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Monday February 21st, 2011
Whitemouth Hotel

P.O. Box 1167
Lac du Bonnet, MB
R0E 1A0

Present:

J. Porth B. Dowbyhuz M. Pellow M. Kinghorn G. Wruck D. Marion R. Stelko W. Sokoliuk
N. Bruneau R. Sochaski B. Alexander F. Walton

Call to Order:

Call to order 19:29

Approval of Agenda:

Approved as presented: R. Sochaski/ W. Sokoliuk

Last Meeting's Minutes:

It was noted that the Personal Development Fund is called the Professional Development Fund. The amended minutes were accepted. M. Kinghorn/ D. Marion.

Business Out Of Minutes:

The trail along Riverland Road is problematic. The reeve of the Lac du Bonnet RM, Karl Gugenheimer has requested that the club and A. Neurenberg come to an understanding on this matter soon. The proposal is that the club use a 30-foot strip of land that is farmed by Neurenberg and compensates him for loss of crop in that section. M. Kinghorn has been in discussion with Neurenberg and brought the idea to the club to discuss. It was concluded that the club has not been able to groom that section as of yet (the groomer was stuck just before the January meeting while trying to prep the trail.) M. Pellow has also been in discussion with Neurenberg at the request of the RM of LduB to discuss the issue of fencing off the property. MP proposed that the club purchase 15-20 feet of land from Neurenberg and change it to road allowance (for the sake of the RM) and put a fence on club property. Both Macs noted that the RM wants a final decision by April 2011 and to have it resolved by June 2011. Both Macs were encouraged to proceed with discussions.

The new trail by the old Laker's Ski Club access part of our network is running into problems.

Riders are not following the club's trail and are using the old method of accessing the trail.

The Trans Canada Trail problems addressed at the last meeting have had interesting results. G. Wruck and M. Kinghorn have contacted persons at the Borders to Beaches Trail Board and have told them that the club needs to get bridges widened and beefed up to hold the groomer and it's drag. There is no word on how the trail will be shared with the XC Skiers.

Financial Report:

The financial report was accepted as read. R. Sochaski/ B. Alexander.

Correspondence:

The trail audit performed in January exposed some minor signage discrepancies. The main one was the incorrect usage of "Caution Ahead" and "Caution" signs. They have been rectified.

There have been complaints about King's Trail and how rough it is. M. Pellow has had "Trail Not Maintained" signs erected in the area. LRSC will be contacted to see if they would groom that trail from their network (and let them keep the money for grooming) in the coming days.

There is a question on how the SnoPass survey will be conducted on February 26th. Some riders have a SnoPass sticker on their licence plates and some have none. How will it be determined? After a discussion it was resolved to look for valid licencing on the plate. It was also noted that the RCMP have been checking in the Lac du Bonnet North area and have written some tickets.

President's Report: - G. Wruck

Grooming schedules have been affected by warm weather, and some areas have been neglected.

The LRSC has tried to groom the Riverland Trail but would have also gotten stuck. They abandoned grooming it as the Sno PALs have done.

There are some new metal signs made and they have been distributed to the people ordering.

The club will groom the fishing derby site on March 12th and will be paid \$400.00/trip before and after the derby (for a total of \$800.00) as required.

Some members have not paid their club memberships. Please remember to do so.

The warm up shelters have been left in a state of neglect, with too many beer cans in the garbage and no wood to burn in the stoves. The issue of abuse and the consumption of alcohol while on the trail was discussed, but nothing was resolved. The idea of getting wood to the shelters is a top priority.

Eastern Region Snowmobile Association (ERSA) Report:

SnoPass sales are 600 short of last season; (last season there were 15 Thousand sold).

Multiple driveways in a row need to be marked individually with "Caution" signs and not one "Caution Ahead" sign at either end. If they are not signed the way SnoMan wants the club may be held liable for damages.

The membership dividend idea, where club members receive discounts at certain merchants is still in the works.

The ERSA would like to have clubs participate in the February 26th SnoPass compliance survey.

In the past, the ERSA has said that Professional Development Fund Money could be used to remove or destroy beaver dams; but MB Conservation needs to be contacted first. MB Conservation has to know Who... What... When... Where... and Why.

A "Spot" GPS unit is being used in Nopiming. The units have an emergency and help feature that can assist if the groomer runs into problems. The cost for this service is approximately \$150.00/Year.

SnoMan has opened up new office space in the same building they are in on Henderson Highway. The rent is more than double. SM has welcomed clubs to rent the facility for meetings and other events as a means of raising funds.

The speed for grooming trails has been mandated to stay where it presently is (13Km/H). This has angered other clubs and after the meeting, The Voyageur Trail Grooming Association has ceased operations, as they feel the present speed is costing the club more than it would to run at 20 Km/H. (since meetings, SM has not changed their stand but is in talks with the clubs angered).

The Carman SC has added approximately 24 KM of trails to their network but SM has mandated that the 24 KM be removed from other clubs in the region. This may come into play if any of the Eastern Region's clubs try to expand their networks.

The Kiosk signs need parts to retrofit and make transport and erection of the sign easier. The manufacturer of the signs is not interested in provided the parts.

The Gold book insurance debacle (the sale price is based on the new gold book but the write off value is based on the old black book) has no resolution. SM has no interest to push the government to explain or rescind the motion.

On April 11, 2011 the Red River Ex Grounds will host the 2012 Snowmobile sneak peek exhibition.

Each club should have an accident/incident investigator on record to respond to activity in the network.

The ERSA has informed all clubs that if they exceed the 12 scheduled groomings that they may not get paid for extra work done. It is dependent on the other four regions to decide if payment is to be made.

The ERSA has asked groomer operators to take a second Trackstick and a car style GPS unit along when grooming to try to validate or correct the Trackstick data.

Communications:

Mac Pellow has submitted the club's grooming reports to SnoMan on a timely manner.

Old Business:**Groomers:**

The Pinawa groomer is A-Ok. There is a lack of manpower to operate it.

The Lac du Bonnet groomer has a steering issue. N. Bruneau has a power steering pump to install on the unit. It was also noted that the brusher mounted on the drag works marvellously. The clutch is sensitive on the unit.

The Whitemouth groomer's transmission is slipping. The bolts are becoming loose on the transmission and need inspection and tightening regularly. The water pump lost coolant last week but has been repaired. The skegs on the groomer are wearing out. M. Pellow will get new skegs to Whitemouth to install on the drag when it gets warmer.

The new trackstick works much better than the old ones.

Trail Improvements & Reports:

The Whitemouth Bog is not passable yet; (the WM groomer got as far as Blaney's Creek and turned around).

Most trails have been groomed (except the ones that the club can not access).

The trail from the Transmission Line to Julius has been graded for logging in the area and is horrible to ride on.

Warm-Up Shelters:

See the President's Report.

Mapping and Signage:

The use of wooden posts for signage is recommended. The club will have to be vigilant with signs erected in snow as they will fall over as the snow melts.

W. Sokoliuk has purchased reflective paint from Western Paint and has painted signposts. He noted that it was not cheap but is effective.

The directional sign at Seddon's Corner has been fixed but not replaced.

New Business:

The open house will proceed as planned. C. Solnes has informed the club that a wiener roast will take place at ½ Way Hut Saturday February 26th, 2011 from 12 –3 PM.

Our trail network requires several new bridges. G. Wruck has contacted Ebert Welding and they have a bridge that is 30' long and 12' wide that can support a tractor and drag for around \$5,000.00. G. Bruchanski might be the go-to person to help with installation.

Any Other Business (AOB):

The idea of a wrap-up event was thrown around. It will be tabled at the next meeting.

R. Sochaski would like all logging operations marked on the club's website to inform riders of the hazard (s).

RS would also like to see the club use a smaller groomer to groom the areas of concern. It was suggested to rent one instead of purchase as the club needs a new bigger groomer in the future.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be in Chicken Chef Saturday March 19th, 2010 in Lac du Bonnet at 9:30 AM.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn: D. Marion/ R. Sochaski

21:40

Minutes recorded by J. Porth