

**VILAS COUNTY
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY
COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 18, 2012 Meeting
Vilas County Courthouse Conference Rooms 1 & 2**

PRESENT: Ralph Sitzberger, Vice Chair; Dale Mayo, Vilas County Snowmobile Coordinator; Tim Price, DNR Law Enforcement; Gina Egan, Vilas County Public Health; Mike Keintz, Alliance Rep NE; Holly Tomlanovich, Alliance SE Rep; Stan Guif, Alliance Rep SW

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Gary Peske, Chair; Gerard Ritter, Vilas County Sheriff's Dept.; Cindy Burzinski, Vilas County Tourism/Publicity; Renn Karl, Alliance President; Leo Crawley, Alliance Rep NW

GUESTS: Greg Cook, TrackSide; Eric Walloch, The Toy Shop; Paul Bohlen, Paul's Rental

Meeting called to order at 9 am by Vice Chair Sitzberger in the absence of Chair Peske.

Verification of posting of meeting by Mayo.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Vice Chair. Motion by Keintz, second by Egan. Motion carried.

Approval of September 20, 2012 minutes. Motion by Mayo, second by Keintz. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Sitzberger welcomed all. All Committee Members introduced themselves to guests, Cook, Walloch and Bohlen.

Snowmobile Rentals – The committee entered into a discussion with the 3 Snowmobile Rental business rep's present.

Sitzberger expressed concerns re trail handling of some rental equipment. Cook of Trackside said that many improvements have been made to ski's wear bears, etc. that has greatly improved the handling of snowmobiles.

Mayo spoke to accidents and briefly explained the TIN program. He also gave each Rental rep safety posters and asked them to post at their businesses.

A discussion followed about the rental process and what happens when a customer arrives to rent a snowmobile as it pertains to safety and understanding of operation of the snowmobile.

Tomlanovich asked about the feasibility of a training session prior to the renter leaving with the snowmobile. The Rental rep's said they go over extensively operation and safety in a training session. The excitement of getting out on the trails overcomes listening sometimes.

Mayo asked the rep's what the Safety Committee could do as to safety on the trails. The number of STOP signs on the trail was discussed with the idea that too many STOP signs might lose their impact.

The idea of double signs, set of the same signs, on each side of the trail. Price spoke to the control signs and that the signs do not control the riders. Riders control their behavior and response to the signs.

Sitzberger recommended that this topic be on the agenda of the next Alliance meeting.

Tomlanovich said that the clubs should pay attention to driveway activity. If a driveway or other road is obviously not being used the signs placed should be removed.

The Committee will work on an Informational piece bulleting the main safety themes. A larger version to be displayed at the Rental businesses and other businesses. A smaller version to be given to each snowmobiler renters and perhaps placed in other businesses.

The Committee will also look into the production of a Snowmobile Safety Video that Rental locations could use. The video would feature operations and safety on the trails.

The Rental rep's also asked for a large size map of all the TIN's.

DNR Report – Mass Communications Update – Price met with the Mass Communications Class. The class has developed into 3 groups. Each developed a proposal packet that was presented to the Committee and are attached to these minutes.

1. Production of a video using peers showing good and bad riding. The focal rider would be a semi pro who would explain the positives and negatives of riding behavior.
2. Direction of this proposal was poor decision making. Implementing the use of billboards and signs on the trails subsidized by businesses.
3. Poster campaign using shock factor style posters. Featuring cost to repair a damage snowmobile, injury, death, etc.

The Committee directed Price to go back to the Mass Communications class and direct them to move forward with all 3 plans. An update will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

A "Traveling Wrecked Snowmobile" was talked about. The snowmobile could be encased and travel from school to school. Placement in a visible location. Perhaps the Woods Class could build. Price will investigate the potential.

Egan said she had been contacted by Rouleen Gartner of the Children's Museum about an interactive snowmobile display. Miss Gartner will be invited to the next Committee meeting.

Advertising Public Relations – Mayo presented the PSA's that Burzinski prepared. Committee members selected announcement they will record. WRJO Radio is prepared to have Committee members' record now. Members were encouraged not to wait too long as the station will be heading into the busy Christmas holidays very soon.

Sheriff's Report – No report

Trail Coordinator Report – Mayo brought posters for distribution. It was agreed that the posters should be taken to the next Alliance meeting so that they can be distributed to each club. The clubs in turn can distribute to their area businesses.

Budget summary - Currently an \$878.25 balance

Egan added that there may be additional funds available through the Maternal Child Grant or the Division of Health Injury Prevention program. Egan will explore and bring back to the Committee. Suggested that Vilas County Health be added as an agenda item.

Old Business, Letters and Communications – None

Next meeting – November 15, 2012, 9:30 am with location to be determined.

Adjourn – By Vice Chair Sitzberger at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted by Holly A. Tomlanovich