

**MICHIGAN TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (MTAC)  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020  
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.  
Microsoft Teams Meeting/Teleconference**

ATTENDEES:

**MTAC**

Bob Wilson  
Jim Kelts  
Joe Kuchnicki  
Thomas Dunn  
Jessi Adler  
Jenny Cook  
Ken Hopper  
Don Kauppi  
Steve Davis  
Richard Williamson

**Others:**

Andrea LaFontaine  
Paul Anderson  
Amy Scharmen  
Kristin Thrall (USFS)  
Elizabeth Perry

**DNR**

Paul Yauk  
Nikki Van Bloem  
Jessica Holley  
Annalisa Centofanti  
Greg Kinser  
Michael Morrison  
Ron Olson  
Ron Yesney  
Debbie Jensen  
Kim Kennedy  
Jill Sell  
Paige Perry  
Thomas Seablom  
Scott Slavin  
Dakota Hewlett  
Kim Kennedy

**WELCOME**

Bob Wilson, Committee Chairperson, started the meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

**OPENING STATEMENT – Bob Wilson**

Welcome council members and members of the public and all staff members to the fourth and final meeting of 2020 of the Michigan trails advisory Council. We have a very full agenda today and I am hopeful to get through it within the two-hour period. With that in mind, I ask for every one's patience and understanding and to be as brief with your comments as is possible. I'm excited to hear from Mary Bohling and her work on water trails in education on invasive species, to hear a special report on the DNR's land management strategy proposal by Debbie Jensen and we are going to recognize two significant trail volunteers today for their working helping to manage and maintain Michigan's trail system. This will be a regular feature of all Michigan trails advisory Council meetings as we need to remember that our mission is not only to advise the DNR on trails but also to recognize the significant role and effort that citizens all over the state make to help enhance and maintain our trail system. I'd also like to mention the fantastic work that the team at public sectors consultants is doing in conjunction with the DNR team to help put together the underpinnings of a new state trail master plan. I am fortunate to be part of this effort and can't tell you how much I am impressed by the dedication of both PSC and the DNR.

We are in the middle of Michigan trails week recognized by both legislature and the governor for the significant efforts made statewide in making Michigan the number one Trail state in the country. I know that both Michigan trails and Greenways alliance and the DNR and other organizations are hosting a

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virtual trail event and there are other activities going on around the state to help reinforce the important role that trails play in our state.

One final note, I would like to give a shout out to Michigan State University and Chuck Nelson and his team in the sustainability department for putting together a 30-minute documentary on the power of trails to connect communities. I was fortunate to be interviewed this past week on the Falling Waters Trail down in Jackson and this video will help to highlight how important it is for trails to be a part of a community's efforts to sustain and maintain growth and connect with other communities. The focal part of this video is the social power of trails to help build and maintain communities as the benefactor for this project Mike Levine knows with his experience in helping to create the state's longest destination trail-The Great Lakes to Lake Trail.

**BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Bob Wilson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 22, 2020. Thomas Dunn and Ken Hopper were first and second to approve, with all in favor.

Bob Wilson made a motion to approve the September 23, 2020 meeting agenda. Thomas Dunn and Ken Hopper were first and second to approve, with all in favor.

Bob Wilson made a motion to take agenda items out of order. Thomas Dunn and Jim Kelts were first and second to approve, with all in favor.

No requests were received for additional agenda items.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Land Strategy – Debbie Jensen (DNR)  
Presentation is attached to minutes.

MSU Sea Grant Program – Mary Bohling  
Presentation is attached to minutes.

Mary stated this program is a reporting mechanism. There are procedures and timelines to work with when removing unwanted species.

**Trail Volunteer Recognition/Resolution**

Jenny Cook presented Amy Scharmen as a nominee. Bob Wilson asked for a vote to approve. Thomas Dunn and Jenny Cook were first and second to approve, with all in favor. Amy's nomination is included with the meeting minutes.

Karen Middendorp presented Paul Anderson as a nominee. Bob Wilson asked for a vote to approve. Thomas Dunn and Ken Hopper were first and second to approve, with all in favor. Paul's nomination is included with the meeting minutes. Ron Yesney (DNR) added that he appreciated all the work Paul Anderson has done.

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**Trails Week Proclamation/Resolution**

Bob Wilson presented the 2020 Trails Week Proclamation/Resolution for approval (6-2020). Jenny Cook and Thomas Dunn were first and second to approve, with all in favor. Trails Week Proclamation is included in the meeting minutes.

**2021 Meeting Dates**

Jessi Adler, committee member, sent in a proposed meeting schedule for 2021 calendar year. Bob Wilson asked for a vote to adopt the schedule. Thomas Dunn and Ken Hopper were first and second to approve, with all in favor. Bob Wilson stated that the schedule is adopted with the exception that modifications are possible.

2021 Schedule

- February 6 / 9-?
- April 8 / 6-8 p.m.
- July 29 / 9–11 a.m.
- October 9 / 9-11 a.m.

**Committee Updates**

Steve Davis submitted a written update for the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, included in meeting minutes. Thomas Dunn submitted a written update for Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup, included in the meeting minutes. Jenny Cook submitted a written update for the Equine Trail Subcommittee, included in the meeting minutes.

Ken Hopper said the Nonmotorized Funding Workgroup is discussing sustainable funding source suggestions. The workgroup will submit recommendations by end of this year to MTAC.

Jim Kelts asked if the Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW) meetings can be scheduled prior to MTAC 2021 meetings. Bob Wilson advised Jim to bring this suggestion to the SAW committee at their next meeting. Direct ORVAW suggestions to the committee

**COVID**

Bob Wilson mentioned the trails are stressed with all the increase in activity.

Paul Yauk said it is unsure to know how long COVID will impacts will be around. Paul would like to thank all staff, sponsors, and volunteers for their understanding and efforts. It has been a tough year, and it has been a good year. He hopes that the increased use continues; although, foreseeing a need for more training and awareness surrounding safety and etiquette.

Paul Yauk also mentioned the DNR is spraying for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), and we are informing our partners. Be aware it is out there, wear bugspray.

Bob Wilson agrees 100% about the integrity and effectiveness of our Michigan trails system. It is impressive to him how well the trails teams work together.

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**UPDATES**

Paul Gaberdiel (DNR) provided a quick update. The Doty bridge is down to pulling the pilings out of the water. Work is being performed now and continue through mid-October, install pilings. There are some ORV closures on Drummond island. Paul is still receiving a lot of reports on illegal use.

Bob Wilson stated that the MTAC committee would like to continue with DNR staff written updates. Bob also mentioned the Trail Plan Update and recognizes all the efforts made by Public Sector Consultants (PSC) and Nikki Van Bloem for their progress and work.

**Trail Plan Update**

Nikki Van Bloem (DNR) has been reviewing and refining the new trail plan proposal. Next week, the group will begin receiving staff input. A press release went out early September and included information on public meetings and specific use meetings. The online survey is available. Nikki said so far, they have received a very good response for meeting attendances. Please share this information with your counterparts and others. Next step is to start working towards developing action items. The goal for a February meeting, is to come back and review all of this. Nikki said they are still on track to have a final plan approved Summer of 2021. Nikki said this is a DNR management plan, and legislative is not required.

Ron Yesney (DNR) reported on Houghton County. Ron said they are continuing to look for grant funds for Dollar Bay and Lake Linden rebuild. Hassel Grade, along US41, engineering is complete and will start construction next Summer (FEMA reimbursable). Freda Grade is still closed, it is possible there will be a repair date in place for next summer. Upper Peninsula staff is still very involved with these issues.

**Kristen Thrall – USDA Forest Service**

Kristen Thrall reported that they are working on proposals to be funded through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). The USDA is meeting with the DNR to strategically discuss leveraging of efforts and funding. The GAOA funding is for 5 years, with the focus on reducing deferred maintenance on recreation sites and access routes. A list of potentially funded projects through Great American Outdoors Act for FY21 is out for public comment. Many trail-related projects in Michigan (Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, Ottawa NF) can be found here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/home/?cid=FSEPRD796841>

Bob Wilson said to consider MTAC a conduit for advancement or help.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CLOSING/ROUND ROBIN**

Bob Wilson is searching for ways to entice more people of the general public to attend these meetings. Bob thanked all the council members for their work this year, and he enjoys the level of professionalism.

Ron Olson, Chief, DNR Parks and Recreation, commented on the GAOA, stating land and water conservation fund program in Michigan will virtually double the amount of grant funds, around \$2.7M,

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bringing the total just over \$5M (50/50 match Federal Grants). Fiscal year 2021 budget is still in process, framework has been adopted, but no final word has been received yet. The Department is optimistic for trails.

Ken Hopper mentioned the next NMFWS meeting is taking place this coming Wednesday. Please send any suggestions to Anna Centofanti or me. Ken said trail planning is in all different situations. In Christmas MI, there is a forest service site. Due to the increased trail use and abuse, the road that crossed public property was shut down. This road leads back to a dispersed camping area, which is a hidden gem. Ethics that people were not abiding by.

Bob Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Thomas Dunn and Ken Hopper were first and second to approve, with all in favor.

## **Resolution 04-2020**

### **Trail Volunteer Recognition**

**Resolved by the Michigan Trails Advisory Council to nominate Amy Scharmen as a highlighted Equine Trails Volunteer.**

**Amy has the Michigan horse riders best interest in mind. She has organized the Michigan Horse Trails Directory which provides information and communication.**

**As Chairperson of the Equine Trails Subcommittee, Amy leads well and encourages teamwork and unity while we make decisions and policies.**

**Amy is an excellent Representative of the Southeast equestrian community of Michigan by communicating with area Friends Groups and advocating for safety and expansion with public land managers.**

**It is a pleasure and privilege to work with Amy. Michigan is blessed to have Amy working and volunteering for the equestrian community.**

## **Resolution 05-2020**

### **Trail Volunteer Recognition**

**Resolved that The Michigan Trails Advisory Council hereby recognizes and honors the efforts made by Paul Anderson in his invaluable contribution to the trails of Michigan.**

**Pau lives by his motto ...Always do what's right not what benefits you the most. Paul actively promotes organized snowmobiling and ORV recreation year-round. He has a passion for everything outdoors! He not only is a member of a few clubs, Snowmobile and ORV, He encourages every person to be safe and take care of the environment while recreating. Paul spends countless hours every year cleaning debris from the woods and making sure trails are safe and doing his part to keep Michigan beautiful! Paul is happiest when he is helping and educating others in person or through social media!**

## JESSI ADLER

Proposed meeting dates for MTAC 2021:

- Saturday, Feb 6 - 9am -?? Virtual All-Trails Committee Joint Meeting
- Thursday, April 8 - 6-8pm - Location TBD, hopefully in person - SE or SW Michigan
- Thursday, July 29; 9am-11pm - Location TBD, hopefully in person - Northern Michigan
- Saturday, October 9 - 9-11am, followed by afternoon/evening group activity (ORV, Horses, Kayak??) – UP
- 

(End times are flexible, I know some of our meetings are shorter/longer than others, so a 2-3hr window should suffice, especially since we changed the format to written reports from the DNR staff which cut the time down)

I'm including my commentary again should it warrant referencing during the meeting since I will not be there.

Also, the activities would be totally optional- I figured it would be location-dependent and if someone was interested in organizing a small outing - for instance, if we're at RAM and some wanted to go kayaking on the lake, we could do that, or if we're somewhere near a bike trail. Just tossing it out there, and obviously, again all will depend on how group gatherings go and which meetings we end up holding in person. I've heard from folks that they want to feel more connected and able to contribute and getting exposure to other trail systems is one way to do that.

Another point - all the MTAC meetings seem to be held at the RAM - it would be nice if we could move them around the state to allow more community/trail supporters to attend that might not be able to otherwise. Or, to allow committee members to experience different parts of the state - again allowing for potential outings in new locations. I know I've had conversations with other committee members about this so it would be nice to consider. (also, knowing the DNR has been given stricter orders on where they can have meetings.) I realize lodging/food/whatnot are provided at RAM, but I've heard from members that they'd like to visit other parts of the state.

My point with all of this is that while we each represent a different trail user group; some committee members feel a bit disconnected to the whole group. I think having a broader experience and more familiarity with the rest of the state would allow everyone to contribute more and be more aware of the locales/trails/issues when the DNR staff give their reports. It's also hard to know where and how to give input when we're in our own little bubbles.

# September 20 - 27, 2020: Michigan Trails Week

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's vast network of trails provide an abundance of opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy our state's spectacular natural resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan is known as "The Trails State" due to the more than 13,000 miles of diverse and designated state-managed trails; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state's trail system is the result of a successful partnership between state agencies, local trails groups, local units of government, non-profit organizations, businesses, and citizens coming together to connect communities and people; and,

**WHEREAS**, our state's trail system plays a significant role in strengthening Michigan's economy, supporting thousands of jobs and increasing the quality of life for all Michiganders.

**WHEREAS**, the trail system is designed to accommodate both motorized and nonmotorized users through a carefully designed master plan that reflects emerging trail needs in the state while encouraging a sustainable system for future generations; and,

**WHEREAS**, increasingly popular and healthy lifestyle activities include trail and water-related activities such as hiking, biking, walking, running, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and paddling; and,

**WHEREAS**, trails serve as alternative transportation corridors that help decrease road congestion, and provide safe, healthy, enjoyable routes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's rich network of trails throughout the upper and lower peninsulas provide residents and visitors with scenic spaces in which to explore nature, appreciate

wildlife, experience solitude, enjoy time with family and friends, and explore the rich history and heritage of the trails;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim September 20-27, 2020, as Michigan Trails Week.

# STATE OF MICHIGAN



## CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

September 20 – September 27, 2020

as  
**TRAILS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's vast network of trails provides an abundance of opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy our state's spectacular natural resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan is known as "The Trails State" due to the more than 13,000 miles of diverse and designated state-managed trails; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state's trail system is the result of a successful partnership between state agencies, local trails groups, local units of government, non-profit organizations, businesses, and citizens who have come together to connect communities and people; and,

**WHEREAS**, our state's trail system plays a significant role in strengthening Michigan's economy, supporting thousands of jobs and increasing the quality of life for all Michiganders; and,

**WHEREAS**, the trail system is designed to accommodate both motorized and nonmotorized users through a carefully designed master plan that reflects emerging trail needs in the state while encouraging a sustainable system for future generations; and,

**WHEREAS**, increasingly popular and healthy lifestyle activities include trail and water-related activities such as hiking, biking, walking, running, horseback riding, off-road vehicle use, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and paddling; and,

**WHEREAS**, trails serve as alternative transportation corridors that help decrease road congestion and provide safe, healthy, and enjoyable routes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's rich network of trails throughout the Upper and Lower peninsulas provide residents and visitors with scenic spaces to explore nature, appreciate wildlife, experience solitude, enjoy time with family and friends, and discover the rich history and heritage of the trails;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim September 20-27, 2020, as Trails Week in Michigan.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor



**STEVE DAVIS**

MTAC Non-Motorized Summary September 2020 Meeting

Summary of NAW Meeting (August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020) provided by Andrea LaFontaine

At our May 7th meeting, members offered some concerns or particular issues that they would like to see the MDNR address, “natural surface single track” is something Jason Jones brought up and since the MDNR has been in constructive conversations with Jason re: Mountain Bike trails.

Trails Week 2020 – Sept 20-27, MTGA partnering with MDNR for a virtual trails week event facilitated through RunSignUp

MATAG Conference 2020, virtual platform Aug 18 9:00-12:00pm. So far 110+ participants registered.

Trail Count data – looking for data. Trying to find trails that are counting their increased use and willing to share the data they are seeing.

Non-motorized Funding Workgroup – Jason was supposed to offer an update but he missed the meeting. NAW committee members offered some feedback about finding out which communities currently have millages that support trails, and potentially working with an organization like MParks to draft some sample language that communities could adopt.

Update from Jason Jones:

DTE Trail Counter Numbers (note numbers were down in spring due to trail closures for erosion and COVID)

**Master Summary**

Download as  Excel  CSV  
[Submit](#) [Submit](#)

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2019	Green Loop Counter									3,420*	3,293	1,012	464	59.010	21,539	104
	Sugar Loop Tracker									2,850*	2,804	675	360	47.875	17,474	104
	Winn Loop Counter									3,398*	3,200	886	491	57.077	20,833	104
2020	Green Loop Counter	279	733	1,187	1,609	5,935	8,093	7,274	7,009*					126.750	46,391	232
	Sugar Loop Tracker	14	5	823	1,774	5,004	5,079	4,456	4,113*					84.810	31,041	232
	Winn Loop Counter	109	374	240	1,111	5,401	5,889	5,489	4,921*					93.228	34,122	232

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

\* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#) Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

**MATAG Summary (also from Andrea LaFontaine):**

Peak attendance: approx. 130+ and leveled out around the 110-120 range.

A lot of interest about the MI Natural Resource Trust Fund as a funding mechanism. And a lot of spirited debate about framing the outdoors as an inclusive place. There was a lot of talk about the outdoor economy and trail towns and how trails help stimulate local economies.

## September 2020 Michigan Equine Trails Report (MTAC) - Jenny Cook

Horse riders are exercising our horses and enjoying the many beautiful natural resources throughout Michigan. Nearly all events have been canceled, but horse riders and horse trails associations are alive and well with abundant resources and energy to keep horse trails and horse campgrounds maintained.

We have increased our communication and connections with horse associations through the creation of the **Michigan Horse Trails Directory** and social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/michiganhorsetrailsdirectory/>

We are working with the **DNR Camping, Education, Funding, Marketing, Planning and Signage Groups** to continue to improve horse riders' opportunities in Michigan. We are thankful DNR Matt Clara visited Pinckney to photograph horse riders. Please enjoy: <https://michigan-dnr.canto.com/s/GB7OK?viewIndex=0>

We are grateful to the **DNR management teams** at Bass River Recreation Area near Grand Haven who have met and worked together with the newly formed Bass River Horse Friends Group. Over 10 miles of trails were tagged by BRHFG and cleared by DNR staff. There will be marked, designated, separate horse/hiking trails and biking trails at Bass River.

**Michigan horse trails associations** are working throughout the state on horse trails maintenance.

<http://michiganhorsetrails.com/trailgroups.html> We are also working with bike groups (specifically, WMMBA at Fort Custer) on trails maintenance, communication, safety and etiquette.

We are working with the **Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance** on education, fund raising, safety, signage, surveys and the Michigan Trails Week Challenge September 20-27, 2020. Celebrate Michigan as the "Great Trails State!" <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/MichiganTrailsWeekChallenge>

We are celebrating the benefits of horses for people with our Legislators, Management teams and the public at the **Michigan Equine Legislative Day** on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 on the Capitol lawn. A free BBQ lunch will be provided. Please join us and register at:

<https://www.michiganhorsecouncil.com/equine-legislative-day.html>

We would like to schedule educational demonstrations and participations with **Horse Trails Demo Days** at Horse N Around Stables in Waterloo Recreational Area for as many DNR staff, MTAC members and any other interested persons when COVID restrictions are dismissed.

We would like to expand single and double track, dirt trails for hikers and horses since both user groups are usually traveling around 4 miles per hour. Due to bikers moving much faster and silently, for safety reasons, it is recommended not to share the "slow going" trails with "fast paced" bikers.

When encounters on trails happen, please yield to slower traffic and: **Stop, Speak and Stand Back.**



Horses continue to be identified as **health partners** and therapy resources as shown in the August 10, 2020 PEOPLE Magazine.

<https://people.com/books/how-horses-helped-this-new-york-times-reporter-recover-from-rape/>

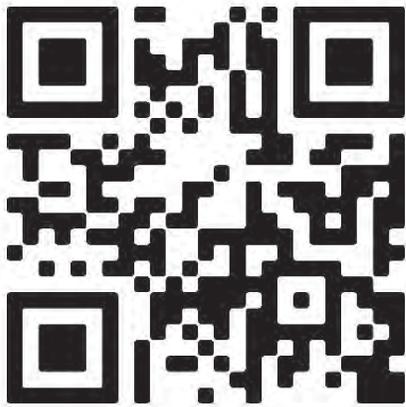
Jenny Cook

Michigan Equine Trails Representative (MTAC)

SW Michigan Equine Trails Representative (ETS)

[coonjenny@hotmail.com](mailto:coonjenny@hotmail.com)

(269) 998-5916



# Answers for Michigan Provided by Horses and Horse Owners



**Michigan is the home for amazing horse opportunities for everyone.**



**Michigan has excellent horse career, education and employment locations.**



**Michigan's horse trails systems continue to grow and develop into beautiful infrastructures, where every season is celebrated.**



**Michigan's communities are alive and well with horse therapy. Horses provide emotional, mental, physical and substance abuse therapy for all.**



**Michigan's horse owners' lifestyles generate substantial economic value with barns, equipment, feed, land, professional services, trailers, trucks and more.**



**Horses and horse owners are living natural resources producing economic value, education, employment, empowerment, historical reflections, show, sport, therapy, tourism, transportation and travel.**

# ORVAW Report to MTAC

## THOMAS DUNN

The ORVAW held their last meeting Virtual September 16, 2020.

The ORV license and permit sales continue to climb with a 14.6 % increase in licenses and a 20.6% increase in in Trail permits. Our system continues to have weekend use daily and holiday use on weekends.

The group looked at the ORV fund and the Distribution of fund during the Covid 19 year.

The concern brought to the Work Group is: that by legislation, all unused ORV funds, and all funds granted but under budget, not used or not completed, are at the end of the fiscal year put back into the ORV general fund and then cut by “Formula” for the next year's budget. This means that funds already distributed by the “Formula” are then cut again.

The Department has put in place for 2019 and 2020 fiscal years, that all grants and projects granted are given an extension becoming a 2-year grants, returning to a 1-year grant in 2021.

The ORV Handbook committee has received the 2020 handbook and are looking to Law Division for distribution recommendations. The handbooks are not readily available at outlet that offer stickers.

A committee was formed to look into the speed issue on the ORV system. Excessive speed is being seen on many routes and forest trails. The Work Group has asked for LED's input on this also.

Another committee was put in place to work with the department for possible Multiyear maintenance contracts for maintenance. The department is looking at the possibility of a pilot project to examine the issue.

The USFS was given the Great American Outdoors Act passed into law. This gives the USFS 25 million for recreation.

Discussion on when and if ORV Safety classes will be allowed to resume. Online training is available but the consensus that in person training is still best.

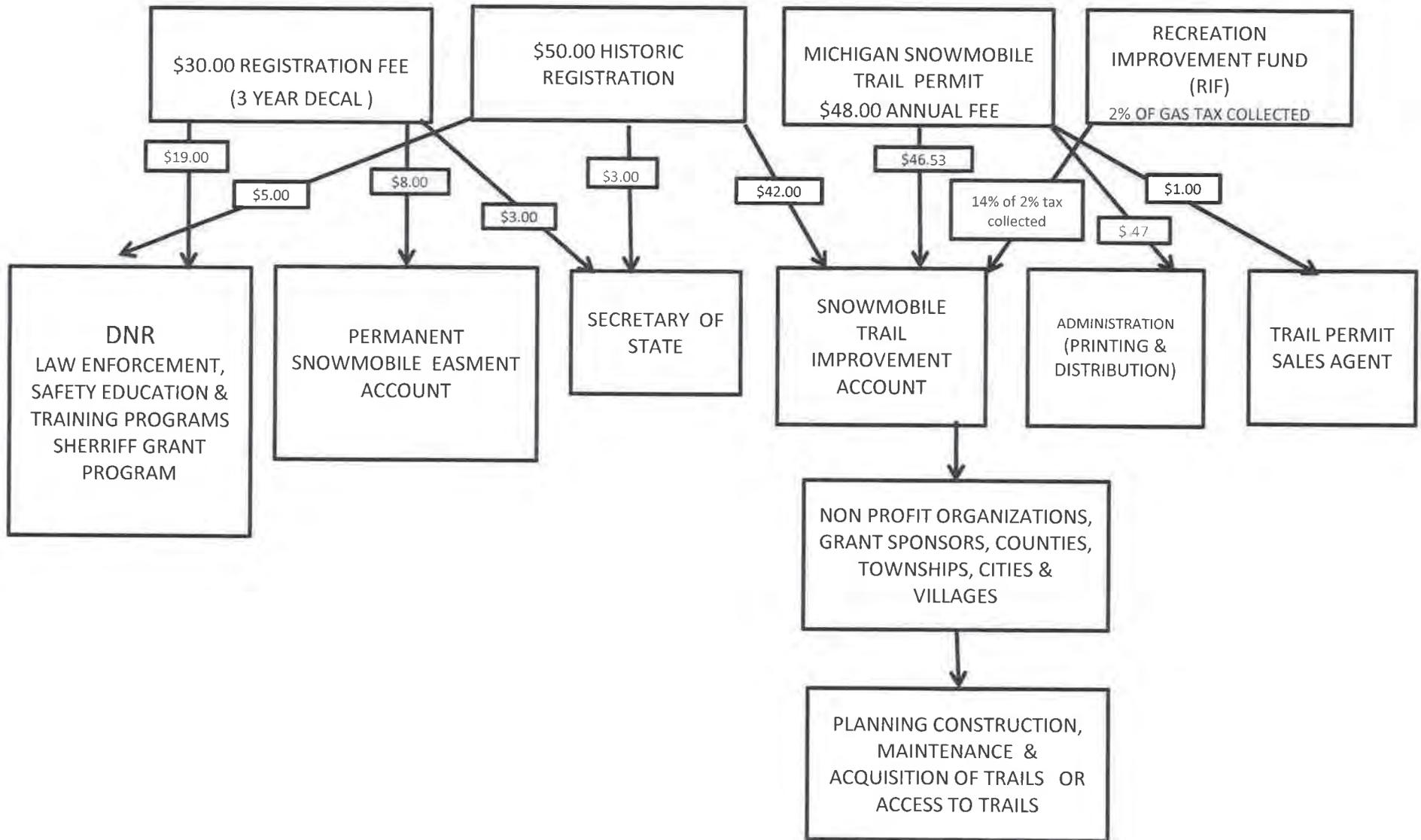
Discussion ensued concerning the ability to contact and work with the department during the work at home mandate of these times. The department agreed to exchanging emails and cell numbers for easier availability

The Atena Trail proposal was presented to the workgroup for consideration. The proposal was for a 2.6-mile bypass to Copper Harbor that would include a 70-foot bridge across the river. After discussion the group concluded that without a long-term lease from the commercial forest landowners the project was too high of a risk compared to cost.

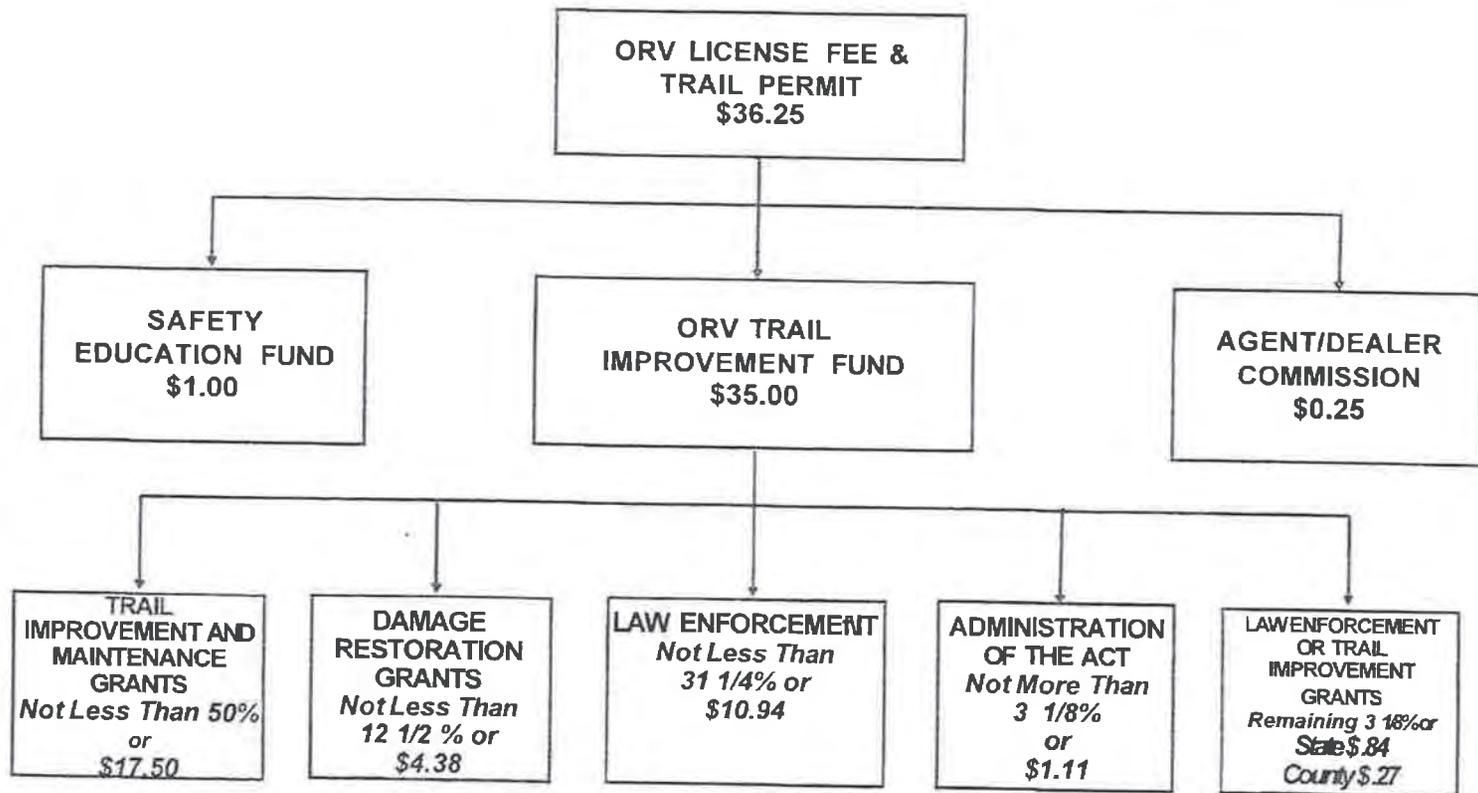
2021 meeting dates will be determined after MTAC schedule is in place.

# SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

## DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE



# ORV Revenue Distribution



**Note:** 24% of the amount designated for law enforcement must be distributed as grants to county sheriffs' departments





James Kelts – Representing Snowmobiling      September 16, 2020

Michigan Snowmobile & Orv Association (MISORVA)

The Snowmobile Community has been very busy this summer preparing for another snow season in a few months. Even though the sun is shining and warmer temperatures abound, we are busy pre-planning with Volunteer Grant Sponsors (Clubs) from around the State to complete Brushing, Grading, Signing of 6,400 miles of trails. Many miles of Snowmobile Trails are on Private Property which requires a signed agreement allowing access through Land Owner Property. Every year re-routes have to be negotiated due to loss of Private Property access for various reasons. Such loss can be a result of trespassing, noise or sale of property. These tasks are all completed by volunteers as DNR Grant Holders.

Funding to do work by Grant Sponsors comes from self-imposed fees generated from Trail Permits required for each Snowmobile to operate on any property other than snowmobile owners own property or used for ice fishing on ice. The trail permit fees pay for purchasing Grooming Equipment, maintaining 180 plus groomers, that require fuel, oil, grease and filters to Grant Sponsors and fees that the DNR charge to administer the program.

In some incidents the Snowmobile Grant Sponsors apply for Grants from the DNR to grade ORV trails during summer months, provided the Grant Sponsor has solely owned by the individual clubs) and not Snowmobile Program Equipment. Other areas the DNR submits for bids from local contractors. The approved funds to do so are paid from the ORV program.

To date the DNR has stated that the ORV Program will **never** be allowed to purchase Equipment from the ORV Trail Program Funds. Shouldn't this be a discussion for ORVAW and the users they represent to decide? **Never** is a very long time and **nothing** lasts forever. The current ORV Program funds are distributed by the DNR on a percentage basis with little oversight on the end results of what the expenditures accomplish. The ORV Program needs to be restructured so that the funds would be available for purchase of grading equipment in the ORV Program and oversight of the program.

In the July's MTAC meeting minutes the report states Legislative proposals that are still being worked on and the following charts show how funds generated by pay-to-play Trail Permits of the Snowmobile and ORV programs are distributed by the DNR Parks and Recreation.