

SMNB BOD meeting

March 14, 2025 @ 10:00

SMNB office, Woodstock

1.	Call to Order by Andre Y at 10:04 Present: Andre Yoston, President Ralph McBride, ED, SMNB Janice Bragdon, Office Manager Kyle Good, Trails Manager Zone 1 Director, Treasurer: Mario Levasseur Zone 2 Director, Secretary: Linda Mann Zone 3 Director: Rene Benoit Zone 4 Director: Zarla Gorton Zone 5 Director: Ron Scott Zone 6 Director: Andre Melanson Zone 7 Director: Rick Sullivan Zone 8 Director, Vice President : Kevin Williams	Andre Y
2.	Approval of agenda: The following items were added to the agenda: 8.6 Interactive map 9.58 11.7 Mount Carleton Grooming 11.8 Building 11.9 Trailers 11.10 Groomer Purchases 11.11 ASK Club 39 Motion was made by Mario, Seconded by Ron to accept the agenda as amended. All in favor	Andre Y
3.	Approval of Board's last minutes: -February 7, 2025 at Grey Rock Casino Motion was made by Mario, Seconded by Kevin, to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor	Andre/Linda
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes: -The Employee Handbook was updated with the changes for probationary period of new employees.	
5.	5.1 President's Report -Andre recently attended a CCSO meeting in BC. They have decided to hire a lobbyist firm to lobby government on behalf of the group. -ISMA is feeling the loss of 2 major manufacturers, Arctic Cat and Yamaha	Andre Y

	<p>-They attended a session on Avalanche training -ISC is happening in Charlottetown, PEI in June. -Grey Rock Casino and Hotel were awarded the Tourism Award from CCSO.</p> <p>5.2 Tekvests -The special pricing for Tekvests is still available, if we are going to order, please get your information in soon. There are 2 styles to choose from.</p> <p>Motion was made by Andre M and Seconded by Ron to approve the President’s Report as presented. All in Favor</p>	
6	<p>Executive Director’s Report: Ralph provided a breakdown of all the activities he has been involved with from February 1st to March 14th.</p> <p>6.1 ORVE Meeting from November 27, 2023: -The current laws for youth and engine size are outdated and needs to be more in line with the current sleds available. We are going to keep pushing for an update to the current laws. -Modified Exhaust: Hasn’t been enforceable in the past but we are going to reach out to Quebec for a copy of their laws, since they have been successful in enforcing the noise of “aftermarket” exhaust. We may be able to adopt their laws, or a version of them to suit our needs in NB. -Licence Plates: Would like to have the law amended to allow the attachment of the license plate on the tunnel instead of on the snow flap due to issues of damage to the plate and losing the plate/flap. May even move to have the plate as an adhesive sticker for the tunnel. -Registration Increase: the board is in favor of an increase in the price of registrations to provide extra money for infrastructure.</p> <p>6.2 Public Safety Compliance: would like a breakdown of what fines/warnings have been issued. The head of the ORVE was on vacation and there had been no reply to this request, will have an update for the June board meeting.</p> <p>6.3 Woodstock Police(fraud complaint): it was moved by Kevin, seconded by Andre M to go “in camera.” Mario moved to come “out of camera”</p> <p>6.4 Business Plan Update: -33% of the invited respondents completed the survey. There needs to be a bit further clarification of the numbers and addition of the trail counter numbers to add to the report before it’s finished and ready to be shared.</p>	Ralph

	<p>6.5 Marketing Enclosure: Provided by Lisa, and it was an update of all the activities she has been involved with such as our Facebook page, which has been very busy with posts about Club activities, signage, giveaways, corporate partnerships. The SMNB website is going to have a facelift over the summer, with updated photos and more bilingual content.</p> <p>-Corporate Partnerships had a review of the program and there are changes coming to that as well.</p> <p>Lisa also plans to revive the Annual Report, which hasn't been done for years. She will work on that over the summer, and have it sent out in the fall.</p> <p>6.6 Club 55-Aberdeen: Motion was made by Mario, seconded by Andre M to go "in camera." Motion was made by Andre M to come "out of camera."</p> <p>Motion was made by Rene and seconded by Kevin to accept the ED report as presented. All in Favor.</p>	
7	<p>Treasurer Report:</p> <p>Groomer Funding: had to go through 17 Clubs to get 4 clubs to accept funding. This was a lot of work for the office. Hopefully, with the new funding model, this won't be an issue.</p> <p>-Permit sales: down from last year, late start to the season.</p> <p>-Presented the Profit and Loss statement, Account Receivables statement, Restricted Cash Summaries and a Groomer Funding Update.</p> <p>-Motion was made by Mario, seconded by Rene, to move the date of next year's lottery deadline and draw as follows:</p> <p>-tickets will be sold until March 31 and the draw will be at the AGM. All in favor.</p> <p>This will allow Clubs to sell more tickets during their Club events that happen later in the season.</p> <p>Motion was made by Rick, Seconded by Rene to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.</p>	Mario
8	<p>Trail Manager's Report</p> <p>8.1 Accident Report Updates:</p> <p>-9 so far this season. Comprehensive report has been prepared for for our insurance company. There will be a meeting shortly with our insurance to find out if forwarding these reports to the company counts against our insurance records.</p> <p>-No pending lawsuits.</p> <p>8.2 Trail Check Updates: -spent a good day with Fundy Trail Riders to correct some issues but this Club has come a long way in the last year in regards to signage and grooming, they just need some additional guidance and they will be in good shape.</p>	

	<p>-8.3 Mobile App Sales-February 2025 we don't make a big amount of money with the app but it is well used by our members.</p> <p>-8.5 Media Rides: 5 in total. Cost a little over \$10,000 but most of this cost will be covered by Tourism. It is a very cheap form of advertising for us and it reaches a wide audience. Plans for next year has SnowrideTV going to the Acadian Peninsula and STV going to Moose Valley if the new signature trail network has started up there.</p> <p>-For the rides that are in French, the office is looking at getting English captions added and also to use the video as shorter promotional videos for SMNB.</p> <p>8.6 Interactive Maps: Would like to make the following changes to the interactive map in regards to grooming times: Green: <24 hrs Yellow: 1-4 days Orange: 4-7 days Red: 7+ Black: >10 days, not maintained recently</p> <p>This will put less pressure on the Clubs to “keep all the trails green.” It will also help in keeping riders safe with quickly changing weather, such as large storms and drifting snow from the wind. Many Clubs have adopted the best practice of grooming just before a storm to smooth out the existing base but after a large storm, the green can be misleading to users, who might think that the trails are groomed after the storm. This change will be adopted for the 2025/26 season.</p> <p>Motion was made by Mario, seconded by Rene to accept the Trail Manager’s report as presented. All in favor.</p>	
9	<p>Committee Reports:</p> <p>9.1 Fundraising Committee: No big changes. Still 1 year left in the agreement with Grey Rock.</p> <p>9.2 Trail Committee: Interactive map was already covered in 8.6</p> <p>9.3 Nominating Committee: Odd numbered zones up for election this year. Mario(Zone 1) has timed out after serving 3 (2-year) terms. The other directors, Rene(Zone 3), Ron(Zone 5) and Rick(Zone 7) all plan on reoffering in the upcoming election.</p> <p>9.4 HR Employee Handbook complete</p>	<p>Mario/ Brad</p> <p>Rene/ Ron</p> <p>Brad/ Linda</p> <p>Zarla</p>

	<p>9.5 By-Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -GOV-002- changes tabled to next meeting in June -Article 23-Changes proposed not to be done. -Article 32.2-Changes proposed not to be done. -Article 33- few minor changes in the wording -Article 53.1-few minor changes in wording -Article 51 – changes to wording -GRM-005 – 2 groomers funded per year, removal of the 50% throughout the policy ADM-006 – Amount increased to \$2500 due to increases in pricing for everything. 	Kevin/ Zarla
	<p>9.6 Awards Committee:</p> <p>Not many nominations received so far, will get Lisa to resend the email for nominations and change the date of the deadline to April 1st so that the awards can be made up in time. Will also get her to make a Facebook Post for nominations.</p> <p>-Handout was given to the board to show which Clubs qualify for the award. Linda asked the directors to think about the qualifying Clubs in their zone to see which ones were deserving of the award and to get back to her and Andre with the name.</p>	Linda/ Andre M
10	<p>Old Business:</p> <p>10.1 Club 75 Ask: Motion was made by Rene, seconded by Kevin, To sell the Piston Bully that is in inventory due to it not being used and only suitable for ice crossings. The new groomer(TBD) will replace this groomer. This new groomer will not be placed on the funded groomer list and it will use the GPS of the Piston Bully. With the milder winters, they no longer groom on the ice but would like to have a groomer on each side of the ice to avoid having to float, by truck, the groomer from one side of the river to the other each time the trail is groomed.</p> <p>All in favor, motion passed as presented. Note: Rene abstained from the vote due to the ASK being from his zone and his club.</p> <p>10.2 Trade Shows</p> <p>-Decision has to be made about which trade shows we may wish to attend. There are 3 options so far: Toronto, Augusta, Maine or Quebec. Augusta is not far away and is a new market for us, Quebec would also be a new market for us and is a shorter distance than Toronto. The final decision will be made at the June board meeting.</p>	
11	<p>New Business:</p> <p>11.1 All President’s Meeting</p> <p>-to be held Saturday before the AGM.</p>	

-1 President(or designate) plus 1 other Club member to attend. There will be an updated email regarding this change sent out to the member Clubs.

-Chance to go over the proposed By-law changes, proposed budget, Permit pricing, changes to the Interactive Map, Grooming Funding/Infrastructure, Demo Sleds and the costs and benefits, and any other concerns the Clubs may have.

-No voting on anything will take place, it will be more of an information session.

-There will be a Board Meeting after the President's Meeting.

11.2 AGM agenda/format

-see enclosure for the proposed agenda

11.3 Club 22 ASK The Club sold one of their John Deere groomers, without Board approval to an ATV Club in PEI. They said that they didn't know that they needed the board's approval to sell the equipment. After they realized their mistake, they approached the buyer to see if they could reverse the transaction and they could not. **Motion was made by Ron, Seconded by Rene to allow Club 22 to place their TM125(spare groomer) placed on the groomer funding list with the current hours and the current year to determine it's place on the groomer funding list.**

-The place of the groomer will be determined once we know the actual hours that the groomer has on it. Kyle will find that out and it will be moved to that spot. **All in favor of the motion as presented.** Note: Ron abstained from the vote due to the ASK being from his zone.

11.4 2025-26 Trail Permit Pricing: These are the proposed prices for the trail permits that will be presented at the AGM. No increases or changes from previous season

11.5 2025-26 Proposed Budget: Motion was made by Rene, seconded by Ron to accept the #2 Version of the proposed budgets as the one to present to the member Clubs at the AGM. All in favor.

11.6 Club 28 ASK: Goshen Snowmobile Club, #28, would like to place their 2014 John Deere tractor in the funding list spot of their 2016 Lamtrac groomer due to many breakdowns and issues with the Lamtrac. This means that when the John Deere comes up for funding, it would be kept and they would replace the Lamtrac. The board decided to table this ASK until the groomer is actually up for funding, which may only be in a few years from now.

11.7 Mount Carleton Grooming: More improvements have been made but there are still holes in the system. There was a grooming schedule made up this season and it was followed for the most part until they started to have equipment breakdowns, which also

coincided with 2 major storms. In the fall, there will be more operator training done. There will be a debriefing done after the season is done, which will hopefully deal with issues.

11.8 Building that we currently rent from may be for sale in the coming years. The owner of the building has given us first offer on it when he does choose to sell it. In the past, when this issue came up, our accountant advised against buying it due to our Non Profit status. However, if the current board wishes to pursue this matter, we would need to know what the rental income from the property could potentially be, what taxes it has, any issues with the building/zoning and would have to have a building inspection done before deciding to buy.

11.9 Trailers: It has been decided that the small 6'x12' trailer that was purchased earlier in the year is not being used as much as it was thought it would, so a **motion was made by Zarla, seconded by Mario to sell this trailer. All in favor.** The dealership has said that they will act as a broker to sell the trailer instead of having to sell it ourselves via Kijiji or Marketplace. It should sell for close to what we paid for it.

11.10 Groomer Purchase: It was brought to Brad's attention that a Club in Zone 2 had signed a purchase agreement with Plannord for a Husky groomer but then cancelled the contract and bought a Piston Bully from another dealership. Plannord had already ordered the Husky and was not happy that they had been stuck with the model. It makes for bad business but there is nothing that SMNB can do about the Club's actions.

11.11 ASK Club 39, Victoria County Snowmobile Club: They currently have 1 groomer and 230 kms of trails. They would like to have funding for a second groomer, otherwise, they may be forced to stop grooming some of their local trails to focus on the Provincial trail #23 leading towards the park. Their groomer is getting older and is currently in the shop, looking at a \$30,000 repair that ended their season about 2 weeks early. Unfortunately, they are not currently up for funding for a groomer but if they wish to buy one on their own, SMNB can help out with the tax portion of their purchase since we cannot lend them the funds to purchase a new groomer.

Motion by Andre M to end the meeting at 1627