

NBFSC Board of Directors Meeting held at the Ramada Inn Fredericton, NB

October 13th, 2018.

Board Members in attendance:

- NBFSC President, Scott Ralston
- Zone 1 Director, Mario Levasseur
- Zone 2 Director, Steven Callaghan
- Zone 3 Director & NBFSC Vice-President, Ronald Lanteigne
- Zone 4 Director, Greg Grant
- Zone 5 Director, Marc Hannan
- Zone 6 Director & NBFSC Treasurer, Marcel Richard
- Zone 7 Director, James Connors
- Zone 8 Director, Dave Garland
- NBFSC General Manager, Ross Antworth
- NBFSC Past President, Brad Mann
- NBFSC Secretary, Paul Robichaud

1. Call to order.

Scott called the meeting to order at 0800 hrs.

2. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda.

5.5 Mario added 5th payout.

9.15 Mario added Quebec reciprocity.

Ronald moved to accept the Board meeting Agenda, as amended, seconded by Greg. Motion Carried.

3. Approval of Board's Last Minutes.

- June 23rd, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

*Scott noted changes to the minutes. Dave clarified the subject of Daily permits regarding the word "investigated", as included in the original Draft Minutes. Ross explained that this was already dealt with at the AGM prior to the June meeting, and thus the change is now reflected in the amended Minutes. **Brad moved to accept the June 23rd, 2018 Meeting Minutes, as amended, seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.***

- October 4th, 2018 Board Teleconference Minutes.

*Scott updated the Board regarding the conference call held on October 4th, 2018. **Brad moved to accept the October 4th, 2018 Board Teleconference Minutes, as presented, seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.***

4. President's & GM's Report.

*Scott spoke about the various government meetings held over the summer. Ross said they met with RDC three times over the summer period regarding Groomer funding. A meeting was also held with Blaine Higgs. A meeting was held with SANS, as well as the NBATVF, and the town of St. Quentin to resolve Trail 58 grooming, which was positive. Various other meetings with trail partners were also held over the course of the summer. Brad talked about their CCSO meeting held in Ottawa, with various meetings with different MPs, who were very supportive towards snowmobiling. Brad also spoke about talks towards funding for trail infrastructure, and that groomer specific funding may eventually be coming to an end. **Brad moved to accept the President's and GM's report as presented, seconded by Marc. Motion Carried.***

5. Treasurer's Report.

*Marcel reviewed the Treasurer's report, which contained the Profit and Loss, Account Receivables, Restricted Cash. Brad inquired about a few outstanding invoices. Scott and Ross provided clarity, as to how those types of accounts are ratified. Ross gave the historical background on our External Restricted Cash account. **Marc moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.** Scott talked about the Audited 2017-2018 Financial Statements. **Brad moved to accept the Audited 2017-2018 Financial Statements, as presented, seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.***

5.5 5th Payout.

Scott talked about Mario's suggestion for a 5th payout, to address the amount of traffic being redirected to an area of the province due to lesser snowfall amounts in other areas of the province. A dedicated funding initiative for grooming based on what occurred the previous winter. Suggesting a \$300,000 payout from retained earnings, and other areas, which may require a future increased trail permit price. A spreadsheet was handed out to the Board members on this proposed initiative. Brad expressed concerns on how to monitor the factual grooming. Scott noted this is to address the difference with the Northern and Southern demographics, in regards to snowfall amounts. Dave spoke about long term and strategic planning in order to make this proposed concept viable. Scott said it was imperative to develop a plan beginning at the next Board meeting. Ross clarified this would be based on all affected budget items being Retained earnings. Mario stated this is required to give confidence to our

*Volunteers. Discussion continued on how to address through the budgeting process. Brad expressed his concern to have funding in reserve in order to meet any possible matching funding opportunities from government. Jim expressed his concern that clubs will view this as a North South issue. **Mario moved that the NBFSC establish a fifth Payout in order to compensate current year grooming, based on the 2017-2018 grooming hours only in the amount of \$300,000 before HST, to be paid to the member clubs at the Fall Zone Meetings. Funds will be dispersed from the 2017-2018 Retained Earnings, the depletion of the Internal Restricted Insurance Claim Reserve, Future Deficit funds, and the remaining from the Future Capital Projects Fund, seconded by Ronald.** Ronald questioned the continued funding for this initiative. Ross asked the Board consider funding distribution at the Zone meetings, and earlier budget planning. **Motion Carried Unanimously.***

6. Trail Manager's Report.

*Ross spoke about his attendance at the recent Trail Signage training session held in Zone 6, which was very well presented by our TM. Ross went through the enclosed TM report, as detailed and submitted by Kyle. **Greg moved to adopt the Trail Manager's Report as presented, seconded by Ronald. Motion Carried.***

7. Permanent Committee Reports.

7.1 By-Laws & Policy Committee (Ronald) *Nothing to Report.*

7.2 Fund Raising Committee (Scott) *Nothing to Report.*

7.3 Trail Committee (Paul)

*Paul noted no TC meeting held since the last (June) Board meeting, and that the next scheduled TC meeting will take place on November 16th, 2018. Item 3 of the Trail Committee Report dated June 2018 is moved to 8.9 in this agenda. Item 5 had been tabled at the June Board meeting, and dealt with the covering/removal of inert Stop ahead and Stop signage, to be adopted in TRL-009, for which Paul provided more background information. **Ronald moved that the NBFSC Policy TRL-009 include the covering/removal of inert Stop Ahead and Stop signage, on NBFSC Trails, seconded by Mario. Motion Carried. Marc voted Nay.***

7.4 Nominating Committee (Marc) *Nothing to Report.*

7.5 HR Committee (Brad) *Nothing to Report.*

7.6 Awards; Internal & External (Dave) *Nothing to Report.*

8. Old & Current Business.

8.1 “Winter Tourism Growth Strategy” / ACOA – RDC Groomer Proposal.

Scott and Ross continued their efforts to obtain further funding from Federal and Provincial government agencies. Talks with these agencies were positive, although difficult. Ross stressed there is no final contract, and that any equipment being purchased will need to be new not refurbished. The 3 top clubs on the list are currently making arrangements for purchase. Ross also noted this needs to remain confidential until the funding is officially announced. Brad gave credit to Marcel for making the necessary political contacts, which were instrumental in achieving this type of funding.

8.2 MCCM Grooming Hub – Update.

Scott spoke about a meeting in St. Quentin with our project partners, where there was a positive indication that the project may proceed next fall. One bridge is on site, but still requires to be installed. Funding from Trail 58 should be forthcoming, and park employees will be operating and maintaining the two MCCM groomers. Grooming operations are to be as per NBFSC guidelines with guidance from our TM. Jim applauded the Trail 58 funding, and said that the Smith forks shelter was destroyed by fire. Scott said a new improved shelter would be in place shortly. Marc spoke about a new MCCM shelter being placed at Corkers Gulch, to which Ross asked who would be responsible to maintain, the Federation or Club #1. Marc is to confirm with the Club. Scott suggested sending a letter to Club #1. Scott also said a teleconference is to be held next week on a MCCM update.

8.3 TIUF Program for Clubs update.

Scott pointed to the enclosure dealing with the TIUF program. Scott also noted the Board may have to deal with any remaining funding at the June Board meeting.

8.4 THC / Trails Action Plan.

Ross talked about the Trails Action Plan, which was made available previously to Directors. He said there was a PowerPoint presentation since produced, and presented to government partners. Ross stressed that our Trails Action Plan has to be recognized by these government partners, which to date do not have any interest in this initiative. Meetings are planned with Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the coming future. He suggested a letter from our President be sent to the new Minister regarding this issue. Scott echoed Ross’ sentiments on this topic.

8.5 Annual 2018 Signage Installation Training update.

Ross spoke again about Kyle’s training presentations.

8.6 Annual 2018 CTL / ERD / NBFSC Consultations update.

Scott reminded Directors to check the dates for these consultation meetings in their respective zones, and attempt to attend.

8.7 Government Files: JPS, THC, ERD, DTI, ELG, and Federal.

Ross said he and Scott have requested meetings with the above provincial departments. Ross asked the Board for their list of priorities with each department. Ross noted that these meetings require having no more than three items of concern for discussion. Ross then noted some examples of discussion items to be brought forward to these respective departments. Scott said we need to keep pushing forward with this item. Ross encouraged the Directors to speak with him individually with any ideas/concerns.

8.8 Trail #19 at Inkerman / Enquiry to ERD – update.

Ronald gave an update on what has been happening on this file, which has been very little to date. Brad noted a fundraiser is currently underway in the community, which is producing significant results. Ronald is hopeful construction will begin by next summer.

8.9 NBATVF / Relationship into the future.

Scott spoke about their meeting with the NBATVF President. Discussions were held about adopting the same signage guidelines, to which they were very receptive. A future meeting between both respective Trail Managers is anticipated, in order to resolve this and other items of mutual concern. Ross noted there would be challenges with Crown land vs. Private land issues. Ross also said there are procedures in place in other jurisdictions which may work well for both Federations, rather than reinventing the wheel. He also stressed that any resulting progress will be brought forward to the Board for final decision.

8.10 SANS / Request for Trail Permit Reciprocity.

Scott talked about a meeting with the GM and President of SANS, where they are looking for reciprocity due to financial concerns. Scott said a formal proposal might be forthcoming from SANS for the Board's consideration. Subsequent to discussion between Board members, a letter is to be sent to SANS for a proposal.

8.11 CCSO / University of Guelph – National Health Study (Snowmobiling).

Ross distributed a draft copy of a National Health Study, which is to be used with potential funding partners, with the goal of obtaining Snowmobile Federation funding.

8.12 CGL (2019) Trail Insurance Renewal / Future Groomer Fleet Insurance Premiums update.

Scott said our insurance policy expense will increase slightly. He also noted that some review is required with our carrier to see if it would be more advantageous to have individual policies covering our different requirements. Ross clarified that this relates to physical damage coverage. Dave suggested that Cain Insurance send Club 75 a letter concerning their ineligibility to be insured for physical damage coverage. Ross and Scott plan to meet and discuss with Cain Insurance.

Old Business / Exceptional Funding Requests from Clubs

8.13 Club #44, Club du Nord request for exceptional funding – 2nd Groomer.

Mario clarified that this request is not for a second groomer. It is to replace their existing groomer. No further action required, and Mario will communicate this to Club 44.

8.14 Club #76, Riviere Verte request for exceptional Funding – 2nd Groomer.

Scott noted that ACOA funding rules would not allow purchase of a new groomer, only replacement of an existing groomer. Mario suggested to wait and see what will be contained in the ACOA agreement in terms of restrictions. He also suggested tabling this item. **Mario moved to table until the November Board meeting, seconded by Marcel. Motion Carried.**

8.15 Club #7 Miramichi Valley request for 3rd Groomer – Funding list.

Marc noted Club #7 requires a 3rd groomer due to floating challenges during grooming operations. Currently they only have 2 groomers on the funding list and request adding their current 3rd groomer back on the funding list. It was noted by Jim that one of his clubs had the same scenario, and a groomer was deleted from the funding list. **Marc moved to add Club 7's 3rd Groomer to the funding list, seconded by Jim. Marc and Jim voted Yay / Remaining 6 voted Nay. Motion Defeated.** Subsequent discussion resulted on having the By-Law committee research a policy around decisions and appeals.

8.16 Club #22 Miramichi Sno-Goers – Request to PNB for Mt. Carleton Groomer.

Scott noted that the Club 22 President made a request to the Province, for one of the MCCM groomers to extend their run to his location. Scott noted this is a FYI only, for the Board.

8.17 Club #4 Chaleur – Request to MLA appealing NBFSC's decision on 2nd Groomer off Funding List.

Scott noted another FYI regarding requested funding, but not from the NBFSC.

8.18 Club #5, proposal for General By-Laws – Funding for Clubs.

*Jim said due to difficulty in having a meeting with the Club President, he requested this be tabled. **Jim moved to table to November meeting, seconded by Marc. Motion Carried.***

8.19 NBFSC's position on Snow Bikes / Trail Permits.

*Ross noted this is an unresolved issue, and under the ORV Sown Bikes do not qualify as a Snowmobile by definition. He asked the Board to consider a formal position on this. Discussion ensued around the pros and cons of allowing other aftermarket-tracked vehicles on our trail system. **Steven moved that the NBFSC does not support "Snow Bikes" regardless of the manufacturer, being sold NBFSC Trail Permits for authorization to use NBFSC Trials, seconded by Marc. Motion carried Unanimously.***

8.20 NBFSC's position on insuring all Clubs' Fuel Tanks (from 2018 Survey).

*Ross noted in the spring survey 50% of our clubs have fuel tanks, resulting in clubs asking why the NBFSC does not provide insurance coverage. **Ronald moved that the NBFSC will not insure any of (our) Clubs Fuel Tanks, it's up to the Clubs to do this, seconded by Mario. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

8.21 Snowmobile Economic Impact Study (EIS) for 2019 – Update.

Ross talked about the EIS and its associated funding. Ross also talked about meetings with our government partners to ensure fairness in comparison between Trail user groups, as reflected in the EIS.

9. New Business

9.1 Annual Groomer Grant \$\$ Priority List for November 2018 & New Groomer Priority List.

Greg moved to adopt the Groomer Priority List as presented, seconded by Ronald. Motion carried Unanimously.

9.2 Annual (2019) NBFSC Trail Checks proposed schedule.

Ross noted the schedule is not finalized, and the intent is to visit those areas where clubs did not attend sign training, as well as those penalized during last season's trail checks. Ross explained the process to the new Directors.

9.3 Annual Autumn Zone Meetings.

Ross canvassed the Board on content for the upcoming Zone meetings.

9.4 Annual Year End Report for 2018.

Ross presented a sample of the Year-end Report.

9.5 2019 New Trail Loops (Maps) to be available.

Ross talked about the enclosed Trail Loops, which were created and based on our interactive mapping.

9.6 2019 Provincial Trail Maps update.

Ross distributed a copy of our new Provincial Map to each Board member, and noted it's a snapshot in time as of July 2018.

9.7 2019 Seasonal Trail Permits update.

Ross provided examples of our Trail Permits.

9.8 2019 Provincial Lottery update.

Ross provided examples of our Lottery Poster and Tickets.

9.9 2019 Corporate Partnerships update.

Scott gave a review of our Corporate Partnership program.

9.10 "Go Snowmobiling Rides" proposed for 2019.

Scott provided a synopsis of the various rides planned for the upcoming season.

9.11 Tourism / Media Rides proposed for 2019.

Ross gave a summary of the upcoming rides for Government representatives, as well as our Media partners.

9.12 Club #1 Nepisiguit Sports Lodge – Request for Funds for 3rd Groomer.

*Marc noted the need for a 3rd groomer for Club 1. Marc also said there is an opportunity for the club to obtain use of a 3rd groomer at minimal cost, for one year. They are requesting NBFSC provide GPS tracking and Insurance. **Marc moved to let Nepisiguit Lodge rent a 3rd Groomer, supplied with a GPS and insurance by the Federation for a one year trial, seconded by Jim. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

9.13 NBFSC position on paving of leased Crown land Trails by ERD.

Scott spoke about trail development by other trail groups, such as paving and signage. Ross noted the agencies are ERD and THC and they should be sent a letter regarding our concerns about lack of consultation.

9.14 Trail Bridges as a NBFSC Priority.

Scott noted the need for Trail Bridges, as a priority given the fact funding for infrastructure may be forthcoming from government. Brad noted a Bridge priority list is required. The Trail Committee will be tasked with this research.

9.15 Quebec entry into NB.

*Mario noted this is a somewhat complicated issue. He suggested an early bird purchase arrangement based on reciprocity, which would be mutually beneficial. Ross suggested a letter from our President be sent to the FCMQ to see if they would be open to a discussion on the issue. **MP9.15 Mario moved that the Federation send a letter to the Quebec Federation to ask about a Trail Permit Reciprocity, seconded by Marc. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

9.16 Annual Survey Questions as a result of Agenda / Discussions.

Ross asked for any input regarding future Survey Questions for the Clubs.

10. Dates of future Board of Director's Meetings.

Next meeting on November 24th, 2018, at Adair's Wilderness Lodge, Shepody (Sussex).

11. Adjournment.

Ronald moved the meeting adjourned at 1320 hrs.

Submitted by,

Paul J. Robichaud,

NBFSC Executive Secretary