that is likely.

A member of the audience asked what information is sent after the participant completed the course? Raynor stated our links are sent but that he would follow up as well to make sure we have a clear picture what info is sent.

**FY 22 Budget Review:**

Raynor shared a budget summary with the council which showed expenses through January 29th, 2022. **Total expenditures** for the snowmobile program totaled **$377,654** out of $1,394,451 budget authority.

* Salaries and Benefits - $118,219
* Travel - $14,851
* Contractual Services – $67,118
* Supplies and Materials – $58,465
* Grants - $41,517
* Capital Assets - $77,484

**FY ’22 Revenue Report:**

Raynor gave a brief review of revenue received through January 31st, 2022:

* Gas Tax - $340,725 (9,735 registered sleds for FY21 which runs July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)
* License Fees - $45,470
* 3% Excise Tax - $70,078
* Interest - $15,635
* Other - $9,656
* **Total - $481,564**

Raynor stated revenue just isn’t pouring in through folks licensing their snowmobiles even though excise tax numbers were up last year. Low snow conditions and access to snowmobiles being available to purchase were the main reason. With little grooming rotations in the black hills, revenue was over expenses by just over $100,000.

**Safety & Accident Report**

Percy stated 1 accident has been reported so far and unfortunately it was a fatality. This case was still under investigation to excessive speed is expected to be a factor.

Raynor mentioned that a safety course was provided by the Siouxland club, with 9 participants and 9 certified.

**Governor’s Snowmobile Ride**

As everybody knew, the Governor’s ride was cancelled due to low snow conditions. Raynor did remind the council that SDSA chose to provide a packet of information, which included our Economic Impact Study, RAC card of snowmobile facts all tucked inside a tumbler. These items would be placed on all 105 desks of the legislative body.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7th,2022, at the Capitol in Pierre.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Sprang and was seconded by Nagel to adjourn at 10:48 a.m. **Motion Carried.**