

August 18, 2020

Maine Snowmobile Association

Director's Meeting

Secretary's Report

At 7:00 pm, President Mike Grass Jr. called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: There was no Secretary's Report as this was the first meeting of the season.

Treasurer's Report: Lori Hemmerdinger read the Treasurer's Report.

President, Mike Grass Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Mike stated that golf tournament was very successful with the most players ever as well as generating the most income ever. It was a great event all around. Mike stated that the free registration weekend would be March 5 – 7, 2021.

Chairman of the Steering Committee, John Monk stated that the Legislators are not currently in session due to Covid. The MSA has discussed a \$10.00 increase for residents with \$5.00 being allocated to the trail system and \$5.00 to the Capital Equipment Grant and a \$20.00 increase for nonresidents with \$10 trails & \$10 Capital being allocated. John also requested that everyone reach out to their respective clubs and ask for a response in writing as to what they feel would be a reasonable/acceptable, club voted and supported registration increase. John is hopefully that the Economic Impact Study will show the Legislature the importance of the increase. John also discussed a contest for clubs that are selling Super Raffle tickets. Wildwoods in Brownville has donated two cabins and meal vouchers as well as discounted additional nights. A drawing will be held to decide the winner.

DACF Snowmobile Program, Joe Higgins stated that the Municipal and Club Grant applications were mailed last week. Joe mentioned that all clubs with upcoming projects need to send project descriptions to the office so that Landowner Liability can be covered. An additional field position within DCF has been approved and interviews are currently being held. This position will help clubs with permitting, landowner relations and licensing. Joe will be attending a meeting with the Governor's office to learn more about potential budget cuts due to Covid-19. Joe will follow up with the Snowmobile Advisory Council as more information becomes available. Bailey Grant a retired Warden has come on board to help with the Downeast Trails Rail Bed as well as Club and Landowner relations. Joe stated that the Madison Branch is still in the works and he is very hopeful that the agreement will be signed. Joe reviewed DCF financials which showed that registrations were down slightly last year at \$3,005,765 vs \$3,150,138. In addition, the Gas Tax is also down significantly due to Covid-19 particularly in May and June resulting in approximately \$56,000.00 less compared to the same months in 2019. Gas Tax is currently down approximately 16% and if this continues, it will result in \$200,000 less revenue for the program. Joe stated that clubs have requested \$300,000 worth of funding for bridge repair this year alone. These projects will be prioritized but not all will be covered. Joe is hopeful that Municipal Grants will stay the same as last year. However, there is uncertainty for the 2021/2022 season and all clubs are encouraged to budget wisely.

Joe also spoke about USDA and TIF Grants and encourages clubs to apply for these.

Executive Vice President, Alan Swett thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Al thanked the Steering Committee for their hard work. Al stated that weather you are a big club or small we all make it happen and he is very proud of what we do. We have the best trails of the Northeast.

Western Region, Jim Boyce stated that he has been busy all summer and discussed the issues caused by ATV's. Trails are being closed due to littering and off trail riding. Jim wanted to be sure that snowmobilers realize that we are lumped in with the negative image and fears that we could begin to lose our trails because of other groups.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland stated that Eastern Region is getting going. Clubs are requesting Raffle Tickets.

Coastal Region, Dave Watson stated that things are starting up and clubs are eager for Raffle Tickets. Dave stated that there have been multiple issues with ATV's in the region. The Ossipee Mountaineers has had to cancel their swap meet due to Covid. Dave encouraged everyone to sell Raffle Tickets and register their sleds.

Trails Committee, Mark Chinnock stated the Trails Committee has had their first meeting and they are currently working on changes with the ITS Map. The Committee is in close contact with DACF regarding these changes as well as the contract for this season. Mapping meetings will also be held within each region and the deadline for changes will be September 15th. Mark will be holding workshops around the state and he can be contacted if a particular region would like to host an additional workshop. Mark discussed the importance of the Super Raffle this year, as it will be our only fundraiser. Mark encouraged each club to sell tickets and suggested that clubs set up tables on Election Day at their Town's polling locations.

Safety, Alan Swett stated he is concerned with the additional electronics on newer sleds such as navigation as this will lead to distracted driving and inevitably cause accidents. Al would like to see the implementation of ride lights on rental sleds this year and will be discussing this with Mike Sawyer at IF&W. The Rescue Boggin program will continue this year and Al is researching grant money. Posters will be available again this year and Al can be contacted if they are needed.

Hall of Fame, Beth Bowie encouraged everyone to reach out to last year's inductees and congratulate them. Beth will be updating the application and it will be posted on the website. The Committee is looking for additional members and would like representation from each region. This would enable them have firsthand input on nominees.

Hospitality, Gail Ryan – Gail was not in attendance but did relay a message asking that when requests are made for cards that the recipients address be included. This will expedite the mailing.

Unfinished Business:

President, Mike Grass Jr discussed the following topics:

Super Raffle prizes have been secured and is off to a great start. Mike encouraged every club to sell tickets.

Maine Snowmobiler Newspaper - Mike encouraged everyone to help sell advertisements in the Maine Snowmobiler. Additional marketing materials and the order form can be found on the website. Club News deadline dates will also be published on the website. All club news must be submitted electrically and a new online submittal form is currently being created. More info to follow.

Maine Snowmobile Show – Mike stated that the show has been canceled due to the attendance restrictions related to Covid-19 and the lack of vendor interest.

Membership Packages – Mike stated that packets have been completed and will be distributed to the clubs.

New Business:

Budget – Mike Grass Jr. stated that the 2020/2021 Budget was voted on and approved in at the E-Board meeting. Since all attendees at the Director’s Meeting attended, the E-Board meeting a Director’s vote was not needed.

MSA Store – Mike Grass Jr. stated that Lori Hemmerdinger has launched the MSA Online Store. There is a wide selection of merchandise and the MSA will not have to maintain an inventory. Orders will be placed online through and will be shipped directly to the customer. MSA will collect a margin on each item.

Showcase Rides – Mike Grass Jr. requested that all VPs plan showcase rides in their region. These rides were very successful last year and enable folks to experience new locations.

Director’s Regional Meeting schedule:

September – Central

October – Coastal

November – President’s Night (location needed – centrally located)

December – Super Raffle

January – Western

February – Eastern

March – Northern

April – Annual Banquet at Jeff’s Catering

Pot-O-Gold – Barnstormers Snowmobile Club – Hallowell. They were not present.

50/50 winner – Jack Lord

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hemmerdinger
MSA Secretary