

**Draft - MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION - Draft**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 14, 2017 Naubinway, MI**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Goss at 9:30 am.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Jeff thanked John and Charlie from Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum for providing the space for our meeting free of charge. We then moved into the introductions and introductions of all present were made.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the Executive Committee was taken and recorded. Bill Bradfield and David Low was Excused.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** (Additions) Under Old business: (a) 2017 Clean Snowmobile Challenge, New business: (a) Heart of the North Snowmobile Council  
*Moved by Ernie Reimann, second by Jeff Biggs to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.*
- V. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Draft minutes were made available. One correction under the Recreation Report, it should be 15 FHU and 15 Water and Electric sites available for the campout.  
*Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Stu Volkens, to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.*
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** John presented the budget vs actual for the 4 months of our 12-month year thus far. Insurance is now being paid with a credit card, so there is a delay in the reporting. Office expenses are in line where they should be. Some highlights are the ACSA calendars, so far we have sold \$1120, and are still for sale. Donations are doing Fantastic. The \$2 Round up on Trail permits seems to work well, and we just received a nice donation from an Indiana Snowmobile Club. Fundraising/Non Dues Income is doing very well. John stated that further down on the agenda is the snow show and we would discuss it further. Our snow show/swap meet expenses are listed just over \$9000, while our income is listed at \$7000. Web page ads are way down this year, and are needed to sustain our budget. And the last item is our trail permits. So far this year, which is very early, we are ahead of last year. So pray for snow. Jeff said the officers will be meeting by webinar to discuss the budget before the next meeting.  
*Moved by Stu Volkens, second by Jeff Biggs to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.*
- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Jeff took this time to Thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as President of MSA. He stated he has had some great conversations with people by telephone and email, and stated both Bill and Karen do a wonderful job in the office handling communications with people who have different issues and can sometimes be difficult. Jeff said sometimes the best, and most rewarding thing you can do is Listen, because that's all they want. Jim Kelts also thanked everyone, and stated he would be willing to answer the email or phone call of any complaints that Karen receives. Bill asked if you respond, please hit reply all. Donna asked that some of these same issues go in the magazines, as has been done in the past. Jeff has done this a few times already, and will continue to do so.
- VIII. **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill provided a report to everyone in attendance, placed on file. Some items of interest are: Continue work with Jackie Blodgett on the 10-year Budget to get a realistic amount of what revenue would be needed for the future of the program. Bill has asked how many registrations there are from antique snowmobiles, because they are not listed in the Sec. of State printout. It came back at 1900, Bill said he thought it would be higher. Need to work with the Legislative committee because of this issue. Sleds at 25 years are not what they used to be. Bill is working on the Legislative Ride, the committee met this morning and has a rough draft of where the ride will take place. The dates are Feb 16 - 18. It will be in the Northern Lower Peninsula. Bill attended the Joint Saw/ORV meeting. It was much like the last meeting. Bill was asked to Chair a sub-committee to look into the following; how to manage a 12-month trail maintenance program on shared multi-use routes. It was expanded to how to manage late and early ORV use to control resource damage. Look at how to share cost of equipment on multi use trails. And look at leasing of grooming equipment. The two groups will be meeting again to look at issues they can work out between them. Bill collected information on infrastructure needs from the grant sponsors on our trails. Out of the 68 Grant Sponsors, 34 responded to the letter Bill sent out asking for information. The DNR has that information and is prioritizing the list. We have the needs for equipment, so with the two items, Bill stated they will meet with the Governor's office, the Legislative leaders, and the DNR to find money to keep the program moving forward. Just looking at the bottom line, our needs are over \$20 Million. Bill is working with Pure MI PR people to get some stills of snowmobiling in MI to use in their media campaign. Video Mike will provide the video to them. Bill has been working on the Congressional ride with Congressman Huizenga, Moolenaar, and Bergman. It will be Feb 24&25. Bill also passed out a Law enforcement grant recap. Bill explained this is handled by the Grants Department, it is not handled by Parks and Rec. Discussion followed. Bill wrote down questions and will follow up. And finally, the new grooming rates for the seasons are out. Dec 1 - Dec 31, 2016 will be \$4.07, and starting January 1, 2017 the rate will be \$4.11.
- IX. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **LEGISLATIVE:** Jim Dickie reported there's nothing new other than we have a whole new set of Representatives. Again, the dates for the Legislative Ride are Feb 16-18. Jim said if you'd like to help out get to know your representative and talk to them about snowmobiling. Bill said we're getting a list together now for proposed legislation.
  - B. **MEMBERSHIP:** John Griffin reported they are following thru with the Vice President plan of each member signing up a new member. Sarah is working on getting packages donated for prizes for members who sign up the most members. It would be awarded at Convention. And would go Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3. John presented the flyer that is going in the next 2 magazines. Jeff pointed out that John donated the 1000 pink membership cards. Thank You
  - C. **TRAIL COORDINATION:** Stu Volkens stated he is new to this and he sees his position as being a facilitator between the locals. Stu prefers the local grant sponsor work with the local contact if at all possible. If there is an issue that can't be handled, then they will take care of it. Their first meeting was this morning, and the main issue is Mother Nature, and wet areas on the trails. Again, if you are having an issue locally that you cannot handle, Stu said to let him know.

- D. PUBLICATION:** Donna Cody reported that they are moving forward. The Feb/March issue has just been proofed so watch for that. There is an individual working to get ads for the magazine, and has been more productive than in years past. She stated she's looking for more articles on things like kid friendly rides, saddle-bag rides, and destination rides. Jeff said something he would like to see is a new member of the month in the magazine, with a picture, and a short bio. He said Membership and Publication needs to work together on this.

### *10 Minute Break*

#### **X. OTHER REPORTS:**

- A. CONVENTION:** Jim Duke said there wasn't much new to report. Per the Board's recommendation, we have signed the contract with Shanty Creek Resort for the 2017 Convention and will be working on a registration package in coming months to come up with a cost per person. Rates will be \$89- \$109. Also looking into options for a competitive, but fun, Friday evening event. He will notify everyone when they are ready to take reservations. Dates are October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Per the motion made at the December meeting, we will revisit the question as to whether to continue, or discontinue, with this event in the future at that annual meeting.
- B. SWAP MEET:** The dates will be Sept 22 and 23, 2017. It's on the calendar with the Fair board. If there are suggestions, please let Jim Dickie know. Camping is available there with Electric, and there is a dump station.
- C. WEBSITE:** Bill said if you remember at the December meeting, the Board gave permission to withhold payment for one month, and actively look for someone else to do our webpage. He responded immediately, and Bill presented the new look of the webpage. He said there is some tweaking that needs to be done, as it is new. The Levi Levalle video is under Membership. Jeff thanked Don Reed and the Seney Snowmobile Association for his contribution to that. It was agreed to put that video on our front page and share on Facebook. Jeff asked that everyone Thank Video Mike. Bill spoke a bit about Karen and the challenges going on in the office. Ron Corbett stated that from 2 years ago to now, we are ages ahead, and those working on it need to be commended. Bill touched a bit about what has been happening in the office and Karen. Karen has been Extremely busy in the office, and is the Only one working. Tara has informed them she will not be returning, so Karen is looking for some new part time help. Bill stated if you see or talk to Karen, please give her an Atta girl because she really needs it right now. And it would be Well Deserved.
- D. MICHIGAN TRAILS & GREENWAYS:** Jim Dickie stated there was a meeting on Thursday he didn't attend. The biggest thing right now is that they want to change the name because no one understands what MI Trails and GREENWAYS is. They are thinking MI Trails Association. Something the Non-Motorized people can associate with.
- E. FRIENDS OF THE FOREST:** Nothing new from the two U.P. National Forests. Some information from the NFS Agency in Washington, DC however... When we were at the 2016 ACSA Fly-In we learned that the proposed budget would more than likely be cut, and that we carried the message to our legislators that because the majority of their budget went to wildfire suppression and fighting them, it needed to be a separate line item. Well, some of them listened and did what they could, and on the up-side, a 1.6 Billion dollars has been allocated for fire suppression and \$545 million for hazardous fuels reduction. On the down-side, in the overall budget for Fiscal Year 2017, the Forest Service will receive \$4.9 Billion which is, although similar to the 2016 budget, still \$787 Million less overall. How does this impact us? Don't look for many, if any, improvements in recreational projects, especially trails. The next NFS-RRAC meeting is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of April in Louisville, Kentucky.
- F. GROOMER WORKSHOP:** Don stated he spoke to Karen about the meal package and they are unsure if gratuity is included in the package. He saw the food package took a \$30 jump. He said it didn't matter the food is always great there. It kicks off Thursday evening after the SAW meeting and runs thru until Sunday morning. They plan to have more round table discussions. And Don said they plan to invite more snowmobilers to educate them on what it takes to groom. Don stated again if you've never been to one you really need to go. The dates are March 2 – 4, 2017 in Sault Ste Marie MI. Don said they are missing about 45% of the grant sponsors. Jeff Goss stated he would like to reiterate safety/danger protocols on the trails where you come to a groomer on the trail.
- G. ACSA:** The ACSA Executive Committee met via "Go to Meeting" Webinar on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed a number of issues, some continuing from previous meetings and some that have developed since. The Hand Signals committee has yet to develop a position on the question of which to use, when to use, or even whether to use or not. Your President serves on this committee and is one of the few who has contributed to the talks. Basically, of those surveyed, about 80% say keep the signals as they are and the other 20% say they would be uncomfortable taking their hands off the handlebars to signal anyway. Other items included discussion on various fundraising efforts such as the calendars; the Multiview project; and the Grizzley Cooler's project. Proposed dates for the 2017 Annual Fly-In to Washington, DC is April 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the 25<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming as preparations are completed. Same goes for the 2017 International Snowmobile Congress that will take place the 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup> of June in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Of particular note is the number of calendars sold to date and its impact on the ACSA budget, even though Christine has said it's too early to tell just yet. The results for the December drawing is posted on the ACSA web page and Michigan had 7 winners including the \$300 1<sup>st</sup> prize. Thanks to all who have purchased calendars again, and don't forget the MI / WI Competition for which state will sell the most for the year.
- H. CHARITY:** Kay stated to everyone to please keep track of all the charity hours you do on an individual basis, as well as a club. She also reminded the group it doesn't have to be snowmobile related. The list will be going out soon to the club representative. It needs to be in by April 30. Jeff asked if an article could be done on a charitable ride that a club had done, and if she would work on that. Jeff said that would maybe help get things going.
- I. MIDWEST CHAPTER:** Ron referred to Bill who stated there was nothing to report. The next meeting will be at the Fly-In. There was more talk of the calendar challenge with Wisconsin. So Please Sell! MSA does receive \$5 for every calendar sold.

- J. **BY-LAWS:** Jim Duke said it has been pointed out again that we have taken no action pertaining to some councils that are not in compliance with the minimum requirements to remain active. He has stated previously that as Bylaws Chair, he cannot initiate amendments without a written recommendation to research and determine if it qualifies for a presentation to the Board, and ultimately, the membership. The verbal suggestion is to apply an inactive status to those councils and have the delegates request to become Directors-at-Large. He has not yet received a written proposal and cannot move forward on this until he does, or has direction from the Board. There are several councils that are not in compliance right now.

***Motion made by Don Reed, second by Jeff Biggs to research the Council section of the By-Laws regarding the boundaries of the council areas, memberships, and compliance and report back at the March meeting.***

***Motion Carried***

- K. **NON-DUES REVENUE:** Jeff said the money is coming in, and don't be afraid to ask for donations.
- L. **RECREATION:** Lizz reported there had been some changes made to the Ride In. It will begin Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, and Check out Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. Rooms are \$85 per night plus tax, based on double occupancy. Food Package will be \$42, per person. It will be at the Ramada Inn in Grayling. Lizz is still looking for guides. The Campout will be at the Timberline Campground in Benzonia. Phone number (231)882-9548. Lizz asked that when you make your reservation you say it's under Lizz from MSA. There are 15 FHU and 15 Water and Electric sites. The dates are June 22-25. Looking for donations for food for Friday and Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. The website is timberlinecampgroundinc.com

***Lunch***

***Addition Made to the Agenda Under New Business: Approval of Delegate at Large Barry Bethke Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Stu Volkers to add addition to the agenda. Motion carried.***

#### **XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **SNOW SHOW:** Bill explained as we all aware there was no show last year, however we never formally decided on whether or not we would have a show this year. At our last meeting, Bill had talked about a radio station that was interested in possibly having an All Sports Show with MSA working it, for a fee. After some emails back and forth, it doesn't appear its gaining much traction, so Bill doesn't believe it will happen. The dates are still being held at the Delta Plex at this time. So the question is; Do we want to have the Snow Show again? The dates held are October 6 & 7. John Griffin stated times and attitudes of the dealers and snowmobilers have changed and we should work closer with our dealers on their shows and offer MSA services instead of doing a MSA Show. Jeff brought up Fox Motorsports did invite us to their show just recently which was attended. Bill did also say the larger dealers agree attendance is dropping in attendance in sales at their shows as well.

***Moved by John Griffin second by Don Reed Not to do the Snow Show again. Motion Carried.***

- B. **CLEAN SNOWMOBILE CHALLENGE 2017:** Stu stated for several years now MSA has been represented here and would like permission to take a group there again. John Houk has already signed up to be the official score keeper again. John went on to explain this is a no cost event to MSA. The dates are March 6 – 11, 2017. The point of contact for MSA is John Houk.

#### **XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **EQUIPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE:** Don Reed said Bill pretty much covered it and referred to Don Britton. Don Britton stated the committee asked for 6 new pieces of equipment and to his recollection only 4 had been purchased. He is wondering where the money is. He sees no reason why at least 2 if not 3 more pieces of equipment should be purchased. Joe had sent a letter to Richard Kennedy, and Bill read a response from Richard. The equipment sub-committee is on top of the situation and more information will follow.
- B. **MSA DECAL RE-ORDER:** Bill showed the group 3 stickers that have been used through the years and given to New MSA members when they sign up. They are outdated, and our stock is now gone. Bill asked do we want to re-order. Don Reed asked about the Upper and Lower Peninsula sticker. He said they sell like crazy in Seney. Don Reed will get some samples, and quotes to bring to the March meeting. Donna Cody asked if we could have some fun with it and have our members come up with a new logo sticker.

***Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Don Reed to look at stickers and prices and allow the Board to move forward.***

***Motion Carried***

- C. **HEART OF THE NORTH SNOWMOBILE COUNCIL:** Jim Kelts stated at their November meeting they had 4 members in attendance. Then last Wednesday, they held another meeting, and had 4 members in attendance again. After discussion at their meeting, it was decided they would dissolve the council, and make the active members Delegates at Large. The active members need to submit letters to the magazine. Stu asked Jim if they have communicated with the other members of the council to explain the council will fold without participation. The organizations affected would be Harrison-Leota, Missaukee, Houghton Lake, Rosco-Higgins, Grayling, Gaylord, St. Helens, Ogema and Mio. Donna asked if the By-laws committee can research the boundaries. They have been tasked to do so in the earlier discussion under the by-laws.

***Moved by Don Reed second by Jeff Biggs to accept the dissolving of the Heart of the North Council.***

***Motion Carried***

- D. **DELEGATE AT LARGE APPROVAL:** Jeff Goss read the letter Barry Bethke had put in the magazine back in November. Barry explained he and Tammy Grady will be switching spots. Tammy will now be an alternate and he will be the Director at Large.

***Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Lizz Holzwarth to accept Barry Bethke as a Delegate at Large. Motion Carried.***

#### **E. TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**REGION 1:** Jim Duke reported on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, the City of Iron Mountain opened up the town to ORV use on all public streets with the exception of US Hwy(s) 2 & 141. The ordinance reportedly also allows the trails into and around the area open to

ORV's regardless of season to have access to local businesses. This may cause a conflict with snowmobiles, and the commissioners emphasized the new ordinance is for ORV use only and does not include snowmobiles. This information was aired on TV6 Evening News at 7:00 PM Friday. The 392-foot-long bridge that spans the Menominee River on Trail 2 west of Iron Mountain has had repairs completed ahead of schedule and that section of trail which connects Michigan to Wisconsin that was previously closed has been reopened. Important note is due to the reduced width caused by installation of new railings, the bridge is temporarily a one lane bridge with a stop sign posted at each end. Snowmobilers should use caution and make sure the bridge is clear of oncoming traffic before proceeding across. Stu Volkers reported there are several water holes on the trails at this time, so use caution while riding. Don Britton reports Trail 14 to Big Bay is now open. The group gave him a round of applause for that!

**REGION 2:** Joe Kuchnicki reported on the Gaylord area and some issues in the area. Bill reported on Jordon Valley Trails issue with Consumers Energy. They have a 4.3 mile stretch of trail that goes on Consumers Energy property, and were sent a new lease this year. The issues are they want \$300 per mile for that stretch as well as administrative fees, gates, etc. Jordon Valley is not the only group that has trails on Consumers Energy property. Bill has already had correspondence with Paul Yauk, and are working on this issue. Bill compared this to the Road Commissions charging for every crossing. He feels we need to make a stand, and all be on the same page. Jim Dickie suggested the clubs send Consumers a bill for the brushing and signing of the trail. John Houk added the Millersburg Bridge demolition will begin January 23, 2017, and will be complete by February 15, 2017.

**REGION 3:** Nothing to report. There's no snow.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Joe Kuchnicki asked how the location of this meeting worked for everyone, and how it was chosen. Jeff said Bill had picked it, and while it was convenient, our next meeting will be somewhere in St. Ignace or Mackinaw City. Jeff encouraged all members of the committees to please communicate with each other and come up with ideas for the next meeting. Don Reed mentioned the Vets Ride on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If you are able to attend, please do so. Barry Bethke asked if anyone has experienced issues on their trails with Snow bikes /ATV's/Trucks on their trails. There was just an article in the magazine regarding this issue. Jim Dickie asked about our fatalities so far this year. There have been 2. Jim Kelts asked for a list of Grant Sponsors.

**XIV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be March 18, 2017 Location TBA.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:** *Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Ron Vandervliet to Adjourn. Motion carried*  
**Adjourned at 1:50pm**