

**The New Brunswick Federation of Snowmobile Clubs
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes
March 14, 2009
Quality Inn, Edmundston, NB**

Those in attendance were:

Leon Bourque, Reg MacDonald, Manfred Knappe, Sandy Thompson, Darren Caterini, Sandy Young, Ralph Dickinson, Gary Smith, Ross Antworth, Mark Brown, Sandy Thompson.
Absent: John McLellan, Peter Thompson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Leon Bourque @ 7:20 a.m.

2. Additions and Approval of the Agenda

Ross asked that item # 8.17, Mediation with NBTCl, NBATVF & NBFSC be added to the agenda.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes

November 29, 2008

Item 4.1 - should read Leon reported on the meetings that he attended.

Item 7.1.1 – motion by Darren that he and Ross are to review the MOU and get legal advice on the contents. Seconded by John. Motion carried.

Item 7.1.2 was used twice, second time should be 7.1.3.

Item 8.4 – should read to set up a pilot trail electronic tracking system.

Item 7.2.3 – should read 28 kms of new trail proposed.

Moved by Sandy Thompson and seconded by Manfred to approve the minutes of November 29, 2008 as amended. Motion Carried

March 02, 2009

Minutes of March 02, 2009 TABLED.

4. President and G.M.'s Report

Leon and Ross reported on several meetings that they attended with various government departments as well as many meetings with other groups and organizations related to our industry.

Motion by Sandy Thompson to accept the report. Seconded by Reg. Motion Carried.

5.0 Treasurer's Report

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Darren presented a detailed report on expenses and revenues to date.

Motion by Manfred to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Gary. Motion Carried.

6. Zone Reports –

- Zone 1** – Gary Smith – written report included.
- Zone 2** – Peter Thompson – Ross gave a verbal report.
- Zone 3** – Mark Brown – written report included.
- Zone 4** – Ralph Dickinson - written report included.
- Zone 5** – Reg MacDonald - written report included.
- Zone 6** – Sandy Young - written report included.
- Zone 7** – Manfred Knappe – written report included.
- Zone 8** – Sandy Thompson - written report included.

7. Old (Current) Business

7.1 NBFSC Provincial Trail #12 – Update

Ross reported that Government is looking for all bridges to be engineered structures.

7.2 Progress of NBFSC Provincial Trail #15.

Manfred reported that this trail is now open and being groomed. Manfred also reported that a bridge is required at Coal Creek and that the clubs cannot afford to build a bridge this size. Ross added that this is a key link in between Moncton and Fredericton, a connection we have been trying to make for years.

7.3 NBFSC Provincial Trail # - FYI

Mark reported that a bridge is now in place on Trail #19 but may have to be removed after April 15, 2009.

7.4 NBFSC Sustainability Funding Request

Ross asked if there were any changes required in the priority list from the original plan. Directors were asked to review the original list, gather information from their clubs as to their needs, repair dollars being spent and if they could finance matching dollars if a grant was available. Ross discussed the need for new bridges in the system, noting that some new bridges could reduce grooming hours and mileage.

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Motion by Manfred to add Coal Creek Bridge crossing to replace the Green River Bridge on the existing priority list. Seconded by Gary. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary that the bridges at Quisibis and Seigas Rivers be made more immediate, priority # 3. Seconded by Manfred. Motion carried.

7.5 Clubs Bushing and Mulching Project.

Ross reported that the project is now completed and there is \$581.82 left in its restricted funds.

Motion by Mark that the \$581.82 balance is returned to general funds. Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.

7.6 Club #71 – Request to modify June Payout.

Motion by Manfred that the June Payout is made as per the other three payouts. No seconder. Motion dies.

7.7 NBFSC Trail Policy – Groomer Classification.

TABLED.

7.8 Club's 2009 Annual Interviews

Ross - FYI.

7.9 NBFSC Checkpoints - Update

Ross update FYI.

7.10 Lamtrac groomers – Deposits / Accts Receivables

Demo groomer is promised to be at International Snowmobile Congress in Summerside PEI June, 2009.

7.11 Visiofleet – Pilot Project Update

Mark and Leon gave an update on how the system works.

7.12 DNR authorizations, License of Occupation for 2010.

Ross reported that the wording in the documents is not acceptable.

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Motion by Reg that we do not sign the license of occupation because of the responsibilities that it places on the clubs and the NBFSC. Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary that we do not sign the leases because it appears that changes have been made in the wording without our knowledge. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

Motion by Reg that we investigate the cost of fees to cross plantations with snowmobile trails that are a benefit to Tourism NB. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

Reg proposed that he arrange a meeting with the Minister and Premier if necessary to resolve this issue.

7.13 DPS “Under 16” Legislation

Ross – FYI

8. New Business

8.1 Trail Manager

Ross gave an outline of Paul’s duties and responsibilities.

Motion by Ralph that the Trail Manager be reimbursed \$1.00 per km to use his personal snowmobile for NBFSC Business. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

Motion by Sandy Thompson that the Trail Manager be reimbursed the standard 0.39 per km for his personal vehicle, plus an additional 0.10 per km when hauling his trailer. Seconded by Manfred. Motion carried.

8.2 National Trails Coalition / CCSO Funding

Ross reported that the \$25 million in funding is being offered by the federal government. \$1 million is being allocated to administration and \$24 million to the provinces. New Brunswick is expecting \$1.3 million to be divided by the three user groups with \$433,000.00 for the NBFSC. We need a list for a priority project to apply for this funding “NOW”.

Motion by Mark that the NBFSC sign the MOU Agreement for the National Trails Coalition. Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.

8.3 ACOA Funding Application

Ross reported that we are expecting to receive approximately \$300,000.00 for bridge construction for the trail in between Grand Falls and Edmundston.

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*Motion by Gary that we proceed with the application for funding for bridges on trail 12.
Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.*

8.4 RDC Funding for Groomers

Ross and Reg reported that the NBFSC was receiving \$390,000.00 for grooming equipment. The extra \$90,000.00 is to go to Nepisiguit Sports Lodge. As directed by RDC and the Department of Tourism.

*Motion by Reg that the NBFSC accept the \$390,000.00 to be spent on grooming equipment.
Seconded by Ralph. Motion carried.*

8.5 Proposed 2010 Trail Permit Prices

Motion by Ralph that the trail permit prices remain the same as 2009. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

8.6 Proposed NBFSC 2009-2010 Budget

Darren presented the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

Motion by Ralph to accept the proposed budget. Seconded by Manfred. Motion carried.

8.7 Responsibility / Liability

Ross gave an update on the current lawsuits and payouts for claims.

8.8 Proposed Amendments to Policy TRL-002

*Motion by Reg that the Seasonal Trail Permit Sales and Return Policy be amended as presented.
Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.*

8.9 Process / Policy for acceptance of new clubs.

TABLED.

8.10 Process / Policy for private business grooming.

Issue needs to be further investigated by Ross and the Zone Directors.

8.11 NBFSC Annual Awards

Update by Ross and Leon. FYI.

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8.12 Phoenix (Traf) Signs bankruptcy

Update by Ross – FYI.

8.13 Election Terms

Sandy Thompson gave an update – FYI.

8.14 2009 ISC

Motion by Mark to spend \$3,000.00 to host “Atlantic Night” at the Congress. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

8.15 TAP/NBFSC Meeting

Ross – FYI.

8.16 Nashwaak Valley Snowmobile Club name change.

Motion by Ralph that clubs are to use their incorporated names on NBFSC documentation. Seconded by Sandy Thompson. Motion carried.

8.17 Mediation with NBTCL, NBATVF and NBFSC

Ross proposed that the three groups hire a mediator, dividing the costs, to secure a legal agreement on trail usage. Also, that a press conference be arranged to release the outcome.

Motion by Manfred to hire a mediator to secure a legal agreement with the three user groups with a maximum cost to the NBFSC of \$2,000.00. Seconded by Mark. Motion carried.

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9. Permanent Committee Reports

- 9.1 By-Laws & Policy Committee
Mark Brown - **No By Laws or Policies received.**
- 9.2 Fund Raising Committee
Ralph Dickinson – **Nothing to report.**
- 9.3 Auditing Committee
Gary Smith – **Will visit the Woodstock office by year-end.**
- 9.4 Trail Committee
Manfred Knappe – **Nothing to report.**
- 9.5 Nominating Committee
Sandy Thompson – **As discussed in 8.13.**
- 9.6 Human Resources Committee
Reg MacDonald – **Nothing to report.**

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

May 01, 2009 at AGM in Miramichi.

June 19, 20, 2009 (annual summer board meeting) in Woodstock

September 18, 19, 2009 in Dalhousie (proposed)

11. Adjournment

Respectfully prepared and submitted,

Sandy Young
NBFSC Secretary