

# **VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY BOARD MEETING May 9, 2019**

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at the Emergency Operations Center at 7:00pm. Present were Ron, Larry Meredith, Mark Sabin, Vic Greenfield, Larry Laxson, Terri Klanderud, Rob Workman, and John Hicks. Also present were Dave Bingaman, Valley County Commissioner; Belinda Provancher and Jordan Nielson from Midas Gold; Vearl Wolfe and Dave Boynton, volunteers from Smith's Ferry/Wellington Snowpark.

Rob Workman motioned that the April minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Vic Greenfield. Motion carried.

Ron Platt added Belinda Provancher from Midas Gold to the agenda.

## **USFS**

No one was present from either the Payette or Boise Forest. Larry Laxson reported that the Payette will have a draft/record of their decision for Granite Meadows in the next week.

## **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

No one was in attendance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Valley County Trail Ordinance* – Larry Laxson informed everyone that we have put together an ordinance for private home ownership road access. Plowing will only be approved by special permit. It will be finished by next week and then there will be a public hearing before the Commissioners approve it. The areas affected are Warren Wagon, No Business, Anderson Creek, High Valley, Clear Creek, and Warm Lake. We are working with the Road Department for them to supply us with a front end loader.

*Idaho State Snowmobile Association Spring Board Meeting* – Terri Klanderud reported that the ISSA Spring Board Meeting will be held on June 1, 2019, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and the home of Pat Minegar, 3940 E Raja Drive, Meridian, Idaho. Please let Terri know if you can attend.

*USFS Proposed Logging on Boise Forest* – Terri Klanderud passed out the proposed logging plan on the Boise Forest effecting Ola, Smith’s Ferry and Tripod. The District Ranger from Emmett, Richard Newton, has three areas (that will each be affected in a different year) that they are able to log under a Category Exclusion to assist in wildfire prevention. It is a small percentage of trails that would be closed. They have stated that they will be out as soon as they are done logging. Mark Sabin motioned that the Valley County Groomer Advisory Board support the logging in these areas, providing that they do not eliminate the trailhead access from Wellington Snowpark, and discontinue use of the High Valley Summit from January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>, or leave a 6 inch base during that period; seconded by Terri Klanderud. Motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Terri Klanderud mentioned that the Committee had motioned last month that we put together a group to write a letter to respond to the Payette Avalanche letter and wondered where we were at on this. Ron Platt discussed that we do not have authority to make any decisions on the area that was mentioned. Marty Rude and Brundage make quite a statement about incursions/encroachments and they are profiting from having a concession on Federal Lands; it is their job to enforce and protect what they have. Lastly, suggesting that we have people out there enforcing, it is RWA and we are not able to do this. Commissioner Bingaman suggested that he (George) was not acting on behalf of the Forest Service or Payette Avalanche, but that it was a personal comment. The concern was more that there was some infringement and was thinking out loud regarding ideas of how to mitigate this. The recommendation would be to have enforcement on sleds riding the trails and talking to people. Commissioner Bingaman would appreciate not escalating this to a formal reply, but he will have a conversation with him.

Belinda had reported that Mark Wood had asked for an update and wondered about taking a field trip this summer to review the area and what would be proposed for that area. Jordan was asked to make a presentation tonight; he was going to put google maps on the screen to review the plans and ask questions to be able to collaborate regarding the alternate route, however, the technology to present was not available to us. During the summer time (end of June or later depending on snowpack) they would plan on field trip for the Committee; going to Cabin Trout, and then explore Johnson Creek on the snow.

Jordan discussed Warm Lake from Cabin Trout to Johnson Creek. The poles will be taller because the conductors are larger. They are trying to minimize their footprint as much as possible. There are some switchbacks that are of concern. Jordan questioned if the existing

roadway is sufficient as they are trying to stay as close to the existing road as possible. Mark Sabin and Larry Meredith expressed the areas of concern. There is a long side hill that could be of issue; once you get high on that hillside it is a very small, narrow, step area. There are also some switchbacks that are of concern. Jordan addressed staying along the corridor, and what possible work around they could do. Belinda will send some dates out to Terri when they are closer and we will put together a group to go out there.

Jordan addressed the biggest issue, parking. A couple of suggestions were made as they have had discussions with different entities, including the USFS District Ranger for the Cascade District, Jake Strohmeyer.

## **Coordinator's Report**

*Update on Granite Meadows Project* – Larry Laxson addressed this issue under the USFS Report.

Larry Laxson reported on the spring maintenance. Due to the high snowpack, we lost a lot of seals on all of the Cats. We may have to do some of the maintenance this fall. Discussion took place regarding the mechanical protocol on the final drives of the Prinoths.

## **AREA REPORTS**

### ***Smith's Ferry/Wellington Snow Park***

The Smith's Ferry area ran out of money this year for Spring Maintenance. They are short approximately \$800 plus the cost of hydraulic fluid and filters.

### ***West Mountain***

Larry Meredith was able to speak with Ron Julian and he is hoping that at least one of the Commissioners will attend the meeting on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to help him figure out a solution.

### ***Donnelly***

Ron Platt reported in regard to the original agreement that was made with DF Development on the trail usage there. One of the items that they would like us to document is dynamics of

usage. They would like us to validate how many people are in there. They will provide trail cams at the entry points and swap out the sym cards on a monthly basis.

***McCall***

Mark Wood reported on the situation regarding the IDL Parking Lots. They have submitted a request. Due to upper management at Idaho Department of Lands, all leases and discussion of leases is stopped at this time. They are in the process of rewriting their policies and procedures due to an incident. Mark conveyed to Todd Wernex that we don't want to wait until August or September for this discussion. Mark walked from Brush Creek to Francis Wallace and he believes that they may have a viable route.

# VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mark Wood	McCall Area	Meetings/drafting	48 hours
Mark Wood		Groomer Meeting	4 hours
John Hicks		Financials	4 hours
John Hicks		Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Mark Sabin		Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Mark Sabin		Maintenance	6 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Meetings	11 hours
Ron Platt		Groomer Meeting	7 hours
Vic Greenfield		Groomer Meeting	7 hours
Vic Greenfield		Meetings/Clean Up	8 hours
Larry Meredith	West Mountain	Meetings	6 hours
Larry Meredith		Groomer Meeting	4 hours
Terri Klanderud	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	7 hours
Terri Klanderud		Letters/Minutes/Emails	2 hours
Terri Klanderud		Meetings	3 hours
Rob Workman		Groomer Maintenance	4 hours
Rob Workman		Groomer Meeting	5 hours
Rob Workman		Wellington maintenance	4 hours
Dave Boynton		Wellington grounds	120 hours
Dave Boynton		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Vearl Wolfe		Groomer Meeting	3 hours