

Kootenai County  
Snowmobile Advisory Board  
Minutes of Meeting February 3, 2020

Members Present: Dale Adickes, Ted Burnside, Al Beauchene, Steve Powers, Lavern Welton, Don West and Joe Wuest

Others Present: Nick Snyder Director, Leslie Duncan Commissioner, Will Klinkefus of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department, Ian Cotter & Jason Smith of the US Forest Service, Jake Strange Kootenai County operations manager, JD Boguslawski Law Enforcement Officer US Forest Service and guest Dave Bonasera.

Dale Adickes called the meeting to order at 7:00am and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dale asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January 6, 2020 minutes. Lavern made a motion to approve the minutes. Steve seconded the motion. The roll was called, and all voted aye, the motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Program Director Replacement; Dale thanked Dave for all he has done for the Groomer Program, Commissioner Duncan presented Dave Bonasera with a certificate of appreciation for his dedication to the Grooming Program and thanked him for his 12 years of service to the Kootenai County Groomer Program. Nick mentioned he had met with Dave for a few hours and he had the groomers out working on priority trails. Nick also discussed the resources they could bring to the program and they could help with the sale of the groomer stickers at the County Groomer building. Joe asked about additional groomer operators for the year. Nick mentioned training employees for groomer operations, so he has trained employees if needed. Joe discussed the research he has done with other programs in the State regarding groomer operator wages which run around \$17.00 an hour and volunteer operators concerns. Joe mentioned Orin wasn't at the meeting but the CDA Snowmobile Club gives assistance on cutting trees and riding along in the groomers if needed.

CPR/First Aid, Saw Class; Joe mentioned the U S Forest Service requirements on saw training. Ian explained the classes and what was needed on the annual operating plan and whoever was sawing will need to take the class. Will mentioned the Departments quick response class on First Aid, especially for the groomer operators, would be a good safety training.

In-reach Communication; Joe reviewed his research on the In-reach communication device with Nick and the board. Don spoke about his experience with the In-reach. Will mentioned it is a good emergency back up when operators are working alone. Nick indicated the board may want to make a recommendation on this item at the next meeting.

Groomer Building on Fernan; Joe discussed his research of other Programs that have heated groomer buildings in outlying areas. The buildings are heated, and they rotate their groomers in to thaw them out so they can provide maintenance on them. Vandalism of the proposed groomer building was discussed by JD, U S Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer. Nick asked about a winter fee pass for the Fernan Hill, discussion followed.

Reports:

KCSD:

Will indicated they have written some groomer sticker violations. Haven't had any major issues lately. Will said they did submit the snowmobile grant.

Forest Service:

Jason mentioned the river road was plowed. Ian mentioned the road 3097 April time frame for tree harvesting. Ian discussed the tree cutting issues they were having. Dale mentioned the trees along the trail going to Skitwish were an issue for groomer operations. Jason indicated if we could put a list together of trails where trees need to be removed; the Forest Service may be able to remove trees on a small scale. Dave mentioned the two-mile section of groomed snowmobile trail west of Mason Saddle needs need brushed.

IDPR: Joe mentioned the avalanche class on February 21st.

Directors Report:

Dave indicated one of the groomers had some electrical issues and he wanted to thank Orin for his help fixing the groomer.

Members Reports: Steve discussed the sale of groomer stickers

The next Snowmobile Advisory Board meetings will be held at Elmer's Restaurant at 7:00am on March 2, 2020 and the following meeting on April 6, 2020.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09am. Al seconded the motion. The roll was called, and all voted aye. The motion carried.

Acting Recording Secretary, Joseph H. Wuest