

February 15, 2020

Maine Snowmobile Association

Director's Meeting

Secretary's Report

At 6:45 PM, President Mike Grass Jr. called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections or omissions on the January Secretary's Report. Motioned by Larry Lafland to accept the minutes as distributed, second by Mark Chinnock, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Barry Ryan read the Treasurer's Report.

President, Mike Grass Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the East Branch SnoRovers for the wonderful meal. Mike stated that we had a very productive E-Board meeting. A vote will be held at the March meeting to change the bylaws to allow the E-Board to meet via conference call prior to the Director's meeting night. This will help with meeting participation and enable the E-Board to have in-depth discussions. The change to the bylaws will be sent to the Bylaws Chair for review. The Steering Committee has been working diligently acting as the interim Executive Director ensuring that the Association is running smoothly. An Accounting Audit will be conducted prior to the end of this fiscal year and it is our hope that a new Executive Director will be in place prior to the start of the next fiscal year in July 2020. The E-Board discussed creating a list of day-to-day expenses that can be paid automatically by the Office Manager. This list will be approved by the E-Board and reviewed annually. Other bills will need to be approved by the E-Board to ensure transparency.

Chairman of the Steering Committee, John Monk stated that LD446 would be reviewed during this Legislative Session. \$300,000.00 would be set aside out of the General Fund to go to the snowmobile Trail Fund. This money would help purchase grooming equipment. John encouraged everyone to contact his or her local legislatures to support this bill. LD1150 Equality of ATV and Snowmobile Registrations this bill created the ATV Task Force, which defined a width and size rule defining what an ATV is. Snowmobiling has been removed from the bill. John thanked Brian Bouchard from HO Bouchard for the donation of the Economic Impact Study mugs that were given out at the meeting.

Executive Vice President, Alan Swett thanked everyone in attendance for their hard work and stated that everyone is one big snowmobiling family and his is very proud of the incredible results of the Economic Impact Study. If Al can be of assistance to anyone, please reach out to him directly. Al thanked the East Branch SnoRovers for their hard work and hospitality. Al attended the Polar Blast in Eustis and the Pine Tree Camp Egg Run both were well attended and fun was had by all.

Northern Region, Matt Steadman thanked the East Branch SnoRovers for their hospitality. The northern region has been blessed with snow and many riders. There have been a few issues with access points mainly in Fort Kent but volunteers and community members came together to create a solution. The signage project has been completed and the new signs look great. Clubs are starting to build off that by adding new services signage. Matt complimented the clubs for their social media presents and stated that it is a great way to keep positive light on the sport.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland thank East Branch for their hard work. The grooming that was done in preparation for the Showcase ride was amazing. Eileen also thanked the Northern Timber Cruisers for a wonderful lunch.

Western Region, Roland Bowie thanked everyone for attending and the great meal. The Western Region is struggling with snow but some areas do have good riding. The Western Region Showcase ride cancelled to do to lack of snow.

Coastal Region, David Watson thanked East Branch for their hard work. Dave stated that snow has been very thin in his region but all clubs continue to work hard for the sport.

DACF Snowmobile Program, Joe Higgins stated that Candice Pinkham is now a fulltime/permanent employee. Grants are in with approximately \$3 million of approved Municipal Grants and approximately \$1.1 million of approved Club Grants. Registration numbers are not currently available but as of 1/31/20, registrations were down some. Not having good riding in Central and Southern Maine does affect numbers. DACF is working on projects with 911 and they continue to work on the mapping programs. Joe urged clubs that are thinking about purchasing a new piece of grooming equipment to reach out to him. The USDA grant is available and they have been helpful with clubs purchasing equipment. Unorganized Territories have TIFF money available to them; more information can be obtained by contacting Joe or Candice.

Trails Committee, Mark Chinnock stated that he had a trails workshop here in Medway. Trails Workshops have been held throughout the state to try to raise the standards of signage, so that it is just as superior as our trail system. The Committee has also been working on the awareness of Rescue Boggins. Mark stated that a plan must be in place and a line of communication should be opened up with the first responders; be sure to exchange contact information with them. The time to train is not during an emergency and clubs should coordinate with first responders for a training session. Mark stated to be sure that there is a designated sled in place and that it can pull the Rescue Boggin; a backup sled should also be identified.

Scholarship Committee, Harvey Chesley stated that last year's winners have been contacted. Harvey also stated that applications have been down and encouraged folks to get the word about the scholarship.

Safety, Alan Swett reported that we have had three fatalities on the trails; Moosehead Lake a sled went through the lake, Solon a person hit the shoreline of a pond, and an 89-year-old man missed a corner on the Parmacheenee loop trail. Safety posters are available and AI should be contacted for orders.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Ian Hathaway from the University of Maine presented the Economic Impact Study. The Study found that snowmobiling contributed \$606 Million during the 2018-2019 season. A complete copy of the study can be found at <https://www.mesnow.com/pdfs/EconomicImpactMaine.pdf>.

Mike Grass Jr reported membership numbers:

Total number of members 8,729 & business 2,140 for a total of 10,869.

Total Family members is 17,872

Totals by region

Central Region – 55 Clubs – 1,728 Members

Coastal Region – 57 Clubs – 1,459 Members

Eastern Region – 71 Clubs – 2,747 Members

Northern Region – 34 Clubs – 1,884 Members

Western Region – 62 Clubs – 3,023 Members

Nomination Committee, Mark Chinnock

Executive President – Mike Grass, Jr.
Executive Vice President – Alan Swett
Treasurer – Barry Ryan
Assistant Treasurer – Harvey Chesley
Secretary – Lori Hemmerdinger

Vice Presidents

Eastern Region – Eileen Lafland
Central Region – Paul McCarty
Northern Region – Matt Stedman
Coastal Region – David Watson
Western Region – Jim Boyce

Regional Directors:

Eastern Region – Paul Bolstridge, Larry Lafland, Gary Dowling, Craig Lemieux, John Monk
Northern Region – Gary Marquis, Lendal Buckingham, Jeff Brooks
Western Region – Paul Gallant, Jon Wakefield, Gary Okenquist
Coastal Region – Rodney Berry, Eric Perreault
Central Region – David Cogley, Alan Dugas, Jack Lord

50/50 Raffle – Marty White

Pot-O-Gold – Topsham Trailriders. They were not present.

The meeting adjourned 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hemmerdinger
MSA Secretary