

# **VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE APRIL 11, 2019**

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at the Emergency Operations Center in Cascade. Present were Ron Platt, Larry Meredith, Larry Laxson, Terri Klanderud, Rob Workman, Mark Sabin, Mark Wood and Vic Greenfield. Also present were Kevin Turner, Valley County Sheriff's Office; Carole Lundgren, Business owner from Warren; Ben Epsley, Donnelly rental business owner.

Mark Wood motioned that the minutes from the March meeting be approved as presented; seconded by Vic Greenfield. Motion carried.

## **Sheriff's Report**

Kevin Turner reported that they haven't been out in the parking lots since the Veteran's ride On March 9<sup>th</sup>. Kevin asked if there was enough room to store two sleds in the groomer shed at Francis Wallace; Larry Laxson responded that we will make this work.

## **New Business**

### **Snowmobile Parking Lots at Ungroomed Trails**

Mark Wood presented his "wish list" to the Committee. They have requested to be able to remove a couple of trees. The lease is up next year and it was asked if we have any questions, to please bring this up before the lease is up for renewal. Francis Wallace was discussed at length and a "wish list" was put together so that a discussion could take place with the lease administrator. The discussion should take place before the next Advisory Meeting that will be held May 9<sup>th</sup>. If we are able to come up with resolutions that they approve of, they have to go through their process. They will be meeting with rental companies, business owners, land owners, etc., and they will come up with a resolution that everyone will be able to live with. Carole Lundgren has stepped up and offered to facilitate this meeting. Carole has had a conversation with land owners and they are willing to collaborate. Ron Platt mentioned that we should consider, in the agreement, that there be a restraint to 8 lbs per square inch restriction.

Mark Wood mentioned that he has discussed with IDL, the issues with the ungroomed snowmobile trails. It has been insinuated that signs should be placed on Lick Creek to indicate what area is allowed. The County has informed him that they are in negotiations with the road department and that our lease of trail and parking lots won't be done until we find a parking lot on Boulder Creek Road for snowmobilers. The protocol that was insinuated was that we would have to address this in order to renew our lease. Lick Creek should be handled by the business owner there that encourages snowmobile access. Private sector business should pay for their

access and issues on ungroomed areas. On Boulder Lake road, the county opens up an area for parking. There is private property up through the end of plowing with IDL on the left side and private property on the right. If they approve a wedding/event venue up there and a private citizen wants to plow a County Road they have to get a permit from the County and there could possibly be contingencies. The Grooming funds would not be responsible for plowing this. Larry Laxson suggested that we have a meeting with Scott Corkel. Mark Wood will be meeting with the lease administrator and we will go from there.

### **Letter From Avalanche Specialist**

Mark Wood informed everyone that the areas mentioned in the letter are the Lick Creek area. The individual that has made comments are a level 3 avalanche specialist. The question would be why is he in this area? In visiting with people that ride in that area, as they are going up the area, there is no signage until you get up to the yurt. The Brundage Cat Ski area has put up a good amount of signage by Goose Lake, but on the Heartly Meadow road, up to the look out (approximately 3 miles), there were 40 snow poles with signs in this area. This is not a significant area. We gave them 150 snow poles to be used for that area to be marked. The McCall Club even put the signs ON the snowpoles. It was suggested that we come up with a plan, and invite everyone involved to the Groomer Advisory Meeting with an outline of what needs to happen. It was reported that the few tracks that were found in that area were where there was no signage whatsoever.

We quit grooming on the Hartley Meadow Road to allow Brundage to have skiing on the back side. The portion of the Hartley Meadow Road that needs to be groomed is from Krahn Lane to the Lookout.

Ben explained that by "rubber stamping" the entire area, they are effecting business. They need to not red flag the entire County, and put a disclosure on it that it affects backcountry expert riders. The people that read these reports are novice riders.

Terri Klanderud motioned that a select group be put together to compose a letter to respond to the letter to the Payette Avalanche Center, the Payette Forest Supervisor and the McCall District Ranger; seconded by Mark Sabin. Motion passed.

The Payette Forest will be out of travel maps shortly. If there are any changes that need to be made to the map, they need to be pointed out now. Mark Wood asked that Terri Klanderud get them a report as to the donors and amounts that were contributed in the prior printing.

### **Old Business**

Ron Platt discussed the mess that was left on the Donnelly trailhead (No Business Road) where

the homeowner had plowed the road, making it an unsafe area. Last week Larry Laxson and Ron Platt took out the groomer and spent many hours trying to repair and reinstate the trail.

## **Coordinator's Report**

Larry Laxson informed everyone that the Wolverine Study group will hold a meeting in Montana. Discussion took place regarding the Wolverine Study that the Idaho State Snowmobile Association commissioned several years ago.

Larry Laxson reviewed the Budget that we work with for the grooming program. The areas have used carry over this year due to the extensive grooming and parking lot plowing that took place.

Mark Wood explained the process for applying and receiving Lot Funds and the application. Larry Laxson has asked us all to review the budgets. He would like to run the Cats 7-days a week, but we are limited to the amount of hours we can pay.

Discussion also took place regarding the registration funding and the impact of the Made-In-America legislation that requires we purchase from manufacturers that do not produce machinery that meets all of our needs.

Larry Laxson reported that we lost a hydraulic motor on the Piston Bully in McCall. Maintenance is being done on some of the machinery. He is estimating that we will be done with Spring maintenance by the middle of May.

Larry Laxson is looking for a full time assistant. He would like to get all the trails marked properly again. DF Development has sold a lot of property in the Clear Creek area. It was sold by DF noted as a snowmobile trail and the new owners signed off on that.

Next year we will do a better job of signing remote parking lots that generally don't have a lot of traffic and were full this year. He is going to engage volunteers to assist in getting the signage up. This is recognized as a weakness and Larry is going to work on it.

Mark Sabin suggested that Larry put together a newsletter to be sent out to the Clubs to show what assistance is needed in which areas. We need to get the signs picked up at end of year before they disappear.

## **AREA REPORTS**

### ***Smith's Ferry***

We are done grooming down there.

***West Mountain***

Nothing to report at this time.

***Donnelly***

Nothing to report at this time.

***McCall***

Mark Wood reported that Tim Wood is willing to help work on the Gordon Titus parking lot. They voted yesterday set the length limit to 54 feet. The caveat is they are not going to enforce unless the big rigs are showing up multiple times.

Discussion took place on the In Reach. Larry Laxson would prefer that the Clubs initiate the process. They are approximately \$300 for the unit, with a monthly subscription fee of \$12 - \$30. The possibility of having the Clubs purchase was discussed. Mark Sabin suggested that to work effectively we would need to run it through the County. Mark Wood questioned if it is something that we can use to verify. Larry will work this spring/summer on running through the County first.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mark Wood	McCall Area	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Mark Sabin	McCall Area	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Carol Lundgren	McCall Area	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
John Hicks	McCall Area	Financials	16 hours
Mark Wood	McCall Area	IDL Meeting	10 hours
Mark Sabin	McCall Area	Maintenance	4 hours
Mark Wood	McCall Area	Search & Rescue	51 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Vic Greenfield	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Ben Epsley	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Grooming	35 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Meetings	3 hours
Vic Greenfield	Donnelly	Grooming	6 hours
Ben Epsley	Donnelly	Signage/Grooming	142 hours
Larry Meredith	West Mountain	Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Rob Workman	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Rob Workman	Smith's Ferry	PFC Meetings	6 hours
Terri Klanderud	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Terri Klanderud	Smith's ferry	Minutes, emails, etc	2 hours
Dave Boynton	Smith's Ferry	Grooming/Parking Lot	248 hours