

MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
Executive Committee Meeting
May 13, 2017 Audie's Restaurant Mackinaw City, MI

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Goss at 9:30 am.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Jeff thanked all in attendance, and said it doesn't go unnoticed. A Very Special Appearance by Congressman Jack Bergman was made to show his commitment to snowmobiling. Much Appreciated!
- III. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the Executive Committee was taken and recorded. John Houk, Bill Bradfield, David Low, John Griffin, and Stu Volkers were excused.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Additions: (Old Business) {B} ISC (New Business) {B} Sponsorship Committee
Moved by Ernie Reimann, second by Jeff Biggs to accept the revised agenda. Motion carried.
- V. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed to the Board of Directors, and are available at this meeting.
Moved by Ron Vandervliet, second by Jeff Biggs, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- VI. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** John sent the budget vs. actual out to everyone while he was gone. Bill explained it to everyone. Fixed expenses are in line. Bill highlighted the donations, which is primarily due to the rounding up to trail permits. There is one more payment due to the DNR for trail permits, however it looks as though we are up over last year. This is because the office is waiting to hear back from some agents about trail permit refunds on outstanding permits waiting to be returned. Report placed on file.
Moved by Jeff Biggs, second by Ernie Reimann to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.
- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Jeff said he has nothing written, but stated he has been meeting in the office with Bill and Karen occasionally. He plans to do it more. He thanked all the committees that have been meeting.
- VIII. **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Bill provided a report to everyone in attendance, placed on file. He said one of the most notable is the Permanent Trails Fund conference call on Monday. He gave a brief explanation on this. Bill also has attended FMAC meetings, ACSA meetings by Webinar, MTAC meetings, He attended the Fly-In in DC, he had a one-on-one meeting with Paul Yauk and Jessica Holley to discuss issues MSA & SAW has with the snowmobile program. Bill also attended the joint SAW/ORV advisory meeting, with about 75 others in attendance. He stated good information was shared by both groups, and MSA will continue to help organize the ORV groups. He worked on the logo for the 2019 ISC in Grand Rapids, and attended the DNR Lean Process for improvement to the snowmobile program. Also in attendance was Karl Davenport and Rich Rottier. It's 5 days of meetings with about 35 people consisting of DNR, DNR Law, Grant Sponsors, MSA, and individual snowmobilers working. Jessica stated she is very appreciative to the individuals who were able to attend. Discussion regarding the ORV program ensued. Bill went over PA 288 again.
- IX. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. **LEGISLATIVE:** Jim Dickie report Representative Booher is raising issues with the trust fund, and how the money is spent. There are 43 projects that were submitted and scored but they weren't funded even though they had the money to fund them. So that prompted him to start to ask questions and start a bill, SB 0280. It would allow the MI Natural Resources Trust Fund to be used to fully fund all payments in lieu of taxes on State owned land purchased thru the Natural Resources Trust Fund. It would also limit members of the Trust Fund board to two terms. The development projects would be scored by the DNR. Jim stated there is a whole page. of things that would be changed, but he doesn't see a lot for the snowmobile program. Bill stated the Trust Fund is Only for acquisition and development. Jim stated they are going to start looking at using Trust Fund dollars for the replacement of some bridges. Not fix them, replace.
 - B. **MEMBERSHIP:** Ron VanderVliet reported the committee would like every member to sign up a new member. They would like to see that youth number go up. Karen stated the youth program was discontinued because most of the kids that went through the safety classes were already members through their parents. It was costing us money through the mailings of the magazines, and giving them a one-year membership when they were already members. Karen said our membership is level at this time. Jeff mentioned the publications meeting, and how many snowmobilers are actually MSA members. He stated we are looking at using our magazine to find this out. Much discussion ensued regarding different membership levels. Karen stated the costs definitely need to go up on some. The commercial memberships haven't been increased since the 90's. Karen passed out the new decals. She stated her understanding is that the decals are only going out to the new members, and then they also will be sold for \$1.00. She stated she feels MSA will get a lot of flak for that. She suggested we put one decal in every renewal letter that goes out in the fall. Each member would get one, with the option to buy more. Jeff asked how many were purchased at what cost. The answer was 6000 decals at \$.19 cents. We would need to purchase more to do this. Jeff agreed that every member this fall should get a sticker. Donna stated she feels they need to cover the costs, so every member should be offered a discount, and the option to buy, not just give them away. Jeff stated we are looking at it as a member perk, as well as good advertisement. Rob Brownlee asked about the lifetime membership, are we losing money. Bill said not anymore, since it's based on age.
Motion made by Jeff Biggs second by Ernie Reimann to order another 6000 decals saying Proud Supporter. Motion Carried.

10 Minute Break

- C. **TRAIL COORDINATION:** No report at this time.
- D. **PUBLICATION:** Jeff started off by reporting on the meeting from the previous evening. Everyone in attendance at that meeting liked the direction the magazine was going. He stated advertising has dropped with the four main manufacturers. There was discussion on extra magazines going out to members and how to stop this issue, since the cost of mailing is so high. The issues will start having a special feature, like membership, legislative, etc. We would like to highlight new members, and they will add a Vice Presidents report. Jeff stated they are always looking for articles, and even if you are not a writer, Marie is very good at fine tuning it, so please send in any thought you have, or notes on rides, and Marie can clean it up. Dave Campo asked about highlighting a club of the month. Donna stated she really needs everyone's ideas. She also said if you know a local group or individual that would like to sell ads please let Marie know. The cost per magazine is about a dollar, not including postage. Mark Evans asked about the magazine distribution.

X. OTHER REPORTS:

- A. **CONVENTION:** Jim Duke said there wasn't much new to report. Convention will be at the Shanty Creek Resort. The committee 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 20th – 22nd. There will also be a SAW meeting the Thursday before.
- B. **SWAP MEET:** Jim Dickie stated the Swap Meet will be Sept 22 & 23. It will be an All Sports Outdoor Recreation Swap Meet. On Friday, Jim is looking at changing the time to 1-7. And Saturday will be 8am-4pm. The cost will be \$25 per site, which includes One person. Each additional person will be \$5. The walkways are paved. Camping is available with electric only. Water is available. Jim is working on free camping for the volunteers. Jim is looking for about 10 volunteers not including the MSA booth. The charge for the fairgrounds is \$500 per day.
- C. **WEBSITE:** Karen said the website is coming along. She said she updates at least once a week or so. The web guy needed a fire under him, so she unleashed Bill. Karen said there has been some questions on the capabilities of the website, like do we only offer the trail conditions to members. Do we turn off areas that haven't updated their conditions page, etc. The store is going to be a great addition, and only a few items at a time. Karen said we need to keep them coming back. There will be some great items, and it will be time saving for the office. There was some question on shipping costs and how to work that out.

Lunch

- D. **MICHIGAN TRAILS & GREENWAYS:** Jim Dickie showed everyone their magazine. That magazine is only once a year. They do all the work, and sell all the ads. It has all the trails in it. He said it's just a thought, and something to look in to. He stated Nancy is retiring as of June 1st. The new Executive Director is Bob Wilson, who is a snowmobiler. He is very interested in going on the Legislative ride. Jim feels he will do a great job. An interesting statistic, in 2016 there were 67 fatalities on bicycles. They are in the process of working on legislation for a 5ft minimum between bicyclists and motor vehicles. They also had a appreciation dinner for larger donations. As a result of that dinner, they received More Donations.
- E. **FRIENDS OF THE FOREST:** Jim Duke reported The Hiawatha NF has established a collaborative council of trail users similar to our MTAC, One on the East Zone and one on the West Zone. The first meeting was held on March 6th where there were nine individuals for the Over-Snow User Group. At that meeting he was appointed as the delegate and Don Britton as the alternate. The second meeting was held on April 26th where he and Don were unable to attend, but Keith Lynch covered for the user group. He only received a brief summary of the meeting so there's nothing to report from that meeting, other than it appears this council will be making all future recommendations for improvements to trails on the Hiawatha National Forest. Time and date of the next meeting has not yet been announced.
- F. **GROOMER WORKSHOP:** Jeff Biggs said nothing on the Groomer Workshop at this time. Jim Kelts presented a groomer warning beacon. It lights up red if you are in the vicinity of a groomer. Jim believes we should sell them in our store. He sells them for \$100, and he would sell them to us for \$80. One problem is the groomer would have to have the Beacon. Jim has said he will be calling Collett to find out what we can do. Its free to the groomers. The question was asked about liability. More info to come.
- G. **ACSA:** Jim Duke reported the annual Fly-In was held last month beginning with a welcome reception on Saturday evening the 22nd. The ACSA Board meeting was held on the afternoon of Sunday the 23rd with Vice President Jim Kelts representing MSA as the delegate with our Secretary Karyn Hautamaki joining in via conference call. There was a total of 65 snowmobilers present from 16 member states. MSA had a total of six members present. We had a full agenda of items which were discussed and most of them resolved. Of primary importance was the fundraising endeavors and what we will need to do at Congress. They have asked for at least one person from each chapter to work the silent auction, one for every morning and one for each afternoon. The most controversial issue was what is happening with the Northeast Chapter and will the non-member states come back in? A letter has been sent inviting them back under the concessions agreed to at ISC in Niagara Falls, or individual states are welcomed to join under our present procedures for membership. Then Monday was a full day for speakers from various agencies and snowmobile friendly organizations beginning at 8:00AM with the Chief of the Forest Service Tom Tidwell. They also heard from Christopher Douwes from the Federal Highway Administration on the status of RTP

Funds. A flyer was passed out at that time. He explained we are the only ones contributing to that fund. Michigan pays in 11 Million, and receives back 2.9 Million. That gets split 30/30/40. Others speakers including Acting Deputy Under Secretary of the USDA; A Representative from the House Subcommittee on Federal Lands; A Special Assistant to the Secretary of Interior; Larry Smith from ARRA and Cathy Ahern from the American Recreation Coalition. On Tuesday they stormed the hill. Overall, they received a positive welcome at each appointment and he believes this was a very successful Fly-In event. Anyone interested can see more about the event on the ACSA webpage. The next ACSA meeting will be for the Executive Committee via webinar on Monday the 15th at 9:00PM eastern time and the full ACSA Board will meet the same way at 9:00PM on Wednesday the 24th.

H. CHARITY: Nothing to report

I. MIDWEST CHAPTER: Jim Kelts gave the report. He said it was very enlightening listening to the other states and their issues, a lot of which mirror our own. He felt it was a very worthwhile trip.

J. BY-LAWS: Nothing to report. The Councils proposals were tabled until the July Meeting.

K. NON-DUES REVENUE: Nothing to report.

L. RECREATION: 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. As of this date there are only 14 FHU and 4 Water and Electric sites. The dates are June 22-25. Ogema Hills Snowmobile Club will be donating the money for the food for Friday, Lewiston Trails will do Saturday night, and Benzie Manistee Snowmobile Club will donate for the Sunday breakfast. Alger County SORVA is sponsoring the Summer Olympics, and White Pine Lodge is sponsoring T-shirts for the campout. The website is timberlinecampgroundinc.com. Lizz has stated she will be unable to do this after the campout due to her son graduating. Please call Karen in the office with to let her know you are coming for a head count on meals.

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. APPROVAL OF DELEGATES AT LARGE: Bill stated we have two. Jim Kelts and Lizz Holzwarth There was a Council disappear earlier this year, and a few members that wish to remain active. The letters were put in the magazine with no objections coming in to the office.

Moved by Ernie Reimann second by Donna Cody to accept both as Delegates at Large. Motion Carried.

B. ISC: Bill counted out 17 people from MSA who will be attending the ISC in Winnipeg. Jim Duke said he has a tentative agenda. Each person is paying their own way to represent you. Bill gave a rundown of the activities we will be doing.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. WOODY'S GOLF OUTING: Jim Dickie explained that Woody's sponsors a golf outing to benefit Pink Ribbon Riders which is the Non-Profit Organization who makes donations to individuals suffering from breast cancer. Last year we sponsored a hole and ½ of the golf fees for the team to play. The date is August 11th. Donna said she would go, as well as her friend Vern.

Motion made by Jeff Biggs, seconded by Lizz Holzwarth to do the same as last year. Motion Carried.

B. SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE: Jeff stated that Mark Pankner had a good idea of different levels of sponsorship for all of our different events. Mark is willing to head up this committee. Bill stated there would have to be a bit more discussion before we move forward. There are great ideas here.

XIII. TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:

REGION 1: Jim Duke reported trails have been closed to snowmobiles and opened to ATV's.

REGION 2: Joe Kuchnicki reported the equipment sub-committee has been tasked with identifying types of trails when it comes to brushing, and costs per mile related to that. There are no resolutions yet. He is more aware of other people's problems. Dave Campo reported the Millersburg Bridge is complete. They are looking for a new route from Rogers City to the south. He's proposing the RR grade along US 23. That would give snowmobilers access to gas stations, and food. Bill told Dave the next steps to take.

REGION 3: Bill reported there is just shy of \$400,000 left of the \$1.4 Million that we had to buy equipment. Richard isn't ready to buy more yet. The SAW committee has recommended the rate for brushing and signing go back to \$90 per mile from \$70. The SAW Committee also recommended the sub-committee look at a two tier or three tier system for brushing depending on the trails.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

XV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be July 15, 2017. Location TBA.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT: *Moved by Ron VanderVliet, second by Sarah Long to Adjourn. Motion carried*
Adjourned at 2:56pm