



Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association General Membership Meeting April 24, 2021 Spring Meeting, Baxter

At 10 a.m. President Greg Sorenson called the General Membership Meeting to order. Executive Board Members present were Greg Sorenson, President, Scott Wakefield, Vice President and Cheryl Clevenger, Secretary. Rick Johnson, Treasurer & Rod Seibel, Director-At-Large were unable to attend. No MN DNR representatives were present due to Covid-19 restrictions still in place.

Agenda Approval

- Motion made by Janet Widness to approve agenda, 2nd by David Murphy. Motion carried.

Secretary's report– Motion by Mark LaBaw to approve secretary's report as written, Janet Widness seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Officer's Reports

Vice-President Scott Wakefield

- Scott attended the Sleigh and Cutter Vintage Races in Waseca on February 27. Mike and Cheryl Clevenger were also in attendance
- Scott also visited the Lakeville Sno-Trackers Snowmobile Club this winter.

Business Coordinator's Report – Nancy Hanson (Report attached)

Legislative –Doug Franzen and Terry Hutchinson

- MSAC (MN Snowmobile Advisory Committee) met on April 23rd, the DNR representatives joined virtually. The DNR is committed to diversity and inclusion.
- All communications are being done through virtual meetings, by telephone & emails. Currently still no in-person contact.
- The Legislature will only be working on essential items. Recessing May 17th with anticipating a special session in June.
- Big Issues being discussed are budget, bonding, capital improvements and legalizing marijuana.
- Our issues:
 - Funding – 2 aspects
 - Legislature
 - DNR authorizations such as the dedicated fund, registration, and the gas tax.
 - Multi-use overpass on Interstate 35 in Chisago Co.
 - There is a bill being discussed that will have an impact on gaming
 - Sales tax on trail building materials
 - Trespass issue
- The DNR has announced a new snowmobile coordinator, Paul Purman. Paul has worked with motorized vehicles in the past but is new to snowmobiling.
- Revenue for this 3rd year cycle is up over anticipated revenue, currently at \$6,391,387, fiscal year ends June 30th so the numbers are not final.
 - Renewal rate is at 101% for this past snowmobile season.

- Trail Improvement Grant Program
 - 1st round – 16 grants were funded at a cost of \$272,906.
 - 2nd round – 8 grants were funded at a cost of \$152,405
 - It is anticipated that the next round of grant applications will begin in May and may be due by the end of June
 - Minimum grant amount is \$10,000 with 25% being funded by group applying.
 - Labor is allowed as part of the grant cost.
 - Superior National Forest Maps are available as previously mentioned.

DNR Enforcement Report – submitted by Bruce Lawrence, DNR Recreational Vehicle Enforcement Coordinator, presented by Greg Sorenson

- 2021 season – number of snowmobile violations down due to lack of snow.
- Only 3 fatalities this year, past 10 years reviewed.
- Citations numbers given:
 - 26 speed
 - 106 failure to display
 - 68 unregistered
 - 3 no safety certificate
 - 1 DUI
 - 2 Trespass
 - 0 posted off-trail
 - 3 unsafe manner
 - 6 muffler noise
- The question was asked about how many hours were spent on snowmobile enforcement. President Greg Sorenson will pose this question to Officer Lawrence.
- DNR Snowmobile Safety Instructor of the Year – Charles Reichert, Richmond, MN

MSEAF – Larry Shepherd (Minnesota Snowmobile Education & Advancement Fund)

- Contributions to the Veteran's Ride are tax deductible. The committee is accepting donations.
- Veteran's Ride is in the initial stages of planning.
- Money is still available for both the red and blue signs. Orders must be placed by May 15th.
- Billboards were paid for by the MSEAF and were up for the 2020-2021 riding season.

Committee Reports

Fundraising/Raffle– Mark Steinmueller

- Top clubs selling calendars were the same as last year
- Photographs for the 2022 Calendar can be voted on this weekend.
- 5000 calendars are printed each year.
- A Silent Auction will take place at Winter Rendezvous
- Charity/Awards Committee requested \$3000 for Scholarships
- Last year the Clean Snowmobile Challenge did not take place, so we have the funds allocated for the upcoming year.

A motion to donate \$3000 for scholarships was presented by Larry Shepherd, 2nd by Tim Pommier, motion carried.

A motion to approve a budget request of \$25,000 for the printing, design, prizes, shipping, storage, etc. of 5000 calendars for the 2022 year with all prizes cash was made by Dick Theis, Mark LaBaw seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Youth Group Update – Paul Maruska

- Group reported on was Tri-County Snow Czechers
- The group held a sign building workshop and built about 250 signs.
- Roughly 30 members with sometimes 40-50 kids in attendance.
- Trail Ride also took place, about 25 kids went 50 miles and it ended with a hot dog roast.
- Have also held events such as a bowling party, summarization of snowmobile clinic, and are planning on doing a summer picnic.
- The kids have discussed the trespass issue at their meetings.
- Elections have been held with approximately 8 kids running for each position.
- Funding currently is being contributed by 3 local clubs usually for the purpose of purchasing food at their meetings.
- 60% of the parents are not in a snowmobile club while 40% belong to a club.
- The CWCSTA, Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trails Association, has 12 clubs and they set aside \$500 each from their map sponsorship as well as their raffle sales.

Old Business

Upcoming Events:

- **Summer Event**, July 10th hosted by Region 6.
 - Held at Washington County Fairgrounds
 - Head count will be needed for food and supplies.
 - Email timothy@heinenzoo.com
- **Fall Workshop**, Region 4, Oct 22-24, 2021 at Holiday Inn, Fairmont, Greg Gellert is contact
 - Early registrants will receive a mug.
 - Seminars being worked on, but a few may include Legal use of DNR funds, Club Finances & Phishing, Trailer maintenance tips.
 - Follow on Facebook at MnUSA Region 4 2021 Fall Workshop or go to myblizzardclub.com for additional information.
 - Registration should be out by the Summer Event
 - Region 4 is hoping to get Congressman Jim Hagedorn to attend.
- **Winter Rendezvous**, Greg Sorenson stated Region 7 will resubmit their 2021 bid for 2022 but has not confirmed with the facility.
 - Should they resubmit their bid the Winter Rendezvous will take place at Superior Shores in Two Harbors, Feb 10-13, 2022.

New Business

- **Female Riders**– Greg Sorenson brought forth a suggestion to recognize female riders, many forums on Facebook for these riders. He recommended that as an organization MnUSA should think about this and bring ideas forward.
- **Publications Proposals – Scott Wakefield**
MnUSA's contract with MSPN was to expire in April 2023. MSPN informed MnUSA in March 2020 that they could not continue to publish our magazine at the current rate. At the Summer

Event the Communications Committee was directed by the Board of Directors to pursue options. September 2 MnUSA received a certified letter stating MSPN was terminating the contract. Eight RFPs (Request for proposal) were sent out. Three proposals were received back.

- Proposal # 1
 - Minnesota company
 - 100% of advertising revenue retained by publisher
 - Intend to get a younger audience and cover both racing and vintage
 - Requested email list of all members
 - There would be a PDF of the magazine posted on MnUSA's website.
 - Publishing would be in-house
 - 3-year contract
 - Network of retired writers

- Proposal #2
 - Minnesota company
 - 100% of advertising revenue retained by publisher
 - Growth opportunities with supplement and false covers
 - New Fundraising Raffle (no details given)
 - Develop a Family Ride
 - Develop a new Advisory Communications committee
 - Digital platform of magazine on publisher's website
 - 3-year contract

- Proposal #3
 - Advertising revenue shared with MnUSA , 1/3 of revenue
 - Publisher and MnUSA work together
 - Growth opportunities unlimited – Point of purchase contacts, individual racks for magazines, TV exposure (15-30 second promos) including TV ads which would promote MnUSA.
 - Create trade shows and events
 - Digital PFD of magazine posted on MnUSA website.
 - In-house publishing, over 50 years of business experience, 200 writers, over 1000 articles printed per year.
 - 3-year contract
 - MnUSA would be in control of editorial content.

- It is the intent of the Communications Committee to have people discuss these proposals after the meeting and to bring questions to the Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, April 25th. Discussion will take place at that time as well.

Motion to adjourn by Terry Hutchinson, 2nd John Olmscheid. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Clevenger
MnUSA Secretary 2019-2021

Business Coordinator Report
April, 2021

This Covid year has been very strange for snowmobiling. Snow hasn't been great but there are many people that got into snowmobiling, purchased new or used snowmobiles and enjoyed the trails even with marginal snow. There were many new members and inquiries on how to join a club through the MnUSA website. If your club received emails from the MnUSA website, MnUSA's site only forwards the emails. It is up to you to make the contact to these people. There is no provision to collect dues for the clubs through MnUSA's website so they have not paid club dues. Since this feature of the MnUSA website has been very busy this year, if there is interest, we may again do a session at the MnUSA Fall Workshop on what is available to clubs on the MnUSA website.

Even though some clubs did not meet and haven't sent in membership this season, MnUSA received 1042 new members this season, and nearly 900 of these memberships came in through clubs. Thank you! Many clubs are sending in small rosters to close out the season. A reminder - MnUSA memberships are for 12 months from the date payment is received.

April 18 through 24 is National Volunteer Week and DNR sent out a press release providing information on the value of volunteers to DNR. DNR Parks and Trails reports only 268 volunteers for 2906 hours with 76 miles of trail improved, restored or built. MnUSA would like to work with the DNR to include the volunteers and hours donated to the grant-in-aid programs. To collect this information, the annual charity survey will be sent to the clubs. Please return the survey with volunteer hours for our discussion with DNR.

Coalition Updates

Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association (MRTUA) is the organization that recommends the grant awards under the Federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP). Over 50 grants were submitted this year and approximately half were funded. Many of the grant applications were for equipment and presently with the Buy America requirements only Tucker groomers meet the criteria. There is a provision for waivers under Buy America but waivers have not been available for several years. United Snowmobile Alliance (USA), of which MnUSA is a member, is soliciting support of the use of waivers to expand the type of groomers in new RTP legislation. The current legislation expires Sept. 30. HR 1864 has been introduced in the House in DC. This bill requires a new off road gas study which may double the funding to the RTP program. On the Senate side, Senator Klobuchar has been a champion for RTP and we will continue to work with her. A reminder when applying for RTP grants, 40% of the funding in Minnesota is awarded to projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users.

USA - For those clubs who have had trail liability insurance through V & V, the present policy expires May 1st. There has been some difficulty in finding an insurer that works with all states, especially Colorado, but they are hopeful all issues will be remedied and a new insurer will be in place shortly.

The printed Superior National Forest navigational maps for both summer and winter use are available through MnUSA, some dealers, DNR and tourism entities in NE Minnesota.

MnUSA will continue to meet with the OHV groups through the Minnesota Motorized Trail Users group. We are looking forward to an in-person meeting shortly after the legislative session is ended.