

## **Meeting Minutes**

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council  
Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, ~ Pierre, SD  
State Capitol Building – LRC Room 412  
Zoom Link Provided for this meeting.

### **Call to Order**

Nagel called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Bruce Hintz, Dave Kennedy, Al Nagel,

Members Present on Zoom: Todd Erstad, Todd Sprang, Gary Ulmer

Members Absent: Todd Wilkinson

GFP Staff Present: Ryan Raynor and Shannon Percy

### **Adoption of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Hintz and seconded by Kennedy to approve the minutes from the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. **Motion Carried.**

### **Public Comment**

Raynor acknowledges to the council that Kim Raap's letter, related to the Grant In Aid program was received and sent to the council and GFP administration per Kim's request.

Kim Raap asked what needs to be done related to signing on the eastern side of the state. Raynor stated the program currently has a great trail system with plenty of miles, but GFP hadn't had time to address most of the letter written by Raap as it was received within a week of the meeting.

Kelly Weaver had also written her own comments related to the Raap Letter. She read her comments to the council which shared her concerns about many aspects of the GIA program but highlighted 3 options including GFP staff helping in local areas, clubs contracting with other contractors to sign and groom. Weaver felt this matter deserved the council's support to adopt various changes otherwise the sustainability of the program was at stake.

Kelly then provided comments about their experience at the DC Fly-in. This is an annual event where snowmobilers travel to DC to talk to various partners including the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and state representatives, to discuss snowmobiling. Various topics including USFS realignment, and the Federal

Highway Bill which includes the RTP program were discussed along with fighting for access to public lands.

### **2026 Legislative Session**

Raynor stated no legislation was introduced this year that would impact snowmobiling the sport or the use of a snowmobile in other manners.

### **Fiscal Year 26 Grant-In-Aid Summary**

Raynor stated the miles in the slide below represents the total miles maintained with the grant and not miles groomed throughout the season. Total expenses came in just over \$117,000 which Raynor stated is basically the bare minimum it takes to operate the GIA program.

<b>Grant In Aid Total Expenses</b>		
<b>Club</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Miles</b>
Aberdeen	\$10,054	66
Beresford	\$14,613	73
Brookings	\$9,899	116
Clear Lake	\$15,463	67
DeSmet	\$15,953	58
Huron	\$3,405	33
Milbank	\$6,629	72
Miller	\$5,469	52
Mitchell	\$4,916	26
Poinsett	\$6,805	90
Siouxland	\$6,002	52
Sisseton	\$7,717	109
Watertown	\$6,831	76
Webster	\$3,550	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$117,305</b>	<b>925</b>

### **25-26 GIA Total Hours Groomed**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Actual Hours Groomed</b>	<b>Trail Miles</b>
Aberdeen	3	66
Beresford	0	73
Brookings	28	116
Clear Lake	0	67
DeSmet	0	58
Huron	0	33
Milbank	7	72
Miller	0	52
Mitchell	0	26
Poinsett	0	90
Siouxland	20	52
Sisseton	15	109
Watertown	0	76
Webster	0	35
<b>Totals</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>925</b>

Raynor stated most of the hours shown on the hours groomed slide were taking the groomer out to pack early snowfall before the season started. This year would go down as the least amount of grooming since he's been around. Below the slide breaks down the costs per reimbursement category per grant.

Club	Fuel	M&R	Grooming	Signing	Lease	Insurance	Storage	Total
Aberdeen	\$46	\$3,054	\$39	\$2,160	\$0	\$2,255	\$2,500	\$10,054
Beresford	\$0	\$2,024	\$6,307	\$2,190	\$0	\$1,592	\$2,500	\$14,613
Brookings	\$196	\$1,823	\$364	\$3,480	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,500	\$9,899
Clear Lake	\$0	\$0	\$9,418	\$2,010	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,500	\$15,463
DeSmet	\$0	\$0	\$10,023	\$1,740	\$0	\$1,690	\$2,500	\$15,953
Huron	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$990	\$0	\$1,535	\$880	\$3,405
Milbank	\$214	\$77	\$85	\$2,160	\$0	\$1,593	\$2,500	\$6,629
Miller	\$0	\$1,274	\$0	\$1,560	\$100	\$1,535	\$1,000	\$5,469
Mitchell	\$0	\$101	\$0	\$780	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,500	\$4,916
Poinsett	\$0	\$70	\$0	\$2,700	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,500	\$6,805
Siouxland	\$285	\$357	\$260	\$1,560	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,005	\$6,002
Sisseton	\$0	\$130	\$195	\$3,270	\$0	\$1,622	\$2,500	\$7,717
Watertown	\$0	\$478	\$0	\$2,355	\$0	\$1,498	\$2,500	\$6,831
Webster	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,050	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$3,550
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$741</b>	<b>\$9,388</b>	<b>\$26,691</b>	<b>\$28,005</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$20,995</b>	<b>\$31,385</b>	<b>\$117,305</b>

### **Fiscal Year 27 Grant-In-Aid Proposals**

Raynor discussed the proposals received for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season which includes the use of 10 state-owned groomers, 3 privately-owned groomers, 863 (-68 from FY25) miles of trail and 1,325 (-28 from FY25) groomed miles. Total Funding request of \$356,635.

Raynor stated he's still waiting to hear back from the Webster club as they did not submit a grant proposal. Grant Administrator Jim Grimes told Raynor they may not have a trail system next year as they are struggling to find help to put in the 35-mile trail system at this time. Raynor told the council his message to Grimes was the equipment would stay in Webster for at least one year. However, if the club decided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year not to participate in the GIA program, they would reallocate grooming resources elsewhere. Nagel encouraged GFP to reach out to private contractors for signing purposes. Weaver stated she sees the local club having the contract with the contractor and being reimbursed for that contract, but this would be a good test case. Raynor stated if the goal was to take program workload off the backs of volunteers, he wouldn't recommend asking local clubs to reach out for quotes from local contractors and sign a contract accordingly. Raynor stated questions pop up in this scenario including, what does that contract from the club to contractor really mean? Does it have binding verbiage, what about insurance and will DOT allow this type of contract to take place in their Right of Way.

Raynor stated he'll reach out to local fencing companies to provide a quote for the August meeting.

## 26-27 GIA Requests

Club	Total
Aberdeen	\$27,555
Beresford	\$27,706
Brookings	\$42,832
Clear Lake	\$37,149
DeSmet	\$39,338
Huron	\$13,465
Milbank	\$25,434
Miller	\$23,478
Mitchell	\$8,782
Poinsett	\$29,303
Siouxland	\$21,472
Sisseton	\$35,873
Watertown	\$24,248
Webster	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$356,635</b>

The following clubs had no reroutes proposed: Beresford, Brookings, Clear Lake, De Smet, Huron, Milbank Miller, Mitchell, and Sisseton,

Aberdeen: Adding spur from Frederick to Elm Lake. This will add 6 miles for a total of 78.

Poinsett: Removing HWY 81, east to Estelline and 2 miles that Watertown is taking on

Siouxland: Removing Trent, southwest to Dell Rapids

Watertown: Removing from Keller Kountry Korner, southeast to Henry.

Webster: Still discussing GIA viability for the 26-27 season.

The following chart shows the Grant-In-Aid requests for the 2026-2027 snowmobile season broken down by each expense category:

26-27 GIA Requests	
Club	Total
Aberdeen	\$27,555
Beresford	\$27,706
Brookings	\$42,832
Clear Lake	\$37,149
DeSmet	\$39,338
Huron	\$13,465
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$356,635</b>



Raynor stated starting the 26-27 season, would be year 4 on the current reimbursement rates. During the 22-23 season, GFP and the Council agreed these rates should be reviewed every 4 to 5 years and so it was time to adjust again. Raynor shared the slide below which highlights the impact of a reimbursement rate increase based on this year's expenses. Raynor is proposing increasing the Grooming and Maintenance & Repair rate from \$13 to \$18. This would also include a \$3 increase from \$72 to \$75 for clubs who own their own groomer. The final category would be signing, where Raynor is proposing the current \$15 for signs in and out, to \$20.

Proposed Rate Increase-Current Reimbursment Rates in Yellow Heading - Proposed Rate in White below								
Club	Fuel	M&R \$13	Grooming \$13 & \$72	Signing \$15	Lease	Insurance	Storage \$2,500	Total
Aberdeen	\$46	\$3,054	\$39	\$2,160	\$0	\$2,255	\$2,500	\$10,054
Beresford	\$0	\$2,024	\$6,307	\$2,190	\$0	\$1,592	\$2,500	\$14,613
Brookings	\$196	\$1,823	\$364	\$3,480	\$0	\$1,535	\$2,500	\$9,899
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Webster	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,050	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$3,550
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$741</b>	<b>\$9,388</b>	<b>\$26,691</b>	<b>\$28,005</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$20,995</b>	<b>\$31,385</b>	<b>\$117,305</b>
Proposed Rate Increase & %	No Changes	\$18 or 38%	\$18 or 38% - \$75 or 4%	\$20 or 33%	No Changes	No Changes	No Changes	
FY27 Expense Increase	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,567</b>	<b>\$1,388</b>	<b>\$9,242</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,197</b>
FY26 Expense with new rates	\$741	\$12,956	\$28,079	\$37,247	\$100	\$20,995	\$31,385	\$131,502

## Black Hills Season Review

Percy stated this was probably the worst season he can ever recall. Grooming started on January 21<sup>st</sup>, and last day groomed was March 15<sup>th</sup>, with no grooming in-between. Total miles groomed was 1,657 broken down with 1,287 in SD and 370 in Wyoming. Percy then discussed Sno-Cat hours with DEF and Diesel usage. These slides are shared below. Percy explained to the council that the number of miles is much higher than grooming as the groomers were used to remove debris from the trails due to the high wind events that took place before the season started.

# Black Hills Sno-Cat Use



<u>2025 – 2026</u>			<u>2024 – 2025</u>		
<u>Tucker</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Tucker</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Miles</u>
#1	29	180	#1	380	2,787
#2	30	207	#2	511	4,056
#3	53	373	#3	548	3,891
#4	89	637	#4	153	1,007
#5	94	743	#5	308	2,548
#6	43	340	#6	321	2,632
#7	77	701	#7	521	3,727
<b>Total</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>20,648</b>



## Diesel and DEF Usage



<u>Diesel</u>		<u>DEF</u>	
25-26 – 1,407 gal = \$ 3,642	25-26 - 74 gal = \$ 184		
24-25 - 16,463 gal = \$50,263	24-25 - 713 gal = \$2,374		
23-24 - 4,902 gal = \$14,534	23-24 - 87 gal = \$290		



### Black Hills Trail Counts

Percy stated the high Roughlock Falls counter has been impacted by foot traffic due to the low snow conditions.

# Black Hills Trail Counts

SITE	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Black Fox	532	3,444	306
Kirk Snow	1,946	3,869	596
RL Snow	3,956	5,596	3,673
Sugarloaf Snow	2,158	4,298	1,650
Tr. 1 N (trail 1)	2,362	8,772	763
Tr. 1 S (S. 1&3)	1,334	4,552	1,295
Tr. 12 (FS117)	242	N/A	N/A
Tr. 2A (Rapid Creek)	897	3,245	529
Tr. 4 (Trailhead)	2,205	5,637	534
Tr. 5 ( Hanna)	1,760	8,398	611
Tr. 9 (BJW)	124	N/A	124
Tr. 3	1,251	3,077	350
Tr. 2C	1,482	3,328	964
Tr. 3 (Lost Canyon)	1,046	3,628	1,126
Tr. 7	850	879	194
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,145</b>	<b>58,723</b>	<b>12,715</b>

## Black Hills Revenue

Percy gave a brief review of the revenue earned through the Black Hills Trails Office in Lead. Those sales are reflected below.

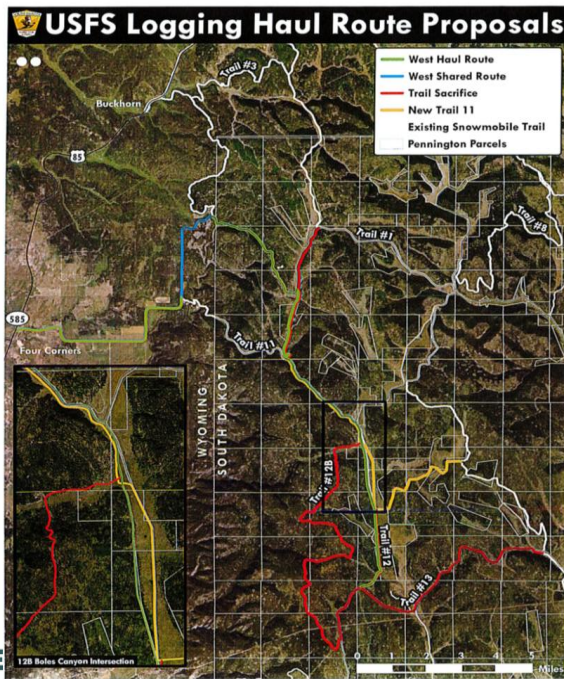
## 2025-2026 Black Hills Revenue

Permits & Final Counts	Quantity 2025-2026	Amount 2025-2026	Amount 2024-2025	Amount 2024-2025
Commercial	0	0	0	0
Motorcycle	1	\$20	3	\$60
5-Day Permits	51	\$2,040	406	\$16,240
Wyoming Trails	370 miles	\$1,850	2,768 miles	\$13,840
Cross Country Ski Trails	0 hrs.	\$0	2 hrs.	\$60
Trail Directory	20	\$3,000	20	\$3,000
Fines/Tows	0	\$0	0	\$0
Donations	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,910</b>		<b>\$33,200</b>

Finally, Percy was excited to note, no accidents were reported.

## Forest Service Meeting

### Black Hills Reroutes



During this meeting, the BHNFS shared similar concerns with side x sides going around closed gates. They asked GFP to keep more of their gates in place, instead of removing them after the snowmobile season in future seasons. Percy stated we could accommodate a couple but overall, they just destroy them anyways and it was just too costly to leave most in place. However, GFP did identify around a dozen spots to leave closures up, continuing to work with the BHNFS.

Percy stated the Parmalee closure, which first started 2 years ago will be back in place. GFP is currently negotiating to keep trail 9 as it's just a secondary haul route currently. He reminded the group about the shared route on trail 11 as well.

## FY 26 Revenue

Raynor shared the following information for revenue generated through the month of April. Raynor reminded the council that the number of registered sleds was a huge increase but due to poor snow conditions, we should expect that number to drop starting in FY27. Total revenue generated through April is \$876,462.

## FY26 Program Revenue - Through April

	FY26	FY25	FY24
Registered Sleds	14,619	12,371	10,569
Gas Tax	\$511,665	\$432,985	\$369,915
Excise Tax	\$189,957	\$209,209	\$278,127
\$10 Resident License	\$63,867	\$70,332	\$62,790
Sales & Services	\$58,100	\$85,942	\$95,141
Interest	\$35,723	\$37,195	\$22,456
\$40 5-Day Temp. Permits	\$1,960	\$16,240	\$4,040
Other	\$15,190	\$1,950	\$6,775
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$876,462</b>	<b>\$853,853</b>	<b>\$839,244</b>

### Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Review & Fund Balance Update

Raynor reminded the council that figures he was about to share would be through the month of April.

Raynor shared the slides below which show the Black Hills budget, then a full program summary including the Black Hills, East River GIA Program, and any other administrative expenses.

#### FY26 Black Hills Expenditures - Through April

	FY26 Budget	FY26 Expenses	FY25 Expenses
Full Time Wages & Benefits	\$314,240	\$143,484	\$256,016
Seasonal Wages	\$168,217	\$57,976	\$100,706
Travel	\$45,057	\$28,928	\$20,054
Contractual Services	\$116,290	\$84,211	\$62,850
Supplies & Materials	\$167,550	\$78,382	\$176,418
Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Assets	\$264,000	\$149,508	\$82,217
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,075,354</b>	<b>\$542,489</b>	<b>\$698,261</b>

#### FY26 Program Expenditures - Through April

	FY26 Budget	FY26 Expenses	FY25 Expenses
Full Time Wages & Benefits	\$354,283	\$190,142	\$297,350
Seasonal Wages	\$168,217	\$57,976	\$100,706
Travel	\$64,359	\$35,471	\$27,292
Contractual Services	\$148,309	\$99,027	\$88,894
Supplies & Materials	\$184,750	\$104,865	\$188,510
Grants	\$312,500	\$87,877	\$79,352
Capital Assets	\$264,000	\$149,508	\$82,217
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,496,418</b>	<b>\$724,866</b>	<b>\$864,321</b>

Fund Balance Update Through April	
Revenue:	\$876,462
Expenses:	\$724,866
Loss/Gain	<b>\$151,596</b>
Starting Fund Balance 7-1-25	\$631,354
Loss/Gain through April	\$151,596
Fund Balance through April	<b>\$782,950</b>

Raynor then gave a breakdown of the fund balance through April.

Revenue: \$876,462

Expenses: \$724,866

Loss/Gain: \$151,596

Starting FY Fund Balance: \$631,354

Loss/Gain through April: \$151,596

Fund Balance through April: \$782,950

Raap asked why the large difference between full-time salaries budgeted, compared to actual expenses. Percy stated due to poor snow conditions, staff are then placed on other projects in Percy's district, which they then code their time to different budgets. At the end of the day, hours worked could include various parks operations and snowmobile, but hours coded to the snowmobile budget, only take place while performing snowmobile duties, no matter what the title is.

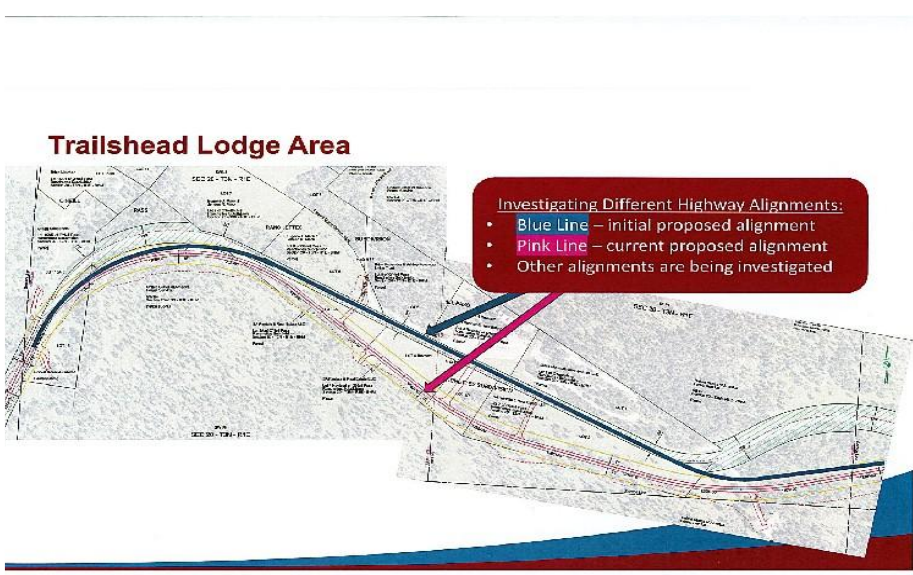
**EIS & Survey Update**

Raynor shared his frustration with USD and trying to get 3 out of the 5 surveys available to the clubs and snowmobile businesses. Raynor stated he was able to talk to USD about a month ago but still does not have these surveys updated to the link that will be used. Raynor still needs to get a scope of work, contract signed and then surveys updated and made live, all items which he's waiting on USD to provide. He hopes to have all these project items finalized by end of June and the surveys will be made available soon after.

Weaver asked for a summary of both the EIS and Use Survey for ISC. Raynor was happy to oblige.

Raynor shared a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft from RRC on the use survey. GFP is asking the council and board members for their opinion of this draft as this project winds down. All council and board members went home with a paper copy and asked if these copies do not get distributed as it is not a final product. Raynor would like any comments, questions or concerns back to him withing the next 2 weeks and those would be shared with RRC.

## Federal Highway & DOT Meeting



Federal highway is looking at addressing HWY 85 from Cheyenne Crossing to the Wyoming line. Percy shared a map that DOT will be sharing with the public as they start public meetings which provide a couple options. The pink line was proposed by Trailshead lodge as an alternative. This option would mean snowmobilers wouldn't need to cross the highway to go from the parking lot to the lodge. They would still need to cross the highway to get on the trail though. If this option is chosen, DOT would pay for all expenses to move the vault toilet.

### Kaschmitter Update

Percy stated DOT is reconsidering opening the right-of-way from Kaschmitters to Recreational Springs. Those discussions are on-going along with other work related to this subject.

### Safety Report

Raynor gave a brief overview of the past years reported accidents. There were 0 accidents reported with 0 fatalities, and 2 Search and Rescues from the Black Hills. Raynor stated 12 people took the online safety course through Kalkomey for the 2025 Calendar Year.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Pierre at the Capital Building.

### Adjournment

A motion was made by Ulmer and seconded by Kennedy to adjourn the meeting at 11:32a.m. **Motion Carried.**