

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 11th, 2018 ~ LRC Room 413, Capitol Building, Pierre

Chairman Russ Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Council members Scott Erstad, Bruce Hintz, Russell Johnson, Al Nagel, and Dave Kennedy, were present. Todd Wilkinson and Gary Ulmer were absent. Game, Fish, and Parks (GFP) members present were Shannon Percy, Ryan Raynor and Katie Ceroll participated by teleconference.

Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Kennedy and seconded by Nagel to adopt the agenda with requested changes. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Erstad to approve the minutes of the May 12th, 2018, meeting as presented. **Motion Carried.**

Council Re-Appointments

Raynor recognized Gary Ulmer and Scott Erstad for being re-appointed to the Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council by Governor Daugaard. Council members serve three-year terms with no limit on the number of terms.

SDSU Veteran's Ride Presentation

Raynor introduced Connie Johnson from the SDSU Veteran's Affairs Office. Johnson serves as the program coordinator who helps facilitate various programs on and off campus for Veteran's returning after service to finish their college degrees along with financial aid, consultation, and job services. Johnson shared a variety of existing programs including a book club, Warrior Week, Horses for Heroes, and expanded on her expectations for the Veteran's Retreat.

Johnson provided her story of why she joined the military and how she received a Purple Heart after almost losing her life due to an IED explosion. She described her difficulties in dealing with PTSD and how socially at this time, the public misunderstood the impact PTSD had on Veteran's. Johnson shared how a Veteran's Retreat changed her life by connecting her to other veterans dealing with the similar difficulties and how helpful these recreational opportunities can be.

Johnson reached out to Percy and Raynor to help provide a snowmobiling opportunity during next year's Veteran's Retreat over Martin Luther King Day Weekend. The plan is for a group of 12 veterans go out for a snowmobile ride in the morning, while the second group sits down with a counselor to discuss best practices for coping with the stress of returning to civilian life. Johnson said more details are yet to be worked out and she looks forward to working with GFP, SDSA, and the Snowmobile Advisory Council.

Raynor asked how they chose who went on the retreat from year to year. Johnson stated combat veterans get first preference for those able to attend the retreat from year to year and they have a list of veterans who can attend if their schedule allows. Following further discussion, Raynor presented a slide that showed how 16 clubs, pledged to donate \$250 for a total of \$4,000 being pledged to help pay for the Veteran's Retreat. This amount will help pay for at least two years of this retreat and plans on being an ongoing event.

Johnson asked if helmets and gear were provided with the rentals. After much discussion, as long as Johnson could provide a list of sizes needed, plenty of snowmobilers would be able to provide the clothing and helmets to those who could not supply their own.

In closing, Raynor stated a lot is to be learned and shared prior to this event and Raynor will be in touch with the council and SDSA board as the planning continues for the January 19th, 2019, snowmobiling portion of the retreat.

Black Hills Update

Percy indicated the only reroute on for the Black Hills trail this year is located on Trail #8. The trail comes off the 110 Road by the big hill climb and Percy is currently working with the Forest Service to find a route around and is close to finalizing the route.

Nagel asked about the trail on Hwy #385. Percy stated it is currently on a hold until DOT finalizes a plan on this area.

Trail Cameras

Percy stated the next camera location will be at the Big Hill Lot where Trail #1 and #3 come together and will be solar powered. Raynor will send in component specs to GenPro, who is based out of Piedmont to help facilitate the solar power portion of this tower.

Raynor is still in the process of ordering parts and is confident the tower will be on the ground much sooner than the first one.

Tornado in Spearfish Canyon

Percy shared a variety of photos and a map showing the path of the tornado in Spearfish Canyon earlier this summer. Percy outlined some of the damage but knows a lot of work will have to take place this fall to help clear the debris on the northern trail routes. Fortunately, the Forest Service has been clearing their main Forest Service roads and this has positively impacted some snowmobile trails located on those roads.

East River Update

Raynor indicated groomer inspections were conducted in early August with most equipment in being in good shape. It was determined that the groomer from

Sioux Falls will be surplused this fall and a 2013 Sno-Cat with 29,000 miles and 4,149 hours from the Black Hills will replace it. The 2009 Sno-Cat with 4,407 hours and 26,876 miles will be surplused on the Purple Wave Auction website.

Overall, the Sioux Falls groomer would have required the most repairs to get it season ready including the replacement of two tracks and five boggie wheels, compared to three older groomers located in Redfield, Miller, and Huron.

2018-2019 GIA Applications

Grant-in-Aid (GIA) applications totaling \$351,147 and includes 1,585 miles of groomed trail were recommended to the council:

Aberdeen	\$18,123	Mitchell	\$ 6,576
Beresford	\$22,931	Poinsett	\$26,155
Brookings	\$29,036	Redfield	\$13,520
Clear Lake	\$31,572	Siouxland	\$21,890
DeSmet	\$66,834	Sisseton	\$27,156
Huron	\$15,881	Watertown	\$15,831
Milbank	\$19,538	Webster	\$25,044
Miller	\$11,060		

Nagel made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 GIA packages, seconded by Erstad. **Motion Carried.**

Snowmobile Map

Raynor shared that the printing of the map is changing from the Department of Tourism’s hands to Game, Fish and Parks. Raynor stated this is a good change and thanked the Department of Tourism for their efforts.

FY 2018 Budget Review (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018)

The snowmobile program spent \$900,500 during FY18 and revenue earned totaled \$861,083. The snowmobile trails fund dropped from \$888,674 to \$849,257 as of June 30th, 2018.

Total Revenue Earned Included:

Gas Tax:	\$399,245	(11,407 Registered Snowmobiles)
\$10 Snowmobile License:	\$110,696	
3% Registration Tax:	\$249,343	
\$40 5-Day Temporary Permit:	\$ 23,960	
Interest:	\$ 15,878	
Charges for Sales/Services:	\$ 18,420	
Other:	\$ 43,540	

Total Expenditures Included:

Salaries & Benefits:	\$330,109	Travel:	\$ 12,835
Contractual Services:	\$113,234	Supplies & Materials:	\$145,429
Grants:	\$97,943	Capital Assets:	\$200,950

Capital Assets Purchased:

Raynor reminded the council that one groomer, a forestry head skid steer attachment, and a wood chipper (split 50/50 with parks budget) were purchased for Capital Assets in FY18.

Raynor provided the council a graph which reflected the number of snowmobiles registered in South Dakota as of July 1st since 2011:

FY2009 - 12,231	FY2014 - 14,589
FY2010 - 13,742	FY2015 - 13,234
FY2011 - 13,080	FY2016 - 12,384
FY2012 - 15,554	FY2017 - 11,623
FY2013 - 14,845	FY2018 - 11,407
FY2019 - 10,941	

FY 2019 Budget Preview (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

Projected revenue for FY19 is \$809,935 while \$1,312,098 of spending authority is budgeted. The 10,941 snowmobile registrations account for \$382,935 received through the gas tax reimbursement.

Projected Revenue:

Gas Tax:	\$382,935
\$10 Snowmobile License:	\$108,000
4% Registration Tax:	\$240,000
\$40 5-Day Temporary Permit:	\$ 15,000
Interest :	\$ 14,000
Charges for Sales/Services:	\$ 15,000
Other:	\$ 35,000

Projected Expenses:

Personnel Services:	\$402,274	Supplies:	\$184,750
Travel:	\$ 19,550	Grants:	\$312,500
Contractual Supplies:	\$143,024	Capital Assets:	\$250,000

Projected Capital Assets:

Groomer:	\$225,000
Drag (1):	\$ 25,000

Ceroll stated The Recreational Trails Advisory Council met in June and approved the allocation of \$331,060 towards the Snowmobile program.

FY 2020 Budget Recommendation (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)

Projected revenue for FY20 is \$810,000. Raynor shared that due to the continued decrease in excise tax, the number of registered snowmobiles, and gas tax this revenue projection fits closer to current trends. This projection is taking into account the below average snowfall as well.

Projected Revenue:

Gas Tax:	\$383,000
\$10 Snowmobile Licenses:	\$108,000
3% Registration Tax:	\$240,000
\$40 5-Day Temporary Permit:	\$ 15,000
Interest :	\$ 14,000
Charges for Sales/Services:	\$ 15,000
Other:	\$ 35,000

Projected Expenditures:

Personnel Services:	\$402,274	Supplies and Materials:	\$184,750
Travel:	\$ 19,550	Grants:	\$312,500
Contractual Supplies:	\$143,024	Capital Assets:	\$264,000

Projected Capital Assets:

Trails Groomer	\$227,000
Drags (1)	\$ 25,000
Radios (4)	\$ 12,000

Erstad made a motion to approve the FY2020 Snowmobile budget as proposed by Raynor. Motion was seconded by Nagel. **Motion Carried.**

YETIS Non-Voting Member

At the May meeting, the council agreed to review a list of rules that would be used to govern a new position on the board, a non-voting member from the YETIS (Youth Empowered through Involvement In Snowmobiling), a youth snowmobile group recently created through the South Dakota Snowmobile Association. It was agreed that these minutes would be the governing body of rules shared herein, that will manage this position from this date forward.

Hintz made a motion to approve the YETIS member rules as edited on the power point presentation. Motion was seconded by Erstad. **Motion Carried.**

These are the YETIS member rules as approved and will be referenced in the endnotes of all future minutes.ⁱ

- MUST BE A YETIS MEMBER ACCORDING TO YETIS BY-LAWS
- YETS WILL SELECT 2 MEMBERS, ONE OF THOSE BEING AN ALTERNATE
- YETIS WILL INTRODUCE THEIR TWO SELECTIONS DURING THE BUSINESS MEETING AT THE STATE CONVENTION
- APPOINTMENTS WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR TERMS
- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS COORDINATOR WILL PROVIDE RESOURCES WHICH HELP EXPLAIN THE BASIC FUNCTIONS OF THE SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM STATE WIDE.
- TRAVEL AND MEALS ARE NON REFUNDABLE

Economic Impact Study

Ceroll stated that the planning section of the Parks and Recreation Division are starting next summer to discuss the process from the 2012 study with the hopes of a 2021 to 2022 rollout of this study.

Ceroll thanked the council for putting this important study on the department's radar and we look forward to figuring out what important information is worth gathering.

Election of Officers

Gary Ulmer will roll into the Chairman position at the November meeting. A motion was made by Hintz and seconded by Erstad to vote Dave Kennedy into the Vice-Chairman position. **Motion Carried.**

Members of the audience asked GFP to add snowmobiling pictures to the GFP Branded PowerPoint Master document.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 30th, 2018, in Sioux Falls at the Ramkota. This meeting is held in conjunction with the SD Snowmobile Association Association's Annual Convention.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Johnson and was seconded by Kennedy to adjourn at 10:49 a.m. **Motion carried.**

ⁱ YETIS member rules adopted in the August 11, 2018, Minutes on page 5.