



**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
General Membership Annual Meeting October 25, 2020
Via WebEx**

President Greg Sorenson called the General Annual Membership Meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. allowing people intending to join the meeting via WebEx to get connected. Executive Board Members present were Greg Sorenson, President; Scott Wakefield, Vice President; Rick Johnson, Treasurer; Cheryl Clevenger, Secretary; & Rod Seibel, Director-At-Large. Meeting was held via WebEx due to the current spike in Covid-19 infections in Minnesota. Guests in attendance were MN DNR representatives Laura Preus and John Waters. Nancy Hanson was charged with explaining the meeting protocol for holding this virtual meeting.

Agenda Approval

- Motion made by Tim Pommier to approve agenda, 2nd by Mike Clevenger. Motion carried.

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

Financial report - Treasurer Rick Johnson reviewed MnUSA's cash position. No action necessary.

Officer's Reports

President Greg Sorenson

- Monthly meeting taking place with MN DNR & DNR Moose Lake Office Personnel with regards to the dual use of trails for both ATV/UTV use as well as snowmobiles.
 - Oct 30th will be the next meeting

Vice-President Scott Wakefield

- Main focus has been on the Communication/Publication request for increase. To be discussed in more detail under committee reports.

Business Coordinator's Report – Nancy Hanson

- Congratulations to Terry Hutchinson for being inducted into the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame. Terry assists with many items when Nancy needs additional help or information.
- Nancy has an individual who will offer instruction to any club who would like instruction on how to hold a virtual meeting.
- Printed rosters were sent out. Make sure addresses are correct. There have been a lot of returned mailings over the past month.
- The MnUSA office will provide labels to any club for such things as invoices for memberships, newsletters or any other type of mailing.
- Memberships are coming in through the website also.
- Rider Assistance Directory (RAD) will be sent out in November with paid membership packet.
- Federal Bills passed
 - Great American Outdoors Act which will provide \$20 million for trail maintenance on Federal lands.

- Senate passed Continuing Appropriations Act expanding the highway bill through Sept 30, 2021 so there will be a Recreational Trails Program grant round with the deadline as the last Friday in February.
 - Trying to add leasing as an option for equipment but will not be this year
- Parks and Trail Legacy Committee – applications are open for new members, there is a need for an individual to represent motorized recreation, currently only 1 member from motorized use.
 - Typically meet every other month at a State Park at various locations around the state
- Outdoor Recreation Task Force -exploring what would be needed to open an Outdoor Recreation Office
 - Discussed at the ACSA meeting in Wisconsin. MI and WI have this type of office. MI representatives did not know about this & WI representatives stated their office was only for non-motorized recreation. Nancy will send information out regarding this.
- Coalition of Recreational Trails Users
 - Superior National Forest navigational maps are at the printer
 - Includes on & off trails, winter & summer trails are on separate maps.

Elections – Rod Seibel

- Nominations for President were re-opened. Greg Sorenson was previously nominated at the Summer Event. Rod Seibel called for additional nominations 3 times.
 - A motion to close nominations was made by Scott Wakefield, 2nd by Larry Shepherd. Motion carried
 - Motion made to cast a white ballot for Greg Sorenson by Mark Kavanaugh, 2nd by Larry Shepherd. Motion called
- Nominations re-opened for Vice President. Scott Wakefield had been nominated at the Summer Event. Director-at-Large Rod Seibel again called for nominations 3 times.
 - Motion to close nominations made by Mark LaBaw, 2nd by Larry Shepherd. Motion carried
 - Hearing no additional nominations, a motion to cast a white ballot for Scott Wakefield was made by Mark LaBaw with Mike Clevenger seconding that motion. This motion was carried.
- Nominations re-opened for Secretary. At the Summer Event Cheryl Clevenger was nominated. Rob Seibel called for additional nominations 3 times.
 - A motion to close nominations was made by Larry Shepherd, 2nd by Scott Wakefield.
 - Motion made to cast a white ballot for Cheryl Clevenger by Larry Shepherd, 2nd by Janet Widness. Motion carried.
- Nominations re-opened for Treasurer. Rick Johnson was nominated at the Summer Event, Director-at-Large Rod Seibel again called for nominations 3 times.
 - Motion to close nominations made by Larry Shepherd, 2nd by Jerry Hanson. Motion carried
 - Hearing no additional nominations, a motion to cast a white ballot for Rick Johnson was made by Mark Kavanaugh, Larry Shepherd 2nd the motion. This motion carried.
- Motion made by Mike Clevenger to destroy absentee ballots, 2nd by Scott Wakefield. Motion carried.

Legislative Report –Doug Franzen

- As our lobbyist Doug urged everyone to vote, vote for those individuals who support snowmobiling & snowmobiling issues.

- Tremendous response from our candidate survey. Responses are on the website.
 - Remember to talk with candidates about their concerns.
- Same legislative agenda as previous year since our goals were not accomplished.
 - State is deeply in debt, tax revenues are down, unemployment needs are up
 - Legislature will have to balance the budget in 2021
 - Sales tax exemption for trail maintenance equipment is seen as an expense
 - 1st & foremost goal will be to protect the dedicated fund

MN Department of Natural Resources – John Waters & Laura Preus (Powerpoint shared)

- Account balances are looking good
 - Good registration numbers last year
 - Gas Tax revenue likely not down as much as anticipated earlier this year
 - Previously anticipated down \$700,000.
- Registration numbers
 - Renewal rate was 82%
 - DNR was able to get information about trespassing on the registration cards
 - Registration revenue was over \$8 million which was above expectations
 - This year is a low year in the cycle but expecting \$5 million in revenue
- Grooming & Maintenance
 - In addition to the \$7.25 million, DNR has determined to be the base grants, an additional \$700,000 in trail maintenance, & grooming funds + \$500,000 towards trail improvement grants went to GIA in was FY 20
 - DNR emphasis is to get the money out to the clubs for their use
 - This year funding will be an additional \$600,000 in trail maintenance & grooming + \$500,000 for trail improvement grants over the DNR base grant amounts so grants will be down slightly from last year.
 - Expecting a down cycle year due to lower number of sleds needing registration
 - Trail Improvement Grants provide flexibility for DNR to get money out to clubs
 - Grants for FY 20 - received 16 applications, 13 were funded, \$272,906 was awarded
 - Grants for FY 21 – received 11 applications, \$225,000 available, award letters will be sent out in November
 - Information is on the DNR website as well as the priority & scoring criteria
 - Per the Minnesota Snowmobile Advisory Council (MSAC) request the DNR is looking into the possibility of Emergency Funds. John Waters is looking into this.
 - Snowmobile Information & Promotions (Visitor Services Group of DNR)
 - Plans are to use videos on social media as well as online, update the pictures on the website with a new photo shoot, run a banner across the top of the DNR homepage, update registration card with trespassing information
 - Suggestions to DNR
 - Have the Enforcement Division promote snowmobile safety training requirements
 - Direct new snowmobilers to a local club with link
 - Current DNR Operations & Miscellaneous

- Area offices are closed
- Quadrant maps are being printed but will also be promoting electronic maps
- Trail Conditions updated more regularly
- Sign delivery is expected by November 6th, area staff will be in contact with a plan to distribute as soon as possible
- Regulation book currently states 3" registration numbers, change from 1 7/8", DNR Enforcement will have to be contacted & will need to clarify
- Benchmark December forms will not open – DNR to check on
- Sakatah State Trail will now be maintained by the Faribo Sno-Go Club. Agreement is for 1 year.
- Trimming on State Trails is an issue -Guidelines are in place but in some instances may not be followed. DNR will have to follow-up on.
- Contracts for the sponsors have not been sent out yet – DNR is finalizing the number and will be getting these out soon.

MN Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund (MSEAF)– Terry Hutchinson, Nancy Hanson & Larry Shepherd

- Veterans Ride is canceled for 2021 due to the logistics around Covid-19, decision was difficult
 - Also serves as a Suicide Prevention affair
 - Still accepting donations towards next year, so appreciative of donors
- Billboards will be going up
- Signs are still available – information can be found under club information on the website

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) – Greg Sorenson

- Trail riding group met at the International Snowmobile Hall of Fame event in WI
- Ride Command is working on a warning that shows you when you are in a restricted area
- Some states are using a trespassing bounty and rewarding for turning in trespassers
- Trespassing Poster Contest is being run again this year
- International Snowmobile Congress June 9-12, 2021 in Omaha Nebraska
 - 2020 was canceled due to Covid -19
- *Snow-Goer* Magazine is looking for clubs to highlight

Committee Reports

Membership – Jerry Hanson

- Memberships are steady, close to previous year's numbers
- Booth – not able to work aggressively since many events have been canceled
 - If you become aware of any events, please let Jerry or the office know
 - ERX Show in Elk River -able to speak with members & businesses, these memberships have been coming in through the website
- Members Recruiting Members (MRM) still going, remember to use your MRM # on the form when signing up a new member
- Rider Assist Directory (RAD) going out with membership packet, if you want to be included in the future there is a form on the website to complete
- Media Kits/ Ad Slicks are available on the website to use for promotion of your club – see mnsnowmobiler.org/clubs/information

- Promote outdoor activities such as trail stops or open houses
- Nancy would appreciate it if clubs would update their contacts & club information by sending in the club officer change form or by contacting the MnUSA office

Site Selection – Mark LaBaw

- Region 4 will have the Fall Workshop
- Region 6 will have the Summer Event
- Winter Rendezvous 2021 bid open, Region 7 withdrew bid due to logistics due to Covid-19

Fundraising – Mark Steinmueller

- 2 fundraisers held each year
 - Calendars - \$20 per calendar, 365 chances to win, minimum prize \$25, 5000 printed
 - \$87,800 income generated, net profit after prizes & expenses was \$44,479
 - MnUSA projects are funded by calendar sales as well as bringing income to clubs for their sales based on number of calendars sold
 - Motion by Mark Steinmueller, 2nd by Jerry Hanson, to donate funds as follows:
 - American Council of Snowmobile Association \$5000
 - Scholarships \$3000
 - Clean Snowmobile Challenge \$2500
 - Minnesota Snowmobile Education & Advancement Fund \$32,000
 - Coalition of Recreational Trail Users \$500
 - Conservationists with Common Sense \$500

Motion carried.

- Silent Auction Proceeds fund our Legal Defense fund, also MSEAF
 - Last year proceeds were \$3453, 96 items donated

Communications – Scott Wakefield

- Scott gave an update on the status of the publishing agreement. The matter was referred to the committee.

United Snowmobile Alliance – Nancy Hanson

- MnUSA belongs to this alliance as well
- Continue to meet monthly
- Nothing new to report

Old Business

- **2021 Winter Rendezvous**
 - Region 7 withdrew their bids due to logistics
 - Finland Community Center remains closed, this was the facility for lunch
 - Clothing borrowing & handling not advisable with Covid-19
 - Bid process is now open for this event scheduled for Feb 11-14, 2021
 - Region 7 will be bidding for 2022
- **Spring Meeting** – April 23-25, 2021, Arrowhead Lodge, Baxter, MN
- **Summer Event** – July 9-11, 2021, Region 6 responsible for

New Business

- **Fall Workshop** – Oct 22-24, 2021, Region 4 (Greg Gellert) is checking with North Mankato club who has done it before but currently no further details
- **International Snowmobile Safety Week** – Jan 16-24, 2021

- **Take a Friend Snowmobiling** – December 1, 2020-March 31,2021

Region Reports

Region 1 -Trail work being done, concerned about getting the new trail signs so late, need sooner before the ground freezes

Region 2- has not been meeting, ATV usage up, hoping for the same with snowmobiles

Region 3 - Landowners are expressing concerns with 4-wheelers destroying land, owners understand it is not snowmobilers doing the damage but still concerned

Region 4-Harvest needs to be completed, clubs are postponing snowmobile training

Region 5 -Events are still scheduled (for now)

New Prague Sno-Drifters Breakfast Dec 6th at the American Legion

Region 5 Meeting & Elections Nov 1st, Bobberz in Waterville, 4 p.m.

Faribo Sno-Go Winterfest Snowmobile Show, Dec 5th, includes street dance

Red Wing River View Riders Annual Vintage Snowmobile Show, Nov 27th

Brushing, trail maintenance, & bridge work being done

Covid may present new opportunities – may pull in new members that were previously busy with other activities but now looking for outdoor opportunities

Region 6 -Meetings have been mostly directors, have had work session & working on re-routes due to widening of County Road 70, finding a place to meet & social distance has been challenging, would like to see the sign order move to January – trails are in & should know what is needed

Region 7 -Working on trails, waiting on snowmobile training for new direction from DNR, bridge collapsed & trying to rebuild before snow season

Region 8 -Have been meeting outdoors, last meeting was a picnic, also doing some virtual & some in-person meetings, trail work & brushing getting done but harvest is not complete

Region 9 -Most clubs are meeting, some trail work but already have enough snow that snowmobiles are pounding the ditches. Question regarding if any answers from the DNR regarding “Emergency” funds for trail work. Region 9 had a tornado as well as blowdown. This was talked about at the MSAC meeting and John Waters is working on this. Maximum that would be available is probably \$5000. Equipment rental is the largest expense that Region 9 is dealing with. Region 9 is committed to snowmobile training, will have as many classes as deemed necessary to get people certified.

Motion to adjourn by Mark LaBaw, 2nd by Steve Widness. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Clevenger

MnUSA Secretary 2019-2020