

ROCK COUNTY ALLIANCE OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

February 3, 2021

Call to Order: at Red Barn, Evansville by President Erica Keehn

Roll Call: Alliance officers present: Erica Keehn, Kate Fuchs, Jackie Olson, Steve Fausnaugh. 6 clubs present, 2 Absent – Rock County Snowblowers, Oak Ridge Riders

Secretary's Report: On file in the secretary's book. Motion to accept by Rod, seconded by Blaine motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed. Jackie Olson read it, a copy is on file in the secretary's book. Mark Hubka made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Dan Cullen seconded it, motion carried.

Pay Bills: Bills were presented for payment. Scott Johnson made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Blaine Adams seconded it, motion carried.

AWSC Director's Report: AWSC side – typically in March we would have the AWSC Convention and we would have elections. This year there are two positions that are running with opposition – Treasurer – Andy Malecki vs Lauren Levy and President Dave Neuman vs Hank Jaustra. Rod sent email to the club reps with information that Lauren and Dave sent over. This year club chairs will receive Mail in Ballots. Rod will send a reminder closer to the due date. Thank you to the groomer operators, we have gotten a lot of snow this year, one of my trips that is usually up north, we were able to enjoy the southern part of the state United we trail.

Trail Report: Trails are open, going to close Thursday at 6am to avoid the rain, hopefully will open back up Friday (or ASAP). As of this meeting Everett will be resigning as Trail Boss due to conflicting issues.

A question was brought up as to why we are closing the trails – we are hoping to preserve the base, allowing the trails to firm back up if we do get rain. Trails will be reassessed and opened as soon as we can.

President's Report: Everett has stepped down as Trail coordinator. As president a new Trail Boss will need to be appointed. Billy Slater has said he will step up, so Billy has now been appointed as Trail Boss. In the future, we need to look at setting up a committee or multiple trail bosses to help spread the work over many. Another thought, potentially a Trail Coordinator and a Groomer Coordinator. Please as clubs we need volunteers to step up and allow us to have greater communication throughout the Alliance.

I will be attending the Gov Rec Council – next meeting Thursday, 2/4/21. Thank you for coming and your continued work to be a united Alliance.

Groomer Report: Groomers are all ready to go, we have gotten a lot of maintenance completed on the groomers this year. South Groomer had a few bogeys start to de-laminate, those are getting fixed Saturday. North Groomer has a hydrolic issue. We have had a great year to have volunteers getting the groomers out and maintained. We need to make sure

going forward, that we log time in and time out, and verify that GPS is working. Even if a red light is flashing, it will start to pick up signal again and catch itself up. Working with Nathan to make sure we have as many pins as possible within the Geofence.

Youth Advisor Report: Tia gave the report, the KAOS ride was canceled this year. Rock County is still looking for a Youth Rep, typically they will be High Schoolers ages 14-18. It's a good time, you meet people from all over the state, and learn about snowmobiling in a different aspect. Please bring us your youth!

Old Business: Brian Gray brought the maps. We got 7 total boxes so not quite enough to have each club get a full box. Talk with Brian if you still need maps.

New Business: Director and Rep Voting for AWSC – Currently Rod is the Director, Rep is Erica – Each sits on committees – Rod is on KAOS (youth) committee Erica – Legislative/Miss Snowflake. Being a director/rep is a great way to learn more about what is going on throughout the state and have a great network to learn from and bounce ideas/issues off of other areas.

Rodney was nominated for Director by Scott Johnson, seconded by Mike Britton. A motion for a Unanimous Ballot was made by David Voelker and seconded by Blaine Adams, motion passed.

Erica Keehn was nominated for Representative by David Voelker and seconded by Mark Hubka. A motion for Unanimous Ballot was made by Scott Johnson and seconded by David Voelker.

Sheriff Chris Krahn, and County Parks department representatives John Traynor and Amy Friend were in attendance for today's meeting.

PSA - Please make sure that if you give out a County members number it is ONLY their work number, even if they are known personally, do not give out private numbers. Our Sheriff's and County Parks Department reps are happy to discuss issues, but personal and business need to stay separate.

Sheriff Krahn – Snowmobile Safety Classes, DNR called this week, they shut down the remainder of in person safety courses (Hunter/ATV/Snowmobile) being held at this time. As soon as the Sheriff's department has more information it will be passed along to the Alliance. Sheriffs have been out on the trails, people are coming from all over (Iowa, North), etc. It's been impressive to see the turnout. There have been some citations given, more given to those outside the area vs locals. Contacts from clubs are good and valid. So far for this season, only one accident that has been reported. There have been a lot of calls to the County about trespassing/going off trail. If you see others being off trail, please try to educate if you can. Remember if we don't have the landowners, we do not have trails. Trespassing is coming up as an issue throughout the state. There was a FB post, of the Sundowners taking their groomer onto the Alliance funded trail. To the Alliance and County's knowledge, no-one has asked the Sundowners to groom Alliance trails. This would be considered Trespassing. Do we send another letter from our lawyer, being nice and patient has not gotten us anywhere or helped the situation. When we got the groomer back, we took a step back, and looking back, that may have been a mistake. They have pulled landowners out of the County system. Should we start to proceed forcefully?

If we try to sue, what is the end game? What would we be suing for? Trespassing (liability), due to location of issue, signs, etc.

Trespassing can be tricky – we need proof that they were told not to do something. Ticket would be \$263-ish.

Steps need to be followed – letter, did you get my letter, now you got my last letter, stronger one to follow, following through.

We have sent a letter to them about the signs, need to add language about grooming, etc.

As an Alliance we need to get our groomers there and moving, show that they are being completed. It will require more road riding on the Groomers to stay off of property that has signed with Sundowners and therefor canceled the County Lease.

Do we, as an Alliance, follow through and peruse the issue of Trespassing – They are aware of their boundaries, we need make sure they are aware – Motion by Harold, seconded by Dave Draves. Motion passed. We will contact Attorney Duffy to have letter regarding Trespassing drafted and sent out.

Signage and Bridges that are currently owned by County and on Sundowner territory, Harold would recommended reaching out to County Board Supervisors, we are looking at \$50K in property. If multiple people reach out, it may be more seen, and the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

The other side to this, is about snowmobiling, its about getting our sponsors business, and getting out and riding, getting sleds on trails. We need to also not lose site of why we volunteer, because of our love of the sport.

If we lose the county leases with our landowners we lose more funded trails, at some point we may lose all of the funded trails we have in Rock County.

By the Sundowners pulling out of the Alliance and removing the contracts with the County, they have relinquished the funding available to the grant. The County and DNR offices are getting flooded with calls, and it is being noticed, on not on a good note. They are drawing a lot of attention, good bad or ugly. They could be sinking their own boat, the goal is that they do not take us down with them.

Opening of trails: 5 year average, was 12 days per year....Jefferson was 5 days per year open.

Funding goes from DNR to County to Alliance/Club (depending on how County was set up). Working with County GIS system to get correct mileage as the DNR is asking what our exact mileage is. DNR requires the County to work with an Alliance or Clubs. Rock County has filed that they will be working with the Alliance (8 out of 9 clubs voted to stay in the Alliance). This is due to the 1981 Snowmobile Plan that the County is contracting with the Alliance. Currently the county is doing what it is designed to do. If something happens that the Sundowners get contracts resigned with Rock County by the end of the year, the mileage will stay with Rock County – if they do not, those miles are lost for funding for the County.

The Sheriffs Dept is out for enforcement only, they do not open or close trails. They are there to enforce rules, and regulations.

Announcements:

Mar 3, Alliance meeting, Koshkonong, Jakes Junction Pub

April 7, Alliance Meeting, Milton Snow Riders

May 5, Alliance Meeting, Alliance Groomer Shed, Clinton, WI – Hosted by Alliance

Safety Courses

Rodney Burzinski made a motion to adjourn. Scott Johnson seconded it, motion carried.
Thanks to the Evansville Sno-Devils for providing snacks.

Submitted,

Kate Fuchs
Secretary