



NORTHWEST TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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November 2011

General Membership Meeting

November 1, 2011

Call to Order – 7:44 pm

Secretary's Report – Rocky Johnson

- October minutes approved; filed for future audit.

Treasurer's Report – Randy Baudler

- Income: club membership dues.
- Expenses: ad for Corcoran Newsletter, liability insurance, interest expense, landowner appreciation, shed expenses and trail stakes/signage.
- October report approved; filed for future audit.

Director-at-Large – Joel Johnson

- Not present; nothing to report.

Trail Coordinator – Steve Hohag

- Trail sign stakes have been purchased and are available.
- Hwy 55 is marked and some other areas.
- Sign order in from DNR; contact Steve Hohag if you have needs beyond what is available at shed.
- Application for V&V Insurance for trail liability insurance; will be submitted shortly.
- Working on getting the landowner list updated.
- Please keep track of volunteer hours and equipment; submit to Steve Hohag.
- Trail Captains be sure to contact city or townships or landowners if finding it necessary to remove trees more than 6" in diameter; make sure you and your helpers are wearing blaze orange for visibility to hunters when out brushing trails.

New Members

- None present.

Old Business

- Landowner Contact – trail captains, please make contact with all your landowners and make sure we have appropriate landowner approval and provide gift certificate.
- Trail Brushing – a coordinated trail brushing date is set for Friday, November 25th, 9:00 am, meet at Daytona Market; please contact Steve Hohag if you have needs beyond what has been arranged.
- Club Fun – Thursday, November 10, 7:00 pm, Choo Choo, Loretto.
- Boy Scouts Signage – boy scouts have completed project and new map stands are at shed; beautiful job! ACTION ITEM: President (Rob Bell) to send thank you letter to father of scout that donated significant funds for signs; Delano club purchasing 1 of them for junction of Wright

County and NW Hennepin County; signs will need to be stained but will wait until next Spring to do so.

- Ski-Doo's Club Members Promo – reminder that Ski-Doo has a program to support local clubs; members can go to any Ski Doo Dealership to register OR go to www.skidoo.com and complete online registration for a \$10 donation to your snowmobile club.
- Map Boxes – available tonight at meeting, we will be tracking these so please sign up with Randy Baudler and advise where the box location will be; club is in need of more map boxes, Brian volunteered to build.

New Business

- Three Rivers Park Policy Change Proposal – park commission has proposed change to current policy that if a grant in aid snowmobile trail is lost leading to the park it cannot ever be reopened; the proposed policy change threatens the future of our trail system and is on the agenda for public discussion at their next meeting: Thursday, November 3, 5:00 pm, at the Park District Administrative Center, 3000 Xenium Lane, Plymouth. We have expressed our desire to publically address the commission and have arranged for speakers to express their concern/opposition; several business owners are writing letters to express their opposition; we would really appreciate your presence at the meeting to show your support of MnUSA and NWT and other local clubs in opposition of the proposed policy.
- Field Discing – trail captains should be aware of what fields may require discing and should work with owners/farmers to arrange.
- New Trail Additions – Maple Plain has one landowner to complete the trail to Luce Line.
- Blue Ribbon Coalition – NW Trails board has agreed to support this organization again this year with \$100 donation.
- Groomer Discussion - need to be thinking about future grooming needs, with trail expansion plans will need to consider 2nd groomer for future and current plan is to trade up every 3 years on current groomer; Track provided quote to upgrade existing after 1 year (due to price increases coming worth considering); it is not boards intent to do so at this time but felt necessary to provide information to general membership; motion passed by general membership to table discussions for at least one year.

Club Updates

- Hamel Sno Runners – meets 1st Monday of every month at American Legion Post in Hamel, 8:00 pm; safety training scheduled for January 2012; raffle for annual fundraiser \$20/ticket, super prizes.
- Brooklyn Park SnoPatrol - safety training scheduled for Dec 3rd & 10th.

- Loretto Snowbirds – raffle for fundraiser \$10/ticket, super prizes; safety training scheduled for first weekend in Dec.
- Maple Plain Snomads – meets 2nd Wednesday of every month, Monie's Grill in Maple Plain, 8:00 pm; the clubs first inaugural kickoff meeting scheduled for Sat, Dec 10th, 1pm, Monies Bar & Grill, Maple Plain; requested groomer presence at meeting, Snomads to coordinate transportation of groomer for event.

MnUSA – <http://www.mnsnowmobiler.org>

- MnUSA 2011 Fall Workshop – great attendance and success; thank you all for your participation.
- Statewide Trail Stop – Jan 21st; to promote safety week and promote local clubs; watch for more info to come.
- 4th Annual Veterans Appreciation Ride – Jan 7, Madelia, MN; please encourage current active duty and veterans.
- 2012 MnUSA Rendezvous, Feb 9-12, Fairmont, MN.
- MnUSA Annual Raffle Calendar – available now through NWT; 10% of calendar sale is given back to NWT; if interested in selling or purchasing see Randy Baudler.
- Region 8 Meeting, Tuesday, Nov 15, Davanni's, Minnetonka; 7:00 pm; Doug Franzen will be guest speaker; all welcome.
- MnUSA Legislative Agenda Items: proposing legislation to combine annual state trail sticker and registration to one sticker; also proposing to amend the existing statute

regarding studs on paved trails so that trails will be open to all snowmobiles unless posted closed to snowmobiles with studs; proposing additional funding from gas tax increase go to grant in aid.

Committee Reports

- **Membership:** no report.
- **Sunshine:** no report.
- **Map:** members interested in being on map committee will meet directly after the December general membership meeting to discuss new proposed timeline for 2012-2014 map.
- **Safety:** all local clubs in full swing of registration; see MnUSA website or DNR website for registration info.

Adjournment – 9:17 pm

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 6, Medina Entertainment Center; board meeting 6:00 pm; happy hour 7:00 pm; general membership meeting 7:30 pm
- Receive newsletters via email; save a tree, save us postage; provide us your email address at nwtrails@nwtrails.net.

Thank you!