



KOOTENAI COUNTY

SNOWGROOMER

KOOTENAI COUNTY **SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of Meeting

Advisory Board Meeting – December 23, 2020
Kootenai County Search and Rescue Building
10865 N Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho 83835

Members Present: Dale Adickes, Chairman; Donald West, Board Member; Steve Powers, Board Member; Joe Wuest, Board Member; Lavern Welton, Board Member; Al Beauchene, Board Member; Tom Stangeland, Board Member

Members Absent: Ted Burnside, Vice Chairman

Staff Present: Nick Snyder, Director; Jake Strange, Operations Manager; Leslie Duncan, Kootenai County Commissioner; Ranell Schwartz, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Orin Moses, CDA Snowmobile Club; Sergeant William Klinkefus, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant Ryan Miller, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office; Nate Sparks, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Chairman Dale Adickes called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Chairman Dale Adickes asked for approval of minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting.

Motion: Al Beauchene moved to accept the minutes as written. Steve Powers seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Election of Officers: Chairman Dale Adickes asked Joe Wuest to lead the nominations. Mr. Wuest opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. Steve Powers nominated Dale Adickes for Chairman. Mr. Adickes stated that he was willing to serve as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Dale Adickes is Chairman.

Mr. Wuest opened nominations for Vice-Chairman. Al Beauchene nominated Don West for Vice-Chairman. Mr. West stated that he was willing to serve as Vice-Chairman. There were no other nominations. Don West is Vice-Chairman.

Reports:

Kootenai County Sheriff's Office: Sergeant Will Klinkefus

The first snowmobile crash of the season was during a Safety Class for the Snowgroomer/Parks & Waterways staff. A Parks employee has a broken cheekbone and a Deputy injured a hand. Sergeant Klinkefus reported that he is moving to the Patrol Division on January 1. He has been with Recreation Safety for 10 years.

Sergeant Ryan Miller will be his replacement. Sergeant Klinkefus thanked everyone and said this is one of the best programs in the state. He will still be available to answer questions.

Sergeant Ryan Miller stated that he has been with the Sheriff's Office for 13 years. He will be training and getting to know the program. His contact information is rmiller@kcgov.us or 208-446-1361.

Staff Reports: Director, Nick Snyder:

The barricades are placed at all locations except Hayden Creek. Staff has been training and learning the trails. Low hanging vegetation on the trails is a concern. There are new agreements with the property owners for the storage of equipment at Bunco and Fernan. A new resolution is needed regarding the distribution of funds from Groomer Sticker sales. Currently a percentage is dispersed to the Assessor's Office because the Vehicle Licensing Department was running the sticker sales. The Snowgroomer Department is selling passes in the office and online. Mr. Snyder spoke to the owner of Gold Creek Lodge. He hopes to open on December 26. The Department has ten "You are here" signs to post on the trails. They will record the GPS of each location. More signs are needed. The Forest Service is not helping with signs this year. The Agreement with Idaho State Parks and the Forest Service needs to be reviewed for more clarification of the responsibilities of each agency. The CATS are 100% ready to go. The loader is in the shop, but expected soon. The parking lot and a mile of road was plowed at Fernan. There was a discussion about barricades. Sergeant Klinkefus advised the Forest Service that the roads are impassible and vehicles should not be up there getting stuck. He agrees that the agreement should be improved and updated. Mr. Snyder presented the idea of the County having an agreement with a private towing company for retrieving stuck vehicles. Groomer machines should not tow. Sergeant Klinkefus said they need an ordinance to impound vehicles that are stuck so that the owner of the vehicle has to pay for the towing service and the cost to re-groom the trail.

Dale Adickes stated that the vehicles have to be moved off the trails immediately. Nate Sparks from IDPR stated that this issue was discussed at the ISSA convention. The legality of moving vehicles was discussed. Groomer machines are not designed to move vehicles.

Al Beauchene asked about using the barricaded trails to get to cabins. Sergeant Klinkefus advised that citizens could apply for a special use permit from the Forest Service to access the roads legally. This issue is ambiguous. Mr. Snyder stated that from an operations standpoint, they need black and white expectations. This matter needs to be resolved quickly. The Hayden Creek barricade will be deployed next week.

Joe Wuest stated that in the past, board members received calls about the barricades and closures. He reminded all board members that all inquiries should be sent to the County Sheriff's Office. 208-446-1361.

Lavern Welton asked about the use of side by sides with wide tracks by the Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Klinkefus stated that they can use a UTV for rescue operations and Parks & Waterways can use a tracked UTV for official business.

Al Beauchene asked about enforcement in Bonner County. Sergeant Klinkefus stated that their deputies are crossed deputized and have jurisdiction in Bonner County.

Nick Snyder requested that the board members provide the department a map of the most popular trails and loops that will benefit the Snowmobile Community. This will help prioritize trail-grooming routes. He would like that at the next meeting. There was a discussion about staff training.

Idaho State Parks & Recreation: Nate Sparks

There have been changes to the registration program. They are working to resolve complaints and issues. A new person is now running the registration program. They have made changes to the website to update the designation. The Statewide choice is now at the bottom of the list and counties that do not have a program have been removed. He believes that proposed fee increase and funding distribution will be in legislation next year. They will also have a clarification of titling requirements. The Forest Service will have work group meetings this spring for winter travel planning. They will update the over snow vehicle use map for the north zone first. IDPR will have avalanche awareness classes. Information is on their website. New CATS have been delivered to Idaho County, Boise County and Latah County. They are pursuing an RTP grant for new groomer replacement. Kootenai County will be in the running. They are getting close to that replacement period. The replacement schedule is for 2006 to 2010 machines with 2500 to 4000 hours.

Joe Wuest suggested getting together to work on the map for Nick Snyder before the next meeting.

Public Comments: None

Chairman Dale Adickes asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Joe Wuest moved to adjourn the meeting, all were in favor; the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ranell Schwartz, for Lynnell M. Smith
Recording Secretary