

**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association
General Membership Meeting February 9, 2020
Hampton Inn, Bemidji
MnUSA Winter Rendezvous**

President Greg Sorenson called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Executive Board Members in attendance were Greg Sorenson, President; Scott Wakefield, Vice President; Cheryl Clevenger, Secretary; and Rick Johnson, Treasurer. Guest in attendance was John Waters, MN DNR Parks & Trails Division

Agenda Addition—American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA)

- Motion made by Dick Kuttner to approve amended agenda, 2nd by Jim Folz. Motion carried.

Secretary's report— A written version was provided. No suggestions, additions, or corrections.

- Motion by Mike Clevenger to approve secretary's report as written, Mark LaBaw seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Officer's Reports

President Greg Sorenson presented his expected meeting protocol.

- Cell phone volumes will be turned off
- No side talks, if it is necessary there will be a break for discussion
- Congratulations to DeLylePankratz for receiving the Snowmobiler of the Year. Well deserved.

Vice-President Scott Wakefield

- Midwest Ride- In was a success for Midwest Vintage Snowmobile Show in their 1st year at ERX Motor Park in Elk River.
 - 625 sleds on the vintage ride. 708 sleds total. 5300-5500 in attendance.
 - Always last weekend in January

Business Coordinator's Report – Nancy Hanson

- Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant deadline is Feb 28th.
 - Ultimate Steel Company -U.S. steel being used in manufacturing of drag
 - Reservoir Riders-Duluth have purchased one
- Website inquiries regarding club membership need to be followed-up by clubs, website doesn't collect money.
 - It is the club's responsibility to contact the individuals forwarded through the website.
 - The number of new member requests through the website is steadily increasing.
- Rosters are coming in and about 5000 membership cards are going out this month.

Legislative Report – Terry Hutchinson and Doug Franzen

Agenda items- legislative session

- Sales tax exemption on building materials
- Increase request for trespassing offenses. 1st offense \$200, 2nd offense \$500, 3rd offense \$1000.
 - ATVAM and ARMCA (dirt bike) user groups are all supporting this.
 - DNR is to have wording to MnUSA by Monday, Feb 10th.

- Stickers – DNR Enforcement presented a new registration sticker that will be similar to a boat registration sticker and will replace registration numbers on each side of the sled
- Legislative session – Convenes on Tuesday, Feb 11th & will be done before Memorial Day (short)
- Legislative Reception on March 10, MSAC (MN Snowmobile Advisory Council) will meet also
- Election year for House of Representatives and Senate
 - Financial support is 1st & best option
 - Take a legislator riding 2nd option
 - 12 Legislators join MnUSA this weekend along with some staff members
 - They LOVED it, get them to experience snowmobiling

DNR Parks & Trails – John Waters

Capital Improvement Grant (formally known as) / Trail Improvement Grant (now)

- Handout Distributed (draft) with process, priorities & timeline – see distributed copy
- Similar to Federal Recreational Trails Program (F RTP)
 - \$500,000 available, 2 years to complete project
 - \$10,000 minimum with a 25% match by club requesting monies
 - Applications open in April
 - Will not need a sponsor resolution which can sometimes hinder the process

Marketing

- “Explore Off the Beaten Path” -Marketing Newsletter DNR publishes
- Promotion items like blogging & possibly video blogging
- Looking at an Influencer Group
 - Key members to support their sport
- Social media
- Facebook page
- New Itineraries on outings
- DNR Webpage – Training for Beginners example
- Suggestion to have DNR hold another class on the Avenza app

Snowmobile Transactions

- 73% currently registered
- 91% of revenue or approximately \$7.661 million has been collected
- Projection for 2020 is \$7.627 million
- Projection for 2021 is \$7.56 million
- DNR purchased 3 new groomers
 - Used groomers were put on auction
 - Mr. Waters believes money from sale goes into the Snowmobile account.
 - 1 more groomer scheduled for purchase next year through F RTP funds

David Dill / Arrowhead Trail Master Plan

Needs updating

- Winter uses – not many changes, OHV possibility as well as non-motorized

St Croix & Nemadji Forests

- ATVAM working with DNR on more signage & mapping
- 30 degree temperature threshold guidance
- Saturation patrols to educate and ticket if warranted

Suggestions to DNR

- Gandy Dancer bridge approach needs work prior to snow
- Fat tire bikes - safety issue with sharing trail.
 - If riding Grant-in-Aid trails this would be trespassing.
 - Fat tire bikes do have clubs so contact them to educate about the danger.

DNR Enforcement – not able to attend. 6 fatalities 4 with alcohol involved.

- Results show safety certification is working but use of alcohol contributing factor.

MN Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund (MSEAF)– Larry Shepherd

- 130 vets with guests, probably at max
 - Need 45-50 rooms
 - Opening ceremony provided by Two Harbors American Legion
 - Thanks for continued support of the Vets Ride
- Items provided by MSEAF funding
 - Billboards up – Ride Sober message in Elk River (169); Trespass message in Rochester area, Albertville (194), Rice (US10) and Stacy (135)
 - Helmet stickers – still available
 - Red and Blue signs – available to clubs to help promote club and help identify location on trail

Committee Reports

Membership/Booth – Jerry Hanson

- Memberships are up in all areas
- MRM program has brought in 281 new members, 2177 members from clubs
- Potentially a new booth chairperson
 - Recent Booths
 - Canterbury Sno-Cross
 - Duluth Sports Show
- Proposal from Liberty Mutual Insurance for a member discount, to be discussed at Board of Director's meeting.
- Unsure how "Celebrate snowmobiling" impacted membership numbers

Legislative – Terry Hutchinson – Nothing to discuss at General Membership Meeting

Charity/Awards – Janet Widness not present, Scott Wakefield presented

- Deadline for Awards Nov 30th, Scholarship March 31st

Communications – Scott Wakefield

- Get legislators out snowmobiling
- Take pictures & send to MSPN
- Get club news into magazine

Merchandise – Ted Breeggemann

- On-line store working
- Committee meeting at Spring Workshop

Safety Committee – Greg Sorenson

- “Celebrate Snowmobiling” did gain memberships where he was located
- Jan 18-26 was snowmobile safety week. ACSA website has good information
- Safety Billboards up
- ACSA Trespassing Contest – 4 submissions, 2 from MN
- Youth Training Discussion
 - Competing with winter high school sports
 - Move dates to Sunday
 - Hold 2 session in one day A.M. & P.M.
 - Move date after winter sports is complete
 - Co-op with another snowmobile club to cover driving test
 - Hand out membership with certification certificate
 - Give club information-include contact, website, meeting day with time
- 0 tolerance for non-registered snowmobiles has come through to the DNR area office in Region 1
- Safety decals
 - Make emergency personnel aware the medical information may be on the helmet
- Rider Assist Directory – need to add more people
- Mnsnowmobiler.org also has safety information

Site selection – Mark LaBaw

- Looking for 2021 Winter Rendezvous Host

Fundraising – Mark Steinmueller

- Calendar sales complete
- ALS Blizzard Tour – raised \$1.365 million
- MN raises more donations than all other snowmobiling states put together

American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA) – Bob King

- 2 regions – Trail Riding and Mountain Riding
- Survey results – people want webinars and face to face meetings both
- Most important topics – access, membership, trespassing
- Need to share ideas and not reinvent the wheel
- New PSA – 6 – 30 second video on FB and snowmobiler.org
- Posts have reached between 150,000-200,00 people
- Press Releases also available for use
- E-News Report out every Friday
- Fly-In will be happening April 25-28, 2020
- Snowmobileinfo.org also has information

Old Business

- Spring mtg – Arrowwood Lodge Baxter April 24-26
- Summer Event (Campout) – Cannon Falls, July 10-12, Region 5 hosting
- Take a Friend snowmobiling Jan 1 – March 31
- Fall Workshop – Rutgers, Oct 23-25, Region 3 hosting

New Business

- **Mark Kavanaugh, Crow Wing County Snowmobile Trails Association (CWCSTA)**
 - Region 1, wonderful job hosting
 - Importance of VIP Ride explained

- **Youth Group – Paul Maruska**
 - Rough notes distributed on start-up process – see attached copy
 - Discovery meeting
 - On Facebook & through area schools
 - 20 kids showed, provided pop/pizza
 - Asked 2 questions
 - What do you want out of the club?
 - What do you want to gain from being in a club?
 - Youth to run meeting, own officers
 - Responsible for logo and name
 - 15 yrs old average age, 12-18 years old age range, will take younger
 - 75% of parents don't ride, so these would be first generation riders
 - Purpose statement – on handout attached
 - Working on doing a ride
 - Trail work could qualify for community service hours

- **Region Reports**
 1. Rendezvous wouldn't be successful without members attending
 2. Grooming, events happening
 3. Water areas still not groomed, Fall Workshop planning
 4. Wet yet and signage still not done
 5. Trail system work, grooming, warm up took toll, sounds like today's storm may help
 6. Tim Heinen – appointed for meeting, watching & LEARNING
 7. Andrew Ortman – grooming 5-6 days per week on average, trails in good shape
 8. Canterbury Sno-Cross, trained over 150+ youth so far, Midwest Ride-In, Chaska Benefit 1st Saturday in March
 9. T00 much snow before cold weather, re-route situation, Detroit-Frazees trail built ????

- **Celebrate Snowmobiling Winners**
 - Grand Prize Pkg – Lodging, use of snowmobiles, food gift certificates, gift basket
 - Gene and Judy Osvak, Crookston
 - 2nd prize pkg - \$1000 gift certificate for Castle Gear – Greg Holland, Moorhead
 - 3rd prize pkg – Monosuit, Pete Rousseau, Watertown
 - 4th prize gift basket – Tim Tjon, Twin Valley
 - 5th prize gift basket – Zach Miller, Duluth

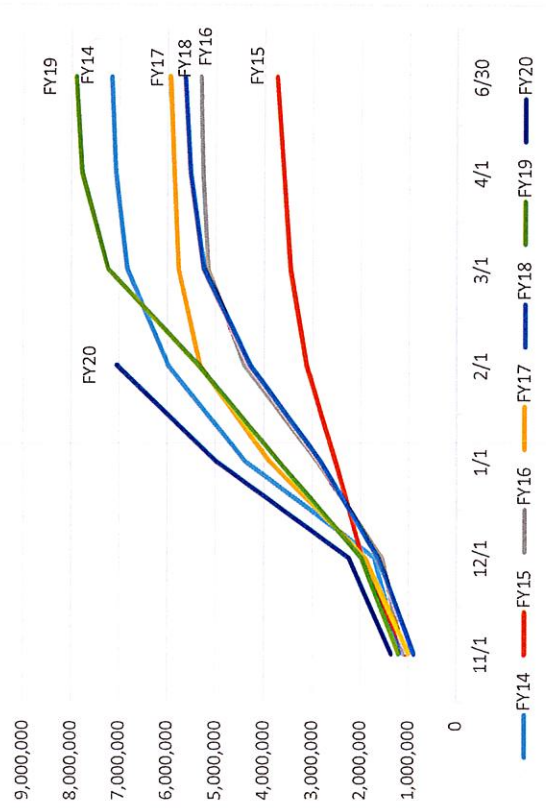
Motion to adjourn by Mark LaBaw, 2nd by Larry Shepherd. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Clevenger
MnUSA Secretary 2019-2020

Snowmobile Transaction \$

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
11/1	1,224,419	1,065,779	1,114,501	1,005,995	904,676	1,226,442	1,374,669
12/1	1,718,382	1,964,810	1,556,482	1,911,361	1,644,382	1,994,599	2,255,962
1/1	4,397,080	2,529,603	2,891,839	3,891,534	2,842,844	3,707,080	4,998,497
2/1	6,001,941	3,130,381	4,407,404	5,329,378	4,303,473	5,368,835	7,064,262
3/1	6,847,572	3,465,532	5,155,691	5,777,543	5,265,041	7,243,357	
4/1	7,094,430	3,601,425	5,263,911	5,864,054	5,541,837	7,787,679	
6/30	7,170,057	3,746,954	5,317,099	5,945,506	5,653,512	7,906,168	

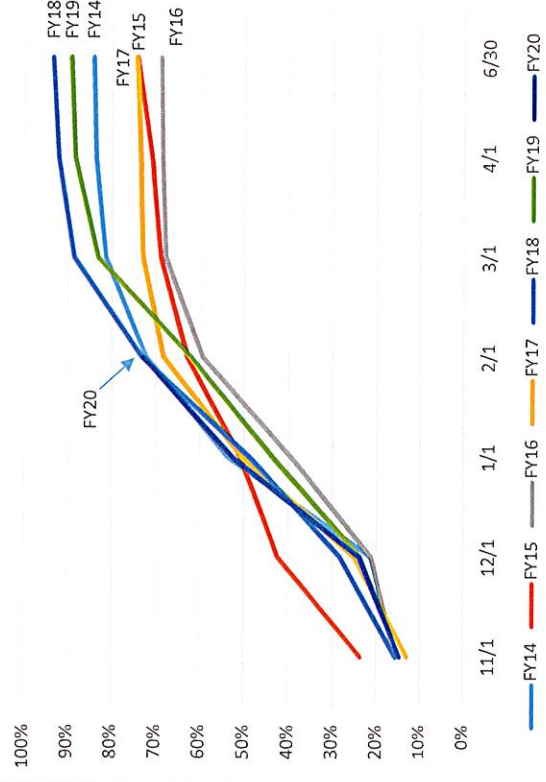
Snowmobile Revenue



Snowmobile Renewal Rate (% Renewed of those recently Expired)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
11/1	16%	16%	24%	16%	13%	15%	15%
12/1	21%	21%	42%	21%	25%	24%	24%
1/1	54%	51%	39%	50%	49%	44%	53%
2/1	72%	63%	59%	68%	73%	62%	73%
3/1	82%	69%	68%	73%	89%	83%	
4/1	84%	71%	69%	74%	92%	88%	
6/30	84%	74%	69%	74%	94%	89%	

Snowmobile Renewal Rate





Snowmobile Trail Improvement GIA Program Summary of New Program Changes for FY2020

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Grant-in-Aid improvement process, the DNR has worked with MnUSA to identify changes to the Snowmobile Trail Improvement Program (formerly referred to as a Capital Improvement program). The snowmobiling community has requested that the DNR be more expedient in releasing funds for improvements and also to adjust the funding amounts and the process to meet the changing needs of the Minnesota's snowmobile trail riding community.

REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

Based on conversations with MnUSA, the types of eligible trail improvement projects will be scored in priority order as follows:

1. Major Rehabilitation;
2. Bridges;
3. Major Reroutes;
4. Acquisition; and
5. New development and additions to the GIA Program (lowest priority for funding in FY20).

To reflect this, project scoring will be based on the project type (all points assigned if deemed to best fit the assigned project type) and other criteria (points assigned will range based on how well it meets criteria) including the quality of the site and project, the need or urgency of the project this year, a cost-benefit analysis, connectivity to other trail systems, the amount of environmental impacts or anticipated permitting required, non-GIA matching funds, and how ready the project is to begin and meet project timelines. Below is the scoring matrix under consideration for all projects scored in FY20. Total project costs must be at least \$10,000 and projects must be matched at 25% of the total project costs (for example a \$10,000 project would be funded \$7,500 and require a \$2,500 match).

Project Type Priorities <i>(all points assigned if deemed to best fit the assigned project type)</i>					
Major Rehabilitation POINTS	Bridge POINTS	Major Reroute POINTS	Acquisition POINTS	New Development POINTS	
50	40	30	20	0	Project Type Points
Project Quality Priorities <i>(points assigned will range based on how well it meets criteria)</i>					
10	10	10	10	10	Site and Project Quality
10	10	10	10	10	Need/urgency
8	8	8	8	8	Cost vs. Benefit of Project
8	8	8	8	8	Project Readiness and Timeline
8	8	8	8	8	Level of Environmental Impacts/Permitting
6	6	6	6	6	Connectivity
Totals					
100	90	80	70	50	TOTAL POINTS

TIMELINE

1. **Communications (approximately mid-November):**DNR staff meet with MnUSA and MSAC to discuss the application process and funding priorities.
2. **StartProcess (approximately January):** John Waters emails PAT area supervisors and staff an update on the snowmobile Trail Improvement GIA request for proposals solicitation.
3. **Applications Sent (approximately March):** John Waters emails PAT area supervisors and staff the finalized snowmobile Trail Improvement GIA request for proposals solicitation information and application form for discussion with clubs.
4. **Application Submission Open (March 30):** PAT Area Supervisors send the application and documents to the clubs.
5. **Applications Due (May 1st):** Trail Improvement GIA applications are delivered to the area offices no later than 30 days after applications are sent to the area offices.
6. **Applications are scored (approximately May):** Applications are scored by central office and regional staff based on set criteria developed in coordination with MnUSA.
7. **Award letters are sent to grant recipients (approximately June):** Award letters will be sent to recipient clubs as well as PAT area supervisors. The letter will include the award amount and details regarding the scope of the project funded. Work can begin on the date award letters are sent out and reimbursements will be submitted once work is complete.
8. **Fully Signed Contract Returned to Sponsors and Clubs (July):**PAT area staff email out the fully signed contract to GIA sponsors and clubs and the regional business office.

NEW DOCUMENTS

As a result of time that has passed since the last round of the supplemental snowmobile trail maintenance funding, we will be updating the following to reflect the changes in the selection priorities and process:

- Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program: Trail Improvement Manual;
- Project scoring;
- Application;
- Award Letter; and
- Agreement between Sponsor and State.

CONTACT

For questions about the program, contact your local Parks and Trails Area Supervisor:

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/recreation/ohv/trails_assistance_program_grants_contacts.pdf

Youth Snowmobile Club Discussion

12/30/19

Paul Maruska, Janelle Sasse and Sheilina Sperry

- New Prague Snowdrifters, Lonsdale Wizards, LeSueur County Association, and a couple of friendly gentlemen at the bar all donated to the start-up costs for the youth club for a total for \$640.
- Paul will order pizza's and pop for the introductory meeting on January 6 in the Community Room
- Additional volunteers are needed for this "discovery meeting" to talk with the youth that show interest in joining. Some talking points include:
 - what the youth feel the structure of the club should look like (youth leadership of a president, secretary, treasurer);
 - looking to have fun with a business side;
 - Possible activities:
 - Mentorship program
 - Winterization shop day
 - Youth ride(s)
 - Trail stewardship
- Sheets will be handed out to the youth to ask the following questions:
 - What are you looking to get out of this clubs/why are you interested in joining?
 - List five things you would like to gain from being a member of this club
 - Best day/time to hold meetings (circle all that would work for you):
 - Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 - Best Time of Day _____

The next meeting of the Youth Club will be held Monday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD.

Purpose Statement: To educate youth snowmobiles on responsible riding and the enjoyment of the sport. Fueling the Passion of snowmobiling through mentorship and creating a community of stewards of the trails for the future.

DO YOU LIKE TO SNOWMOBILE?

Join us at our first discovery meeting. Anyone ages 12-18 are welcome to join us as we bring together a youth snowmobile club in the New Prague and surrounding communities.

JANUARY 6, 2020 | 6-8 P.M.

**NEW PRAGUE COMMUNITY ROOM
@ THE CEC/FITNESS CENTER BUILDING**

410 CENTRAL AVE. N. (ENTRANCE ON 1ST AVE. NORTH) DOOR #12

PIZZA AND POP PROVIDED

The Snowdrifters and surrounding snowmobile clubs are excited to bring together this group for youth that share a passion for snowmobiling. If you have any questions regarding this meeting or how to get your child involved, please reach out to

Paul Maruska at 952-212-2293 or Sherilna Sperry at 507-720-5838.

See you there!

Supported by the local snowmobiling clubs and:





Youth Snowmobile Club Questionnaire



Purpose Statement: To educate youth snowmobiles on responsible riding and the enjoyment of the sport. Fueling the Passion of snowmobiling through mentorship and creating a community of stewards of the trails for the future.

*Please complete and return this form at the next youth meeting on February 3rd
(location TBD)*

Name: _____

What are you looking to get out of this club/why are interested in joining?

List 5 things you would like to gain from being a member of this club?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Best day and time to hold meetings? *(Circle what days and state what time would be best)*

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Best time of day: _____

Participant Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____

Participation Waiver

By your child becoming a member of the youth snowmobile club, you are indicating that they have no physical conditions or health history that would make participation hazardous to their health; in addition, you are releasing the snowmobile organizations that support this group and other organizations, cities or individuals associated with the program from any responsibility for injuries or damages received as a result of your child's participation.

Child(ren)'s name(s): _____

Parent's name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____



Paul Maruska <ptmaruska81@gmail.com>

Responses

1 message

Sheilina Sperry <sheilina.sperry@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 4, 2020 at 9:18 PM

To: Paul Maruska <ptmaruska81@gmail.com>, Janelle Sasse <janelle_sasse@yahoo.com>

Hey there,

If you can't figure out the Google Doc, here is the list of responses.

What are you looking to get out of this club/why are you interested in joining?

- To have people to snowmobile with and talk to
- Like to ride
- Make new friends
- "I like snowmobiling, so yeah"
- Because I want to learn how to ride
- Group riding
- Looking to find young riders to go snowmobiling with
- "I think it would be good to help out with the trails"
- Something to do in the winter
- "I love to ride and want to get more involved"
- Learn more information about the trails
- Friends that snowmobile
-

Things you would like to gain from being a member of this club?

- A better rider on the trails
- Knowledge of more trails around me
- More snowmobile friends
- Friends
- Ride more
- Safety
- Meet new people
- Ride with other kids
- Trying to get kids to come to MNUSA events
- Learn how snowmobile clubs work
- Local places to go riding
- More people to pull me out of a ditch
- Learn more about the snowmobile rules/laws
- Learn more about the trails
- Help out the community
- Better riding
- Having fun

- Knowing area better
- Learn new skills
- What to do and not to do
- Talking to people to try to get more trails
- Taking care of my snowmobile
- Learn about my sled
- Being able to contribute to the city
- To be more aware of trail conditions
- Be more aware of problems within the community of snowmobilers



Youth Snowmobile Meeting Agenda

February 3, 2020 | 6 p.m.

- Club Name
- Logo Ideas
- Structure of the club
- Wish List for Club
- Frequency of meetings
- Membership
- Learning how to read a trail map
- Upcoming Events
 - o Vintage Ride – February 29
 - o Ride-In – Elk River
- Adjourn