

Sundowners Snowmobile Club  
PO Box 164  
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[sundownerssnowmobilers.com](http://sundownerssnowmobilers.com)

January 30, 2020

A special meeting of the Sundowners Snowmobile Club was called to order at 7:05 pm on January 28, 2020 by President Richard Plautz at Creekview Par Three. There were 23 members present out of a total of 108, with the roll call for elected and appointed positions as follows:

**Officers:**

President: Richard Plautz ✓  
Vice President: Robbie Koepf  
Secretary: Brian Gray ✓  
Treasurer: Casey Lund

**Directors:**

Mike Shumaker ✓  
Tim Weber ✓  
Andy Richardson ✓  
Chris Green ✓  
Charlie Rusch  
Aaron Lenox

**Trail Bosses:**

Jarrood Bublitz  
Mike Bentheimer ✓  
Eric Schmeling ✓  
Jon Dibble  
Craig Phillips  
Mike Shumaker ✓  
Jim Swon ✓  
Seth Green  
Jamie Shelley  
Aaron Lenox  
Kurt Birkett  
Ryan Nelson

**Appointed Officials:**

Trail Chmn: Mike Shumaker ✓  
                  Jim Swon ✓  
Activity Leader:

PRESIDENT'S OPENING COMMENTS: This meeting will not follow the usual full agenda, but rather will be a two-pronged agenda:

1. Talk about the trails.
2. May or may not take a vote tonight to exit the Rock County Alliance.

DISCUSSION (unattributed):

- Twenty-eight degrees with the trails in good condition and the trails are closed. Our trails are mowed and culmulched and remain in good shape.
- Comparisons to other counties.
- The real focus of concern is to maximize open trail time and identify where the grant money goes, since other counties distribute it to the clubs.
  - Who makes the decision on opening and closing trails.
  - As an example of grant money distribution in other counties, Jefferson County Alliance distributes grant money to the clubs. The Alliance's expenses are funded by a partial return of grant money from the clubs, along with fundraisers.

EVERETT REESE (Alliance Trail Coordinator):

- Agrees with frustration over past trail opening/closing problems on weekends.
  - Recent meeting with Rock County Parks and Sheriff personnel made great strides in improving the trail opening process and communication overall.
- Agrees that, in accordance with the contract, authority to open and close trails lies with him. The county is involved in announcing the status. Parks Department personnel are involved in a WhatsApp message group to facilitate the process and are very pleased with the process.
- Working to improve communication between the clubs within the Alliance trying to reach consensus on opening trails.
- Using quadrants printed on map, but they need to be modified (moved, increased quantity, etc.) to make it easier to open specific portions of the trail system.
- Holds the philosophy that:
  - There is always a better way to do things.

- Clubs are better off united than off on their own.
- The days of just doing things like we've always done are over (see better way above).
- Joined the Sundowners Snowmobile Club, in addition to his primary membership in the Clinton Fencehoppers, along with other clubs in Rock County.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING COMMENTS:

- Richard pointed out that he is still waiting for financial reports from the Alliance to help answer the money concerns.
- Generally, members were encouraged by what they heard about implemented and planned changes in trail management and agree to watching the continued evolution.
- Determined that no vote on seceding from the Alliance was necessary for now as the issues develop.

Meeting adjourned sometime after 9:00 pm.

Brian Gray  
Secretary, Sundowners Snowmobilers