

The New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
September 13, 2008
Comfort Inn, Edmundston, NB

Those in attendance were:

Leon Bourque, Gary Smith, Manfred Knappe, Sandy Thompson, Darren Caterini, Peter Thompson, Sandy Young, Ralph Dickinson & Ross Antworth.

Absent: John McLellan, Mark Brown, Sandy Thompson & Reg MacDonald

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Leon Bourque @ 7:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Leon asked that item 8.6 be removed from the agenda and Peter asked that item 8.11.5 (Website) be added to the agenda.

Moved by Manfred and seconded by Ralph to accept the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Darren pointed out that the mileage rate for policy DIR-001 should read “basic government rate”.

Moved by Sandy Young and seconded by Gary Smith to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2008 BOD Meetings as amended. Motion Carried

4. President and G.M.’s Report

Caucus Presentation

Leon reported on the July 23, 2008 Caucus Presentation which was very well received. Ross noted the Premier was in attendance and was well supported by his Ministers.

“Sustainability Funding”

Moved by Gary that the NBFSC President immediately contact the Premier’s Office to express the grave concerns of the NBFSC Board of Directors for the immediate requirements for grooming equipment for 15 trail groomers (\$1,350,000.00) before the beginning of the 2009 winter tourism season. Seconded by Peter. Motion Carried.

Trail Manager Hiring

Ross & Ralph gave an update on Trail Manager hiring. One candidate that was interviewed was offered the position, but took employment with another firm. When the new Insurance Invoice arrived with a \$70,000.00 increase over budget, it was felt that the process should be delayed until a budget review.

Moved by Manfred that the NBFSC Executive continue to proceed with the hiring of a Trail Manager after an assessment of our trail permit revenue up to December 15, 2008 and a revenue projection for 2009. Seconded by Peter. Motion carried.

4. President and G.M.'s Report cont.

CGL Trail Insurance

Ross reported on the CGL Insurance. With 12 lawsuits against the NBFSC, most insurance firms will not quote us a rate. It will not get better until we clear some of the lawsuits and stop new claims from being filed against us. We had budgeted \$150,000.00 and the best quote was \$220,000.00.

Meeting with Government

Leon reported on the number of meetings that Ross has to attend with government and how much of Ross' time this consumes.

Moved by Peter and seconded by Ralph to accept the President and G.M.'s Report as presented. Motion Carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

Darren presented the Treasurer's Report. The Mulching Fund was reviewed. Ross is to check on the date this program ends and the state of funds remaining, if any. Directors will be advised.

Moved by Gary and seconded by Peter to accept the Treasurer's Report as enclosed and read. Motion Carried.

6. Zone Reports – Verbal – Major Issues

Zone 1 – Gary reported damage to bridges from flooding in May & August.

Zone 2 – Peter reported bridges out on Trail #19 at Little Cedar Brook and a bridge on Trail # 17 section of NB Trail.

Zone 3 – No Report – Mark absent.

Zone 4 – Ralph reported that bridge work is required in various areas.

Zone 5 – Ross reported that Trail #58 still has some issues on getting re-opened – snow plowing is still causing problems in this area. Trail 42 has washouts that need repaired.

Zone 6 – Sandy reported that the Trail # 34 connecting Moncton to Albert County has to be resolved. The trail to Salisbury is being worked on. Ross reported that the trail to Cape Tormentine has been closed due to a bridge issue.

Zone 7 – Manfred reported that clubs in this Zone are working on bridges. Trail #15/#42 still have some issues due to property development. Leon commented that last season Trail # 15 needed more stop ahead signs. Manfred read a letter from Club #11, Oromocto, requesting that Trail # 32 be downgraded to a local club trail. Manfred is to look into this item. This is to be forwarded to the November Board meeting. Ross reported that the Swan Creek Bridge has been removed.

Zone 8 – no report – Sandy T. absent

Sandy Y. requested that all future trail reports be in written form to make it possible to properly record them.

7. Old (Current) Business

7.1 Trail 12 Update

Ross reported that they are working on a temporary HUP agreement that expires in April, 2009. This should be signed by the first week of October 2008 to allow work to begin to get ready for this season. Ross received a letter from the Grand Falls club that three bridges have been removed. Ross and Leon visited these sites yesterday.

7.2 Snowarama 2009– Easter Seals

Leon reported on meeting with Easter Seals staff. He and Ross were disappointed with their attitude. Leon asked the directors to check with their clubs to see if there is an interest in having a charity event and what charity they would like to support. Ross commented that this item will be discussed at the Zone Meetings and the November Board Meeting.

7.3.1 2009 Snowmobile Maps (NBFSC)

Ross reported that the maps should be ready in 2 weeks. Ross is still looking at having Service New Brunswick distribute the maps at no charge.

7.3.2 2009 Planning Brochure (TAP & Northern Odyssey)

FYI

7.4 Annual October Payout - Draft

Moved by Ralph to approve the October, 2008 Payouts as presented, seconded by Peter. Motion carried.

7.5 CCSO: National Trails Coalition Five Year Plan

Leon is attending the CCSO meetings in Toronto on November 8 & 9, 2008 and will report back to the November Board of Directors meeting.

7.6 Annual Zone Meetings

7.6.1 Agenda

Ross presented the agenda for the Fall meetings.

7.6.2 Schedule

Ross presented the schedule and noted that the Charity Ride question will be added to the agenda.

7.7 Lawsuits

Ross reported on the lawsuits against NBFSC and a schedule of the dates of upcoming hearings and how much of his time this uses out of his schedule.

7.8 Club #65, Dieppe - Appeal of Penalty

A letter of appeal from the Dieppe club was read, appealing a penalty for late Log Book.

After a discussion on this issue, a motion was made by Ralph that the penalty be waived in this case. Seconded by Sandy Young, Nay votes by Peter and Gary. Motion Carried.

7.9 Online Trail Permits and Registration

Ross reported that both transactions can not be done in one request, but must be done as two separate transactions.

8. New Business

8.1 Corporate Partnerships

Ross reported on the great success he had this year in securing our Corporate Partners for this season. Peter asked if you could register for the BRP Promotion online, Ross informed the Directors that this is not possible.

8.2 Lottery

Ross reported that the Lottery Tickets and Posters will be ready for the October Mailout to the clubs.

8.3 I.A.S.A.

Moved by Gary that Ross attend the IASA two day meeting in Denver, Colorado. Seconded by Peter. Motion carried.

8.4 2009 Trail Sign Order Forms

Ross reported that the forms have gone out to the clubs and that some orders are back in.

8.5 OSM Magazine – FYI

8.6 OSM Snowmobile Attendance – FYI

8.7 Satellite Phones for Groomers

Peter reported that some clubs are using satellite phones now. He stated that Downeast Communications out of Dartmouth, NS will rent the phones for approximately \$300/month and air time at \$4.00 per minute.

8.8 Go Snowmobiling

8.8.1 Ross suggested that we hold two snowmobile rides in this program this winter with Government officials.

8.8.2 It was also suggested that media or weather reporters would be good for this event.

8.8.3 Armed Forces returning from the Middle East or M.A.D.D. chapters would also get good media attention.

8.9 Irving Oil Presidents Ride

8.9.1 Ross reported that the ride is planned for Adairs and the Alma area with Irving as the Corporate Sponsor.

8.9.2 The ride will have approximately 40 riders including the Corporate Sponsors.

8.9.3 NBFSC Award winners will be included as invited guests.

8.10 Trail Permits

Trail Permits will have the year printed larger on them this year, and the seasonal permits will have "Seasonal" printed on them.

8.11 2009 Safety & Education Poster

8.11.1 New Poster FYI

8.11.2 New Poster FYI

8.11.3 FYI

8.11.4 FYI

8.11.5 Website – Peter asked about updating the website. Ross reported that updates would cost \$3000.00 - \$5000.00. The NBFSC Website now gets over 7000 hits per month.

9. Permanent Committee Reports

9.1 By-Laws & Policy Committee No report

9.2 Fund Raising Committee No report

9.3 Auditing Committee No report

9.4 Trail Committee No report

9.5 Nominating Committee

Leon asked that the directors start looking for who will be next President, Vice-President or Zone Directors.

9.6 Human Resources Committee No report

10. Date of the next Board of Director's Meeting

FYI

12. Adjournment

Moved by Peter to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully prepared and submitted,

Sandy Young
NBFSC Secretary