

**MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Director Meeting**  
**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
**Mackinaw Beach and Bay, 929 S Huron, Mackinaw City, MI 49701**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Jim Kelts at 9:28 am.
- II. **Pledge Allegiance:** Jim Kelts led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Jim Kelts went over the housekeeping items. Introductions of all in attendance.
- IV. **ROLL CALL:** The roll call of the BOD was taken and recorded. Secretary has the recording available upon request.
- V. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Changes: hotel address (hotel changed the location at the last minute); add 3 directors at large Keith Lynch, Donna Cody, Randy Belliel to be added as new director at large.  
*Moved by Jim Duke, second by Stu Volkerts to accept these 3 individuals. Motion carried.*  
*Moved by Stu Volkerts, second by Joe Chavis to accept the agenda. Motion carried.*
- VI. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were emailed to the BOD and are available at this meeting. Donna Cody requested a proof reader to help expedite getting the minutes out earlier. Jim Kelts said he would be the proof reader.  
*Moved by Steve Hamilton, second by David Low, to accept the minutes with edits. Motion carried.*
- VII. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mark provided two handouts. One was the balance sheet. See attached sheets.  
*Moved by David Low, second by Dave Nuechterlein to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.*
- VIII. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Legislative ride, letters of "Thanks you" were received from legislators. Everyone was very happy with the experience.
- IX. **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Bill Manson:** Bill handed out a copy of his report to all in attendance (placed on file). Meeting with Gaylord Business People to address the complaints they received about the trails from snowmobilers. The meeting was attended by were the Gaylord Grant Sponsor, a contractor, Grant Sponsors who touch the area, and the DNR. From the meeting it was that learned the contractor had equipment issues. The Grant Sponsors who touch the area volunteered to help if the contractor contacted them, but the contractor did not reach out to them. Trails were in poor shape and the DNR has not written any failure to perform. The situation will be monitored by Bill and Bill will continue to pressure individuals for a solution. Attended a meeting with DNR finance group to address the \$6M in the Snowmobile Appropriation Account from funds not spent during 2015, 2016, and 2017. These funds were allocated for projects which came in under budget or were no longer needed. To release these funds a special appropriation is needed in the State budget. This money will be allocated as \$2.5M for additional grooming equipment which will need to be spent by the end of the budget year, \$1M to repair existing grooming equipment which will need to be spent by end of the budget year, and \$2.5M for capital improvement expenditure which we have 3 years to spend it on bridges, and trail improvement. SAW equipment subcommittee, Don Britton chair, has a list of repairs and replacement equipment so they can jump on the purchases once the funds have been released. Discussion about poor trail conditions, Bill reminded everyone to please tell users to complaint to the MSA so that the MSA can assist the grooming club to improve the trails.
- X. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **LEGISLATIVE: Mark Evans Chair,** members: David Low, Ron Corbett. Legislative ride went well, and everyone had a great time. Currently 4 initiatives: 1<sup>st</sup>, statue stating SAW (Snowmobile Advisor workshop) exists; 2<sup>nd</sup>, definition of a snowmobile; 3<sup>rd</sup>, limit wheel vehicles on designated snowmobile trails during the season; 4<sup>th</sup>, increase trail permits to \$60 since expenditures to maintain the trail has increase substantially.
  - B. **MEMBERSHIP: Sarah Long, Chair,** members: P.J. McCaughn, Tim Long, Ron Corbett, Ron VanderVliet. Holding pattern for membership cards till decision to form the new club is official. 100 members have renewed this month from an email reminding individuals their membership's had expired.
  - C. **TRAIL COORDINATION: Stu Volkerts, Chair,** member: John Newman. Most issues are being handled at the local level. If anyone needs additional assistance, please contact Stu. John Newman request to move to the Trail Coordination committee, Jim Kelts approved.
  - D. **PUBLICATION: John Houk, Chair,** members: Lizz Holzwarth, Sarah Long, Tim Long, Rich Rottier, Karyn Hautamaki. March issue has been sent out for proofing. There are issues with the magazine which will be address later in the meeting.
- XI. **OTHER REPORTS:**
  - A. **Annual Meeting: Staff.** *Motion: Annual meeting to be handled by the staff. Moved by Jim Duke, second by Karyn Hautamaki. Motion carried.*
  - B. **Website: Karen Middendorp.** Website is a work-in progress and will always need attention. Working on a solution to make searching for commercial membership easier. Please contact Karen if you would like to see something on the website.
  - C. **Michigan Trails & Greenways: Jim Kelts** has been accepted to the board.

- D. **Friends of the Forest (UP only): Jim Duke.** Currently not much going on pertaining to snowmobiling. Hiawatha timber sale by Blaney Park caused a reroute on trail #2 and complaints from snowmobilers about the inadequate signing to get around the reroute. DNR has addressed this. Ottawa trail reroutes due to timber sales were taken care of. Removal of a safety hazard on trail #8 north of Bergland has been completed and everyone is happy. Number of encounters with wild life, like Moose, reminded everyone they need to vacate the area.
- E. **GROOMER WORKSHOP: Don Reed.** 32 grant sponsors, and 105 participants attended the Groomer Workshop. The numbers were down because a lot of the grant sponsors could not send individual because of the high amount of snow, equipment issues and funding. Don Reed would like to encourage grant sponsors to write to the DNR asking for financial support to send club member to this event. Karen Middendorp will be sending out information about this letter. It was also noted that none of the unit DNR contacts attended the groomer workshop ... Don Reed said it is sad ... since as a grant sponsor the connection with the unit DNR contact is an important partnership. Researching how to encourage more individuals to attend the workshop. Karen Middendorp will be sending out groomer workshop letters so watch out for them. Karen Middendorp has created a secret Facebook page for Grant Sponsors to share information and network. Grant sponsors need to invite individuals who they want to have access to this page. The Groomer Emergency bags, one for each unit, was a success. Karen Middendorp said that MSA Members and non-members donated over \$3,000 for these bags.
- F. **ACSA: Jim Duke.** ACSA is going through a restructuring, the officers and executive committee met in February and to discuss what needs to be done for the next congress meeting. They are looking to eliminate the three chapters and replacing it with a regional chapter or committee-based program. ACSA represent all the snowmobile belt states and state snowmobile associations for snowmobiling. The transition committee has a couple of proposals which will be talked about at the Fly-in. The major fund raiser is the Cash Calendars that they sell at \$20. If you would like a calendar, please contact Jim Duke.
- G. **Charity: Kaye Houk.** The link to survey monkey will be sent out the end of April to the clubs to track the volunteer hours for the year. Need hours and what was done (e.g. grooming hours, trail brushing, and non-snowmobile volunteer hours).
- H. **Midwest Chapter: Ron Corbett.** Nothing new.
- I. **Bylaws: Jim Duke, Chair,** members: Cindy Hammers, Karyn Hautamaki. The current bylaws remain the governing document for this organization. Bill Manson has had some legal advice on the restructuring of the bylaws which will be discussed under old business.
- J. **Non-Dues Revenue: Jim Kelts.** Mailing labels made some money, but not like they use to. We may need to rethink this revenue generating source.
- K. **Recreation: Rich Rottier, Chair,** members: Lizz Holzwarth, Karyn Hautamaki, Mark Evans. MSA Campout 2019 is June 14-16, 2019 (Father Day weekend) at Headwaters Campground, 11687 Headwaters Court, Frederic, MI 49797, info@headwaterscampground.com. Office Phone: 989-705-2066 between 10 AM & 6 PM. Tell them you are with MSA. Site Cost \$39 for Water & Electric; \$44 for Full Hook-Up (limited); Cabins are Available. The block is off after April 15, 2019 so you may not get a spot. ORV friendly so can ride right out of the camp ground. Guided ORV ride on Friday, so bring your own. Boat ramp so you can rent boat. Karen Middendorp will get information on MSA webpage. Friday (fish fry) and Saturday (hamburger and hot dogs sponsored by the Allegan club with a commercial sponsor donating 400 hamburgers) main meals provided. Side dishes and dessert are pot luck.
- L. **DNR update: Jessica Holley.** Jessica will be attending the DNR Grant Sponsors County law enforcement meeting next week. She into why the Groomer Grant Sponsor payments are taking so long. Working on the paper system, hoping an electronic system will help expedite this process. Groomer Tracking GPS requirements were developed 4 bids received but none meet the security requirements of the state. So, the initiative failed. Jessica Holley will keep Jim Kelts informed about the GPS project.
- M. **ISC/ISC 2019:** June 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. Seminar, meeting and guest speakers. If you would like to volunteer, send your name to Karen Middendorp. More information is at [Www.snowmobilers.org/isc](http://Www.snowmobilers.org/isc) about sponsorships and agendas. Letters were sent to clubs about sponsorship and attendance.

## XII. Old Business

- a. **Snowmobile Free Weekend:** Jim Kelts will continue to push for a Snowmobile free weekend. To accomplish this there will need a change in the law to allow the DNR to suspend the trail permit for a day or two. Jim will be asking for a long weekend. **Motion made by Karyn Hautamaki, seconded by John Houk to pursue Snowmobile Free weekend for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Motion carried.**
- b. **MISORVA bylaws: Bill Manson.** At the December meeting, members voted to research and move forward with combining ORVs with the snowmobiles, a 10-member sub-committee was formed. At the January meeting, the name MISORVA was chosen. The bylaws were restructured for the new club to properly represent all parties. Bill explained the proposed organizational structure which consists of 9 delegates per district (snowmobile club (2 delegates), ORV club (2 delegates), combined club (2 delegates), snowmobiler (1 delegate), ORV (1 delegate), and commercial member (1 delegate). There are 9 districts for a total board of

81. Bill Manson requested someone to make a Motion to adopt the bylaws as presented so we can discuss them. **Motion made by Mark Coe, seconded by David Low motion to adopt the bylaws as presented.** Summary of the discussion: All memberships will remain the same type. The funds from each program will not get comingled since snowmobiles and ORVs have protected funds. Currently some councils reside across district lines; therefore, the council can choose to remain in tack and the individuals representing them will be chosen based on districts. The groups in that area should decide who they would like to represent the districts.

Typo on page 7, Article I - Officers; Section 3: - number "2" should be "4". If a friendly amendment, then can make the motion to cross out "nor the same category of membership." **Motion made by Mark Coe, seconded by David Low to make it a friendly amendment. Motion by Bruce Wood, second by David Low to Cross off on page 7 under Article IV - Officers, Section1: "~~nor the same category of membership.~~" Motion carried.**

Summary from the conversation on creating MISORVA: Some concerns from ORVs that they will not be properly represented in MISORVA. Concern that the MSA is moving too fast. Currently, there is a disconnect between the groups, but if they are in the same district, they will begin to talk with each other. Consensus was this need to be tried, formation of MISORVA. Currently, MSA has great legislative support and backing something ORVs need. MSA's expertise could be used to get legislative for ORVs interest, to give the ORVs a voice. There is an understanding that the groups will have conflict. The only way to come up with solutions is for everyone to talk about the issues and work together to have trails year-round. All sports need to accommodate, respect each other and work together. The stronger we are, the more we can get passed through the legislators and the more we can get done. This is the main reason for combining the groups to have a year-round comprehensive plan. Don Reed took a vote of who in the room owned an ORV, most everyone in the room raised their hand. He went on to say that we have different groups, but we have the same common interests which are the trails. This is more than snowmobiling and ATVs it is called motorized recreation and we are getting beaten by non-motorized individual who do not want us there. The only way we can secure our passion is by working together. Bill Manson was asked why MISORVA is not going to represent motorcycles. Currently, The Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan represents all the dirt bikes and they maintain all the 20-inch trails in the State of Michigan, so there is no reason to reinvent the wheel. But we will ask for input from them and help them. Bill Manson mentioned ORV groups have concerns that MISORVA is a money grab, not sure where this came from since MSA does not get a grant or any money from the DNR. MISORVA will also not get any grant money. MISORVA will create an umbrella with more voices to initiate change faster. Bill continued to mention that we could work with legislators to change some of the ORV laws so that the ORVs get more of their money. Currently, ORVs have \$2.5M going to law enforcement, and ORVs also has a huge fund managed by the DNR for damage restoration done by ORVs. But ORVs are getting a small about of money to work with on the ground. **Motion made by Mark Coe, seconded by David Low motion to adopt the bylaws as amended. 36 for and 6 against. Motion passed.**

**MISORVA - Article of Incorporation. Motion to approve the Articles of Incorporation pending review by the Executive Board. Motion made by Bruce Wood, seconded by Don Reed. Motion passed.**

- c. **Publication:** Mark Pankner mention we will be in the red for \$30K. **Motion to get rid of the magazine as printed made by Don Reed, seconded by Bruce Wood.** Summary of discussion. Jim Kelts and John Houk are not getting any response from the editor. She is not doing good business. Magazine is considered a benefit to the members. Need to look at the membership demographics and how-to transition out gracefully with out alienating older members. The magazine currently has an editor, designer, publisher and mailer. **Motion withdrawn by Don Reed, seconded withdrawn by Bruce Wood to get rid of the magazine as printed.** Jim Kelts as president informed that he was going to fire the editor and asked if anyone was opposed. No one opposed.

### XIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **DC fly-in:** DC fly-in is a 4-day legislative event from April 27 to 30, 2019. Bill Manson, Jim Kelts, Karyn Hautamaki, and Jim Duke will be attending the DC fly-in.
- b. **Office staff:** Bill Manson will continue to work for the MSA with Fridays off unless there is a function which requires him to work the Friday, Saturday, Sunday like he currently does.
- c. **ORV legislative Ride-in:** Bill Manson is organizing a legislative ORV ride in Lake county and has included some of the adjacent counties. 7 representatives are going on the May 3, 2019 ride.

### XIV. TRAILS & SAW COMMITTEE REPORT:

**REGION 1: Jim Duke.** The trail has been the best in the state. Groomers have been working overtime hence a lot of equipment failures. The groomers in the UP have been working as a team and helping each other out. DNR and the National Forest Service have enough funding to replace the trestle bridge, all the engineering has been done and will start the process once the snow is gone. **Stu Volkens** said bridge which is moving forward.

**REGION 2: Dave Campo** said he had conversations with the person who runs the quarry. The temporary bridge in Cheboygan is schedule to be replace this summer. Evaluating the Swan river bridge to see if a temporary bridge could be installed.

**REGION 3: Bill Manson.** Snow melted.

**XV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. To vote at the General /Special meeting one must be a member of MSA in good standing for 30 days.
- b. Remember you must present and a member in good standing by April 18, 2019 to be eligible to vote at the General Membership meeting May 18 2019 at Mackinaw Beach & Bay Hotel, 929 South Huron St., Mackinaw City, MI 49701  
Time: 10:00 AM Discussion with vote to follow.

**XVI. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING:** General Membership meeting May 18, 2019 at Mackinaw Beach & Bay Hotel, 929 South Huron St., Mackinaw City, MI 49701

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT:** *Moved by David Low, second by Liz Holzwarth to Adjourn. Motion carried.*  
Adjourned

**\*\* Secretary Notes are not part of the meeting and are added for clarification after the meeting.**

**Future meetings**

**May 18, 2019**

**July 13, 2019**

**September 14, 2019**

**December 7, 2019**

**Annual Membership meeting will be October 19, 2019**

**If you cannot make the meeting, please contact the MSA Secretary for an excused absent.**

**Donna Cody contact information**

**[Snowmobiledonna@gmail.com](mailto:Snowmobiledonna@gmail.com)**

**Hone Text/phone number 906-450-9295**

Draft v6 DRC 4.10.2019 JK approved.