



**Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association  
General Membership Meeting July 12, 2020  
MnUSA Summer Event, Grand Rapids**

At 10:20 a.m., Sunday, July 12, 2020, President Greg Sorenson called the meeting to order. Executive Board Members present were Greg Sorenson, President; Scott Wakefield, Vice President; Rick Johnson, Treasurer; Cheryl Clevenger, Secretary; & Rod Seibel, Director-At-Large. Attendance was down due to the Covid-19 pandemic but in addition to the Executive Board Members there were 13 Region Directors, 3 Committee chairpersons (1 by WebEx), 1 office staff, 1 lobbyist (by WebEx) and 2 members. The meeting was hosted by Region 5 at the Itasca Driftskippers Clubhouse but held outdoors, used social distancing, WebEx, and face masks.

**Agenda Approval**

- Motion made by Mike Clevenger to approve agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet Widness. Motion carried.

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

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

**Officer's Reports**

**President Greg Sorenson**

- Summarization of International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association (ISMA), American Council of Snowmobile Associations (ACSA), and All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATVAM) Virtual or phone meetings.
- International Snowmobile Hall of Fame Inductions to take place September 26<sup>th</sup> in Eagle River, WI
  - 2 Minnesotans will be inducted – Terry Hutchinson of Prior Lake and John Prusak, editor & publisher of *Snow Goer* Magazine
- ATV/UTV trail damage
  - 30-degree rule is a recommendation for ATV/UTVs, cannot be enforced
  - Document damage: Ask riders to document (time, place & pictures), send to Greg S
  - ATVAM is looking at development of ATV only winter trails, DNR is looking at more shared trails
    - MnUSA opposes shared trails until they prove that the current damage issues can be addressed first &/or no damage
  - Shared trails for ATV Summer use are to be returned to the condition they were in the spring
  - Use "No ATV/UTV allowed on trail" signs
  - Issue may be that by the time the ATV/UTVs are done using the trails for the season the ground is frozen, and the damage cannot be repaired
- Manufacturers Celebrate Snowmobiling is on hold. Talk to your dealer now & start planning for an open house.
- Rider Assist Directory (RAD) – If you are not in it yet please sign up, ask friends to sign up as well. Form is on our website.
- ACSA Trespass Committee – Billboards, banners on fences in highly visible areas – get Beverage Distributors to make for a little or no cost, Reg 9 is using electronic billboards to thank landowners
  - No Trespass contest will be held again this year
- ACSA may try to hold meeting at ISHOF Inductions, same for Midwest Chapter
- ACSA has given up their office lease and will be working from home
- ISMA has canceled their contacts with their lobbyists

- RTP (Recreational Trails Program) is part of the Federal Highway Bill
- Federal legislation requiring an off-road Fuel Study is moving forward, monies are based on snowmobile, off road trucks, off road motorcycle, and ATV/UTV registration numbers
- International Snowmobile Congress was not held this year but will be in Omaha, NE June 9-12. 2021

### **Vice-President Scott Wakefield**

- At the date of this meeting DNR Snowmobile Safety Instruction CANNOT take place until authorized, Governor's Executive Order is in effect. (Press release attached) **UPDATE**-New Order issued allowing safety training effective July 28<sup>th</sup> with a Covid-19 plan
- Request from a Director to move Summer Event a week later, referred to Site Committee

### **Director-at-large Rod Seibel**

- Expressed thanks to all that attended the Winter Rendezvous in Bemidji
- Successful event and many good comments

### **Legislative Report –Doug Franzen (via WebEx)**

- This is an election year
  - Contribute to candidates, \$50 per individual & \$100 per married couple is reimbursable
  - Talk with candidates to see where they stand on snowmobile issues
  - Work on campaigns
  - Put campaign signs in your yard
- Scott Wakefield provided a list of current Senate and House members and their contact information can be found at [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)
- Invite your legislator to attend the Winter Rendezvous to introduce them to our sport

### **Business Coordinator's Report – Nancy Hanson**

- Most organizations are meeting by web calls.
- DNR is not returning to their offices until January 2021 more than likely
- RTP Grant recommendations are complete
  - Equipment requests were up, some requests did not use U.S.steel or iron, so they are automatically disqualified, no waiver
- RTP Grants deadline is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>
- MnUSA has joined USA (United Snowmobile Alliance), different members than ACSA
- Coalition of Recreational Trails has money available to print maps, also the AVENZA app is available
- ERX Snowmobile Demo Rides – possibly 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in February, Jerry Hanson has been asked to sit on a committee working on this possibility, event goal is to bring former snowmobilers back to snowmobiling and introduce new people to the sport, FXR may be involved
  - This is in the brainstorming stage
  - ERX hosted the Off Road National races this past weekend
- Hay Days is still on at this time, volunteers will be needed **UPDATE:** As of July 15<sup>th</sup> the 2020 event has been postponed to 2021

### **Region Reports**

1. No directors in attendance
2. Karen Reid has resigned as Region 2 Director due to health reasons
3. Moment of Silence for devoted groomer operator Merle Weaver
4. Nothing to report

5. Some clubs are holding outdoor meetings, trail issues due to storms, Red Wing Club installed a bridge in the Welch area, Red Wing has also attracted new members via their facebook page which started a dialogue, may be a topic for Fall Workshop or to have this person talk
6. Nothing to report
7. Update on Region 7 Director Bob Klein, Bill Ylatupa still grooming at the age of 90
8. The region had their monthly meeting outside in a park
9. Heartland Trail from Detroit Lakes to Frazee update, Co 21 Club Trail wants to be put on the map, Steve Widness has run into a roadblock with a trail on the US Fish & Wildlife property – needs reroute for safety reasons. He is looking for someone that knows the federal process & would help him through this issue.

### **MN Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund (MSEAF)– Nancy Hanson**

- Thank you to all clubs that have donated to the Veterans Appreciation Ride. Donations are always appreciated.
- Last order of signs was finally received and will be sent out in the next week
- In addition to the veterans ride, MSEAF provided the Blue and Red signs to clubs, provided the billboards, printed the Rider Assist Directory books for members, and assisted with prizes for Celebrate Snowmobiling event.
- DNR pays for the corridor signs
- Veterans Ride planned for Jan 23, 2021 at Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids
  - Registration will not be available until November 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Fundraising Committee Report – Mark Steinmueller (via WebEx)**

- Written report (attached to minutes)
- Motion to approve a budget request of \$25,000 for the printing, design, prizes, shipping, storage, etc. of 5000 calendars for the 2021 year made by Mark Steinmueller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark LaBaw. Motion carried.

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Fall Workshop** – Oct 23-25 Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge - Deerwood
  - If able to get out of the contract a 1-day event will be held
- **Winter Rendezvous** – Feb 11-14, Superior Shores proposal is being reviewed

### **Nominations – Rod Seibel, Director-at-large**

- Randy Laberge nominated Greg Sorenson for President, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Clevenger
  - Motion to suspend nominations until Fall Workshop made by Paul Maruska, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Clevenger. The motion carried.
- Mark LaBaw nominated Scott Wakefield for Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Clevenger
  - Motion to suspend nominations until Fall Workshop made by Tom Jann, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Olmscheid. Motion carried.
- Randy Laberge nominated Rick Johnson for Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Clevenger
  - Motion to suspend nominations until Fall Workshop made by Mike Clevenger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Laberge. The motion carried.
- Paul Maruska nominated Cheryl Clevenger for Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Gehn
  - Motion to suspend nominations until Fall Workshop made by Mark LaBaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet Widness. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Mark LaBaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janet Widness. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Cheryl Clevenger  
 MnUSA Secretary 2019-2020