



# KOOTENAI COUNTY

## Snowmobile Advisory Board

---

**KOOTENAI COUNTY**  
**SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Minutes of Meeting**

February 2, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Kootenai County Search and Rescue Building  
10865 N Ramsey Rd Hayden, Idaho 83835

**Members Present:** Donald West, Chairman; Joe Wuest, Vice Chairman; Paul Ellis; Al Beauchene; Tom Stangeland; John Dawson

**Members Absent:** Rodney Waller

**Staff Present:** Chandra Newberry, Administrative Secretary; Chris Adam, Noxious Weed Superintendent; Jake Strange, Operations Manager; Nick Snyder, Director

**Others Present:** Sergeant Ryan Miller, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office; Lieutenant Will Klinkefus, Kootenai County Sheriff's Office

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Donald West called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman West.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Action)**

**January 5, 2022:**

Joe Wuest moved to approve the January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Paul Ellis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**IV. New Business (Action)**

**a. Fernan Hill Plowing**

Director Nick Snyder gave a year to date update on the program so far. He explained that Fernan Hill has been plowed approximately 320 road miles, using upwards of 200 staff hours and \$2400 in fuel since the beginning of the season. He explained that he will need a recommendation in regards to plowing Fernan Hill for the June meeting that he will take to the Board of County Commissioners. Joe Wuest explained that he would like to present a report of the cost of the staff hours and fuel costs by the Snowmobile Community to get

input for a recommendation for Fernan Hill. Mr. Wuest stated he will get feedback from the community and will bring their recommendation back to the Snowmobile Advisory Board. Lieutenant Will Klinkefus explained that the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) does not have the ability to enforce Fernan Hill to be plowed. He explained that KCSO uses Fernan to deploy for emergencies, as it is the quickest and easiest access point to evacuate someone in danger. If Fernan isn't plowed, it is possible their access will be limited and even more dangerous to get someone out in an emergency. Discussion ensued about a recommendation of a snow parking sticker for the people who park up at Fernan and use the groomed trails, but do not need a groomer sticker. It was discussed that it will need to be up to the Snowmobile Advisory Board to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC).

**b. Letter of Recommendation to Move Barricades**

Director Snyder explained that he had put forth the recommendation to move the barricades in the Hayden Creek area to the Forest Service. The Forest Service Law Enforcement came back and stated they had concerns with moving the barricades. Director Snyder recommended the Advisory Board offer a letter to the BOCC to make a formal recommendation to the Forest Service. Lieutenant Will Klinkefus also recommended the Advisory Board draft a letter to the BOCC to make a formal recommendation. Director Snyder explained that this item will be taken up again at the April 2022 meeting.

**c. Trail Grooming Map**

Al Beauchene explained that Route 1017 had not been groomed yet this year. He noted that he and another rider had to cut the down trees out of the way while they were in chest deep amount of snow. Director Snyder informed the Board that Route 1017 would be groomed in the next week. Mr. Beauchene recommended that the groomer stops at Gold Creek Lodge and to not go any further. Discussion ensued about whether to groom Bishop Saddle to Magee, or remove that route from the priority map altogether. Director Snyder informed the Board of the resources it takes to open the Bishop Saddle. This year, it took four days with two men, over 250 miles, 120 personnel hours and over \$1,260 of fuel. There was a discussion with the Board on whether to continue to groom Bishop Saddle based on the cost, or discontinue grooming that route. Director Snyder explained that if the program discontinues grooming that route, they could save upwards of \$5,000 to \$8,000 a year. Director Snyder stated that he would like the Advisory Board to make a recommendation for a formal operating map for the next operating season. This discussion will continue in the April 2022 meeting.

**V. Staff Reports (Discussion)**

**a. Nick Snyder – Program Update**

Director Snyder presented the groomer statistics and sticker sales compared to last year. Discussion the ensued about the Snowmobile Chili Feed on February 5, 2022.

**b. KCSO – Enforcement and Program Update**

Sergeant Ryan Miller gave an update on the KCSO statistics of the current operating season.

**VI. Public Comment (Discussion)**

There was no public comment.

Chairman West moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Beauchene seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandra Newberry  
Recording Secretary