

Meeting Minutes

Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council

Saturday, May 12, 2018 ~ Capital Building Room 413, Pierre South Dakota

Call to Order

Chairman Russ Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Todd Wilkinson, Dave Kennedy, Russell Johnson, Gary Ulmer, Al Nagel, Bruce Hintz and Scott Erstad

Members Absent: none

GFP Staff Present: Katie Ceroll, Shannon Percy, and Ryan Raynor.

Adoption of the Agenda

Erstad added Economic Impact Study to the agenda.

A motion was made by Wilkinson and seconded by Ulmer to adopt the agenda as amended. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Nagel and seconded by Ulmer to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2018 meeting. **Motion Carried.**

Legislative Updated

Ceroll stated Senate Bill 41 was approved and signed by the Governor and will become effective on July 1st. This bill was a cleanup bill that was sponsored by the Department of Revenue. This bill didn't change anything but updated the language on how we have licensed snowmobiles for the past five to six years.

RTP and Equipment Purchases

Ceroll wanted to make sure the council was aware of the current process for using RTP dollars to buy equipment. There is a Buy America program that requires all equipment to be made and manufactured in America. Manufacturers must supply documentation to Federal Highway which proves everything is made in America and Tucker has provided this documentation. Tucker provides a letter to the State and if the RTP council would approve the equipment purchase, this letter helps streamline this approval once it gets to Federal Highway.

Black Hills Season Review

Overall it was a good snow year in the Black Hills stated Percy. Grooming began on December 15th and ended on March 18th. During that time frame, 26,461 miles were groomed in South Dakota and 4,300 miles were groomed in Wyoming. Percy stated we groomed about 1,000 miles more compared to the previous season.

Percy shared the following groomer hours.

Tucker	Total Hours	Total Miles
#1	883	6,331
#2	658	3,547
#3	686	5,256
#4	398	3,342
#5	857	6,316
#6	924	6,064
Total	4,406	30,856

Black Hills Trail Counts

Percy stated trail counts surprised him compared to last year, as counts show numbers were actually down, even though we had a longer grooming season. 86,711 counts were recorded which is down about 4,000 counts from the previous year. Percy did state he had a couple counters which had some issues throughout the year, so he suspects counts were actually similar to last year.

Black Hills Revenue

Revenue collected from the Black Hills to date included:

- 5-Day Temporary Permit: \$21,560 (539 permits)
- State of Wyoming: \$16,500 (4,125 miles groomed)
- Trail Directory: \$ 3,250 (26 entries)
- Commercial Permits: \$ 0
- Motorcycle Permits: \$ 180 (9 permits)
- Donations: \$ 382
- Cross Country Ski Trails: \$ 60

Total: \$41,932

Trail Re-Routes

Percy stated that the annual meeting with the Forest Service to discuss re-routes for the 2017-2018 snowmobile season finished earlier this week. Percy stated the Oatman timber sale, around trail #8 will be a winter time removal as 18" of snow must be in the area before the Timber Industry can get into this area due to a species of plant in the area. The reroute will be just off 110 near a popular hill climb.

385 Corridor on Trail #7 –Percy stated we are currently in the road ditch, located by the Country Club and unfortunately DOT wants to close the ditch to all motorized forms of travel due to ATV destruction. Percy stated ATV's are not staying on the designated ATV route and instead stay in the road ditch that the snowmobile trail is located. DOT actually doesn't mind that snowmobiles are in the Right of Way, but snowmobiles are motorized vehicles and this is the only way DOT can remove ATV's from the ROW.

GFP has struggled trying to find an easement around this area so future meetings with DOT and the Forest Service have been scheduled.

Camera and Website Statistics

Raynor shared some website statistics as GFP rolled out a new website. Raynor stated this will be new information that is provided annually at the May meeting. These statistics cover January 8th through March 31st.

13,084 Page Views – Total number of pages viewed. Repeated views are counted.

1:25 average time on page – The average amount of time users spent viewing a specified page or screen, or set of pages or screens.

46% Bounce Rate – The percent of visits that are single-page only. (People who visit one page and leave) Usually a high bounce rate is a sign that people are leaving your site/pages because they aren't finding what they are looking for. 26-46% is excellent and 41-55% is average.

Map – 7,310 views with an average of 140 views a day.

At this time, GFP staff is not aware of how to see how many people look at the cameras but are looking into it.

Fat Tire Bike Update

Percy stated the Forest Service, Fat Tire Bike representatives, and GFP is planning on meeting annually to continue to discuss Fat Tire Bike trails and reroutes. At this meeting a map is laid out and potential reroutes and options are discussed. GFP continues to voice its concerns with Fat Tire Bikes on snowmobile trails due to safety and other concerns based on previous discussions with the snowmobile community. Percy stated they didn't add many miles to their existing trail system due to additional maintenance concerns.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Review

Raynor gave a summary report of the expenses through April 28th, 2018. Raynor reminded the council that the majority of expenses out of the Grant In Aid Program have not been submitted through fiscal yet, but that number would be presented later in the presentation. Out of a \$919,131 budget, just over \$671,343 in spending had incurred.

A summary is listed below which combines the budgets of the Black Hills, East River, and Administration into the Snowmobile Program Budget:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
➤ Personnel Services	\$397,814	\$ 307,715
➤ Travel	\$ 22,550	\$ 11,199
➤ Contractual Services	\$142,585	\$ 105,639
➤ Supplies/Materials	\$181,750	\$ 143,963
➤ Grants	\$312,500	\$ 47,811
➤ Capital Outlay	<u>\$272,000</u>	<u>\$ 199,952</u>
➤ TOTAL	\$1,329,199	\$ 816,279

FY 18 Revenue

Raynor reminded the council that the 3% excise tax is comparable to last year's figure as the additional 1% charged to snowmobile buyers was removed prior to the May meeting last year.

Revenue totals as of April 30, 2018 includes:

• Gas Tax (11,407 x 125 gal x .28)	\$399,245
• 3% Excise Tax	\$197,334
• License Fees	\$ 96,647
• Charges for Sales/Services	\$ 54,920
• Interest	\$ 15,878
• 5 Day Temp Permit	\$ 21,560
• Motorcycle Permit	\$ 280
<u>Total Revenue</u>	\$785,864 (-93,222 from FY17)

Kennedy asked if Tucker has been able to find the problems with all of our differentials failing. Percy stated he did test run a Tucker with a large differential and while it performed well, it adds a lot of weight and is very costly. All Tuckers that have had issues, have had .410's added instead of the .488's. Tucker has worked very well with GFP on the replacement of these differentials so the overall impact on our budget over the last two years, has been pretty minimal.

Fiscal Year 18 Grant-In-Aid

A total of \$105,986 was spent to date out of the GIA budget. Raynor reminded the council these costs are covering our fixed expenses including, signing costs, private easements, insurance and storage. We anticipate the final costs out of the GIA to be no more than \$110,000.

The following is a breakdown of the club's total expenses through the GIA budget.

Aberdeen – \$5,435	Miller – \$2,991
Beresford – \$8,827	Mitchell – \$3,262
Brookings – \$6,916	Poinsett – \$4,676
Clear Lake – \$11,092	Redfield - \$4,071
De Smet – \$22,978	Siouxland – \$7,330
Huron – \$2,380	Sisseton – \$6,800
Milbank – \$4,723	Watertown – \$4,871
Webster - \$7,204	
Total Request: \$354,425	
Total Expenses: \$103,556	

Raynor shared the following breakdown of hours put on the groomers:

Aberdeen –	24	Miller –	21
Beresford –	60	Mitchell –	7.5
Brookings –	14	Poinsett –	23
Clear Lake –	36	Redfield -	28
De Smet –	106	Siouxland –	55
Huron –	0	Sisseton –	60
Milbank –	22	Watertown –	9.5
		Webster -	46.5

Total Grooming Hours – 512.50

Fiscal Year 18 Grant-In-Aid Proposals

Raynor discussed the proposals received for next season including the use of 12 state-owned groomers, three privately-owned groomers, 1,168 miles of trail and 1,585 groomed miles.

Most of the G.I.A. proposals are keeping their trail systems the same as the previous season. The following are the proposed trail changes for the Eastern South Dakota trail system for the 2018-2019 snowmobile seasons:

Brookings: Small increase in this request to reflect grooming accuracy.

Redfield: Dropping 10 miles from Frankfort to Doland and 11 miles from Ashton to Mellette. Decrease in commitment to maintain this trail system.

Siouxland: Rerouting the Trenton loop and Colman loop to better Right of Way.

Sisseton: Removing the 5 mile spur to Dakota Magic Casino due to lack of snow and commitment to sign this spur. Increase in GIA request which reflects grooming operations more accurately.

The following chart shows the Grant-In-Aid requests for the 2018-2019 snowmobile season broken down by each expense category:

Club	Fuel	Maintenance	Grooming	Signing	Lease	Insurance	Rental	Total
Aberdeen	\$6,318	\$3,040	\$4,750	\$1,440	\$0	\$1,075	\$1,500	\$18,123
Beresford	\$0	\$0	\$20,148	\$1,460	\$400	\$923	\$0	\$22,931
Brookings	\$10,374	\$4,992	\$7,800	\$2,520	\$0	\$1,850	\$1,500	\$29,036
Clear Lake	\$0	\$0	\$29,256	\$1,340	\$0	\$976	\$0	\$31,572
DeSmet	\$0	\$0	\$62,652	\$3,180	\$0	\$1,002	\$0	\$66,834
Huron	\$5,486	\$2,640	\$4,125	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,030	\$1,500	\$15,881
Milbank	\$6,983	\$3,360	\$5,250	\$1,320	\$0	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$19,538
Miller	\$3,990	\$1,920	\$3,000	\$600	\$0	\$950	\$600	\$11,060
Mitchell	\$1,895	\$912	\$684	\$660	\$0	\$925	\$1,500	\$6,576
Poinsett	\$9,975	\$4,800	\$7,500	\$1,440	\$0	\$940	\$1,500	\$26,155
Redfield	\$4,655	\$2,240	\$3,500	\$700	\$0	\$925	\$1,500	\$13,520
Siouxland	\$7,830	\$3,768	\$5,888	\$1,820	\$200	\$925	\$1,460	\$21,891

Sisseton	\$10,141	\$4,880	\$7,625	\$2,060	\$0	\$950	\$1,500	\$27,156
Watertown	\$5,054	\$2,432	\$3,800	\$1,520	\$600	\$925	\$1,500	\$15,831
Webster	\$9,144	\$4,400	\$6,875	\$2,200	\$0	\$925	\$1,500	\$25,044
Totals	\$81,845	\$39,384	\$172,853	\$23,360	\$1,200	\$15,446	\$17,060	\$351,148

Safety Report

Raynor gave a brief overview of the past years reported accidents. There were 18 accidents reported with no fatalities (18 accidents in the Black Hills and 0 accidents East River.) Sioux Falls offered a snowmobile safety course this past season and six kids were certified with six attendees.

SDSU Veteran's Affair Snowmobile Ride

Donation efforts for this ride have gone very well with all clubs wanting to donate towards the ride. Raynor stated many clubs have had a lot of questions which some he has been able to answer, while others are unknown. To answer these questions, Raynor asked the council if they would be interested in inviting members of the SDSU Veteran's affairs office to the August meeting to explain in more detail, the program. The council and members of the SDSA board in the audience all felt this would be a great idea. Raynor will send out an invite for the August meeting. Below is a list of who has currently committed \$250 to this cause and Raynor mentioned he still has some clubs to get ahold of.

Aberdeen, Beresford, Black Hills Snowmobile Club, Brookings, Clear Lake, De Smet, Huron, Milbank, Miller, Poinsett, Redfield, Sioux Falls, Sisseton, Watertown, and Webster. A total of \$3,750 has been raised as of May 12, 2018.

Yetis Non-Voting Member

In February the council asked GFP to see if the Governor's Office would mind a non-voting Yeti member to be added to the council. Since this council was created through an Executive Order 80-18, GFP wanted to run this through the Governor's Office on the possibilities. Through various conversations the Governor's Office agreed this was a great idea, as youth involvement is important in all outdoor recreational means. Governor's office asked that the member be non-voting, would not qualify for per diem, and the governance of this member, would be controlled through by-laws. GFP and the Council agreed to govern this member through the minutes as no by-laws exist with this group, just the EO 80-18. After further discussion, the council requested GFP to write up a few rules based on this discussion, and the council will vote on it in August. Those rules included:

- Must be a Yetis member according to Yetis by-laws.
- Prefer a 2 year appointment
- Yetis to select 2 members, 1 of those being an alternate.
- Per diem is not allowed.

Wilkinson made a motion to review a list of policies discussed at this meeting in August where these policies will be finalized. Nagel seconded.

Motion Carried

Economic Impact Study

Erstad stated he wanted to start thinking about this EIS again, as the last one took so long to actually come to fruition. Many factors play a role in this type of study such as snow conditions, budget, contractor schedule, and more. Due to these factors, starting the planning process now will help prepare documents for when GFP and the snowmobile community wants to actually do this.

Ceroll told the council she would like to go back to the other department administrators to see when the next schedule for a department wide EIS would take place. Instead of doing Snowmobiling alone, it could provide an opportunity to do one department wide.

Wilkinson wanted to make sure the Polaris Plant and manufacturing was included in the study. Ceroll while those types of details were not included in the parks study from 2016, we would make sure to include that in the future. Ceroll stated she would provide an update at the August meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 11th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Capital Building in LRC room 413 in Pierre.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Wilkinson and seconded by Erstad to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. **Motion Carried.**