

April 27, 2019

Maine Snowmobile Association

Director's Meeting

Secretary's Report

At 10:25, President John Monk called the meeting to order.

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

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

President, John Monk welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for a tremendous year, which he attributes to a strong leadership team, extremely strong State Program, three very good seasons in a row, and registration numbers that were beyond expectation. John stated that we will be facing new challenges in the upcoming year with the retirement of Bob and Peg Meyers. John thanked Joe Higgins for his support and hard work over the last year. John also discussed the numerous events that the MSA attended this past season.

DACF Snowmobile Program, Joe Higgins thanked John Monk for all of his hard work and dedication to the sport. This will be John's last year on the Advisory Council and they will be looking for new members for the Council. This Council does extremely important work with legislation and the overall program. Joe discussed the financial packets that were distributed. Upcoming deadlines – April 30th - club grants (approximately 217 will be given out) June 15th – Municipal Grants, June 15th applications due for Capital Equipment Grants. Registration numbers as of April 27th were as follows: 85,217 registered sleds (the total number with INF&W is over 87,000) this includes 25,000 non-residents. Registration income was over \$3 million. Joe stated that clubs that have exhausted their club and municipal funding are eligible for fuel assistance. Original invoices must be sent directly to Joe's office dated between January 1 and March 31st. Payouts will be made before mid-June. DACF is looking at purchasing the rail bed from Fairfield to Madison. There is currently a verbal agreement with the railroad. Some of the rail bed bridges may be able to be used for the upcoming season and the trail will be used as a multiuse trail. The Catastrophic Grant is currently fully funded at \$100,000.00. This grant can be applied for if there is a news-worthy catastrophic event. The Grant will pay out up to \$20,000.00.

Landowner Relations, Dave Chabot discussed landowner relations. Dave thanked Joe Higgins for his dedication to the sport. Dave discussed the deaths that occurred this year and feels that some could have been prevented as they occurred due to speed and alcohol. Dave thanked the Greenville Club for their stance on off trail riding and felt that it showed landowners how much the MSA cares. Dave encouraged members to immediately bring issues forward so that they can intervene before trails are lost.

Executive Director, Bob Meyers reported, "IF&W is still busy counting, but as of the middle of this month registrations were at 87,755. Resident are 62,135, up 12%; and Non-resident 25,620, up 27%. Needless to say that was good news for the Snowmobile Program and good news for all of us.

Membership has also been very strong. We'll talk about that a little later.

We've been very busy at the State House, but so far at least we've been having a very good year there too.

We've opposed two different fee increase bills. One that would have raised resident only fees and one that linked registrations to club membership. Both of those bills are dead.

Here's great news - LD-446, An Act To Appropriate Funds to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Maintain Snowmobile Trails. This would appropriate \$300,000 of General Fund money for the Snowmobile Program. The last time we got General Fund money was in 1999, and it was used as seed money to begin the Capital Equipment Program. It is awaiting final passage in the Senate. We will have some work to do as this will end up on the Appropriations Table and worked the end of the session. Watch for e-mail alerts. Everyone will have to weigh in on this if we have any hope of final passage.

LD-822, "An Act To Prohibit the Sale of Motor Fuel Containing More than 10% Ethanol," has passed both the House and Senate this past week. This ought to help stave off efforts by the federal EPA to jam E-15 gas down our throats.

There's also some of the usual crazy stuff we're working on, but so far so good. Maybe some years we're just blessed.

So, enough about this year. It was awesome, everyone did a great job and should be proud of what's been accomplished, but it's time to start looking to the future.

Next year will be a year of change and transition. That's mainly because most of the staff will be departing in the coming year. This has been coming for a few years, and there have been ongoing discussions about how this is all going to work. Those discussions will continue, and will likely see more than a few revisions as the year plays out. What we know so far is that the office operations and employee responsibilities will be reconfigured. This will include looking at new ways to communicate with clubs and members. Some of what's been accomplished so far is reflected in the budget which you will take up in just a bit. I think the thing to keep in mind is to be patient and do what you can to help.

A couple of things to be on the lookout for and save the dates:

In the next few weeks, some of you may receive a survey from the University of Maine for our economic impact study. It will take about 20 minutes to complete. It is very important that you fill it out and return it. And if you don't they will pester you relentlessly until you do.

Saturday June 22 is the 3rd Annual MSA Golf Scramble at the Palmyra Country Club. We have registration forms for both individual and teams in the back of the room.

Monday July 1 is when 2019 Super Raffle tickets will be ready for you to get and sell. This is a great way to make a few bucks before the season starts.

Tuesday August 20 will be your next directors meeting, and membership packages will be available to pick up.

And finally, the Maine Snowmobile Show is October 18-20. The trails workshop will be Saturday Oct. 19, so you can come to that in the morning and make a day of it at the Show!"

Executive Vice President, Mike Grass Jr. thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mike thanked John Monk, Bob and Peg Myers for all of their hard work. Mike stated that this year trails were the best he as ever seen and that was because of each and every club's hard work.

Central Region, Jack Lord thanked everyone in the Central Region for their hard work. Jack will be stepping down this year and will available if he can be of any assistance.

Western Region, Roland Bowie stated that the Western Area had some of the best riding in years. This was due to the hard work and dedication of the 62 clubs in the Region. Roland thanked his Regional Directors and welcomed his newest Director Jim Boyce. With a special thanks to Gary Okenquist who has been

working hard with the Wild River Riders helping to reorganize the club. Roland thanked the Executive Board and Fellow VPs. Roland and his team visited with 17 clubs this year and he is hoping for 100% next year. Roland also represented the MSA at eight different events this year. Each meeting echoed similar concerns regarding lack of manpower and off trail riding. Roland donated the 50th Annual MSA shirts to fundraisers with great success.

Eastern Region, Eileen Lafland thanked all of the landowners, clubs, groomers, Eastern Region Clubs and dedicated family and business owners. She also thanked John and Mike for their leadership this year as well as her Regional Directors for all of their dedication and hard work.

Northern Region, Mike McNulty reported that the Northern Region received 164 inches of snow this winter and faced numerous challenges, including reroutes and mechanical issues. The clubs did a tremendous job getting the work done. Mike discussed how the sport brings community together including helping folks with disabilities. Mike thanked his directors for all of their hard work. Mike stated that he will be continuing his television segment next year with a new co-host.

Coastal Region, Dave Watson thanked all members in attendance for their hard work. Dave stated that much of the winter his region saw snow followed by rain. Dave's clubs did a wonderful job communicating with the public regarding grooming updates and trail closures after rainstorms.

Treasurer, Barry Ryan discussed the proposed budget. John Wakefield motioned to accept the 2019/2020 budget as distributed, second by John Holmes, all in favor.

Trails Committee, Mark Chinnock thanked all 35 members of the Trails Committee approximately 3,500 miles of ITS trails were inspected this year. Over 150 clubs were contacted and the Committee dealt with a number of trail closures and reroutes, most resulting in a positive outcome. Mark was able to ride almost every area of the state from Fort Kent down and he found that grooming was spot on and trails had never been flatter and the brushing of the trails was very good. However, one troublesome area was signage and he will be putting a focus on this going forward. The Trails Committee will be assisting the clubs with signage and will be holding workshops in each region. There will also be an emphasis on signage and signage etiquette at the Trails Workshop held at the Snowmobile Show and new Signage Handbooks will also be distributed. Mark feels confident that the signage standards will be brought up to the same level as grooming and trail maintenance.

Scholarship Committee, The Scholarship is currently being deliberated and the winner will be announced at a later date.

Membership Awards were presented by Bob Meyers:

Arnold Trail SC, Eustis-Stratton, 1041 Members
Rangeley Lakes SC, Rangeley, 889 Members
Border Riders Sportsman's Club, Jack, 268 Members
Northern Timber Cruisers, Millinocket, 215 Members
Penobscot SC, Hermon, 208 Members
Madawaska SC, Madawaska, 183 Members
Fort Kent Sno Riders, Fort Kent, 178 Members
Caribou SC, Caribou, 174 Members
Washburn Trail Runners SC, Washburn, 172 Members
Moosehead Riders SC, Greenville, 163 Members

Safety, Alan Swett reported that he has distributed over 600 safety signs this year and any club that has not received them should contact him. Al has visited Jackman, Bridgeton and Unity presenting safety courses. Classes included safety training as well as hands on demonstrations of changing belts. Al also visited the Medway School where he spoke with over 100 kids from the Middle School. A Life Flight demonstration was also held in Medway with 70 sleds participating in a 50-mile ride. Al attended the groomer rodeo where 13 individuals received their Groomer Certification. We have had ten deaths this year and several accidents; most of these incidents could have been prevented.

Al stated that he received a summary from John MacDonald, IF&W of the violations were handled this year:

182 - Crashes with being 10 fatalities

47 - Search & rescue

38 - Operating under the influence summonses

232 - Loud exhaust summonses and 61 warnings

299 - Unregistered sleds

Hospitality - Therese Lussier's report on the several cards that were mailed to members. Therese will be stepping down from Hospitality in August.

Hall of Fame, Beth Bowie thanked the Hall of Fame Committee for all of their hard. Beth will be recruiting more members in the upcoming year. Anyone interested can contact Beth directly.

Nominations, 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 – Vacant

Northern Region – Matt Stedman

Coastal Region – David Watson

Western Region – Roland Bowie

Regional Directors:

Eastern Region – Paul Bolstridge, Larry Lafland, Gary Dowling, Chuck Loring, Chris Richards

Northern Region – Gary Marquis, Lendall Buckingham, Jeff Brooks

Western Region – Peter Ford, Paul Gallant, Jon Wakefield, Gary Okenquist, Jim Boyce

Coastal Region – Rodney Berry, John Resmini

Central Region – Jerry Withee, Sally Withee, David Cogley, Alan Dugas, Jack Lord

A motion was made that the Secretary cast one vote for the nomination of Officers. All in favor.

Commissioner Judy Camuso of IF&W. Judy introduced herself and talked about her work history. Judy is excited about working with the MSA. Judy will introduce a program to increase license holders in the State i.e. hunters, anglers, trappers, snowmobilers, etc. Judy will also work to ensure that we have a good Landowner Relations Program, one that can not only respond to problems but prevent them.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Pot-O-Gold – Narraguagus Snowmobile club. They were present and won \$200.00

50/50 winner – Lori Hemmerdinger, \$300.00

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hemmerdinger
MSA Secretary