

**MICHIGAN TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL (MTAC)
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 22, 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:

Karen Middendorp
Kristen Wiltfang
Kristie Walls
Shannon Rische (USFS)

DNR

Paul Yauk
Nikki Van Bloem
Jessica Holley
Annalisa Centofanti
Greg Kinser
Michael Morrison
Rob Katona
Ron Yesney
Paige Perry
Kim Kennedy
Jeff Kakuk
Paige Perry
Nicole Toman
Amy Swainston
Dakota Hewlett
Cary Foster (LED)

WELCOME

Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) Chairperson, Bob Wilson, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Bob Wilson started off by thanking the DNR staff for their time and efforts making themselves available for MTAC meetings. Bob continued on by thanking council members for volunteering their time. Bob appreciates the council members attributes by voicing concerns and issues funneled from trail users.

Nikki Van Bloem (DNR) responded by thanking Bob Wilson for the acknowledgement. Nikki also thanked the council members for their time as well. Nikki stated that time is valued, considering all the hurdles we have had in the last few months.

Committee member, Jessi Adler, replied by echoing Bob and Nikki's comments. Jessi said she is appreciative of everyone.

BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chairperson, Bob Wilson made a motion to approve the May 20, 2020 draft meeting minutes. Thomas Dunn was first to approve, and Jim Kelts was second, with all in favor.

Chairperson, Bob Wilson, made a motion to move the agenda items out of order. No changes were requested, motion to approve with Thomas Dunn first to approve and Jessi Adler second, with all in favor.

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Chairperson, Bob Wilson, made a motion to approve the July 22, 2020 agenda. Thomas Dunn was first to approve, and Jim Kelts was second, with all in favor.

ACTION ITEMS

COVID19

Bob Wilson stated that during this COVID pandemic of the importance it is to keep trails open and allowing the public to recreate. Bob said the State is facing significant restrictions due to COVID; budgets, limited staffing, safety, and well-being, and these restrictions will likely continue for some time.

Paul Yauk (DNR) reinforced that it is positive to see the public is getting outdoors. All seem to be enjoying the DNR resources available. Nonmotorized and motorized equipment sales have increased tremendously, most businesses selling out of inventories. Paul said the Trails Section has experienced issues with maintaining trails due to budget constraints and processes. However, now the dollars have been released and maintenance is taking place.

Nikki Van Bloem (DNR) added that the trail funds are restricted and will not be used to patch holes in the budget. Nikki said it is still a process internally to get through in order to spend the funds, that there are still items out there, waiting for final approvals. Planning ahead, we are not sure what next year will look like.

Master Trail Plan

Nikki Van Bloem reported on the progress for the Master Trail Plan. Nikki said the workgroup is refining the document, focusing on goals and objectives. Recently the team reviewed ideas with representatives from other DNR divisions for their input, and they received some good feedback. Public input will be a next step. The plan will strive for balance with for all user groups, state forest lands included. Soon, an online survey will be available for more input, including the public and DNR field staff. MTAC members may be asked to sign on and look at the objective outcomes from these polls. The timeline is still on track for a final draft plan due next winter. Bob Wilson added that one driver for the Master Trail Plan is to gather input from a regional perspective, and to have all user groups work together.

Nonmotorized Funding Workgroup

Ken Hopper, committee member, expressed his thanks to all of the volunteers on the workgroup. Ken stated the group is working with an aggressive timeline in place. As more people are using trails now, the timing is good, trails and outdoor recreation is in the public eye now more than ever. This Funding Group will meet once a month. A lot of work needs to be done in order to submit a recommendation to MTAC by end of this year. Ken said they are working on establishing goals and expectations. A lot of angles are being discussed and information is being collected and compiled. The group is hoping to form great partnerships that will sustain.

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Trail Volunteer Recognition

Bob Wilson introduced this idea after the last MTAC council meeting. The committee members will suggest and recognize one individual or group that has been exemplary with the trails system. Send nominees to Bob Wilson and Anna Centofanti.

Trail Demo Days

Jenny Cook, committee member, informed the group about trail demo days. Jenny said user groups get together to experience other user groups recreation. There will be invitations for all to experience horseback riding, through rentals on state and private land. Jenny believes people gain a better perspective and understanding of other recreational groups. Thomas Dunn, committee member, mentioned this type of engagement with legislative and officials can produce support and recognize funding needs. Jim Kelts, committee member, said he has been involved in legislative rides and they have been successful in the past with snow groups. Jim said there is a planned dirt ride scheduled for this October and he will communicate the event details to the council members.

Trails Week

Bob Wilson said there expect to see a resolution coming soon for trails week, as a proclamation to the Governor has been submitted. This will designate September 23 as trails week. Bob has asked the Governor to address her thoughts on trails and has asked if she can speak at the September MTAC meeting. Nikki Van Bloem said a trail presentation should be in accordance with the Governors attendance. Bob Wilson will follow up with a response from the Governor. Bob Wilson said the week will consist of a virtual environment. Jenny Cook and Paul Yauk mentioned extending an invite to the DNR Director, along with MDOT.

Meeting Schedule

Bob Wilson and the committee discussed various options for the 2021 meeting schedule. Jessi Adler asked for some flexibility around the weekends. Bob Wilson asked Jessi to submit a proposed 2021 meeting schedule at the next MTAC meeting in September. Nikki Van Bloem reminded the group that with the Master Trail Plan in progress, an all advisory meeting most likely will be needed in the first quarter of 2021, likely in January or February. Jessi Adler mentioned mixing in a recreation activity and Bob Wilson was in support of the idea. Additionally, Nikki said there will need to be awareness of other DNR division meetings, such as Natural Resource Commission (NRC), to avoid conflict. Jim Kelts and Steve Davis offered to assist Jessi with producing the schedule.

Updates

Dakota Hewlett (DNR) reported the 2020 MATAG Conference has been cancelled and is being rescheduled for next year in Grand Rapids. The MATAG conference is represented 9 states and covers trails trends. A virtual session will take place on August 18, from 9 a.m. to Noon. The focus will be how trail managers are dealing with increased use and COVID impacts. Anyone can register for the free virtual conference. Dakota also stated that Trails Week will be virtual this year with an online sign-up and the focus will be safety and etiquette. Dakota will send the links to Annalisa Centofanti (DNR), so she can relay them to committee members.

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Public Comment

None

Round Robin / Closing

Paul Yauk (DNR) mentioned trails grant coordinator, Megan LeMarbe (DNR) will be leaving the trails section in August. Megan worked with nonmotorized grants. She will be missed, and Paul expressed gratitude for all the public service she has given to the State of Michigan. Dakota Hewlett (DNR) will be working out of class (WOC) in Megan's place.

Bob Wilson, committee chairperson, provided a closing statement reminding everyone of the upcoming election in November where the fate of NRC trust fund will be decided. This is an opportunity to define what will happen with the balance of NRC funds when the cap is reached. Bob encouraged everyone to read into this proposal.

Bob Wilson adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m. with Thomas Dunn and Jim Kelts to first and second the motion, with all in favor.



DNR STAFF UPDATES

NIKKI VAN BLOEM

SOUTHERN LOWER PENINSULA

Maintenance on all the non-motorized trails started back up again in June. The new portion of the Lakelands in Ingham and Jackson Counties is working its way towards close out of the construction contract. Jill Sell is out planned leave until mid-Aug so many of her projects have been paused, however engineering for the Kal-Haven and Van Buren Trails is continuing with other staff. Statewide we are in the process of reviewing and reprioritizing large trail projects into a 5 year plan. State park campgrounds, and trails, are all open now. With the delays in hiring and training of summer staff and freeze on filling non-ranger staff vacancies it has delayed normal trail maintenance in parks which has created a number of issues which would not exist in non-COVID years which are being addressed to the best of our abilities.

SCOTT SLAVIN

NW LOWER PENINSULA

ORV

Grading and spring maintenance runs are being completed on routes, single track motorcycle and 50" trails. Recent storms have flooded, washed-out and dropped debris in many locations, clubs and DNR staff are working to fix trails or sign temporary re-routes. I've been working with many groups who are requesting riding events, several have been approved and held, new event guidelines will be coming out that may influence future motorized events.

Snowmobile

Bear Creek Swamp re-route project is back underway after a temporary pause due to Covid-19 and should be completed by December 1st. Staff are working with clubs on special maintenance projects and grant applications. Several snowmobile trail proposals are being reviewed; I've been working with division staff to help move them forward. Several projects that include large culvert replacement and engineering/design on failing trail infrastructure are starting back up.

Equestrian

Tin Cup springs Equine Campground development is on hold due to frozen funding. Shore to Shore and MTRA rides have been canceled due to covid-19. Trail maintenance on the shore to shore is starting back up.

Non-Motorized

Friends groups are back out and performing maintenance on the Betsie Valley, White Pine, Hart Montague and Pere Marquette trails. DNR staff are ditching and performing culvert cleaning on the White Pine and Betsie Valley Trails. Rodgers Farm Pond culvert replacement on the White Pine Trail will be starting in August. Cadillac Pathway and the VASA single track mountain bike trails are receiving high use with parking lots filling on the weekends.



PAIGE PERRY

NORTH CENTRAL LOWER PENINSULA

MTAC

Proud to have continued work with the State Trails Plan Team despite delays and COVID19. Making good progress!

ORV

After most ORV Trails and Routes received their first maintenance run after finally getting grant money approved to reimburse grant sponsors, a lot of those same trails and routes were negatively impacted by last weekend's storms, either by windfall or erosion. We are working on getting the clubs and staff back out to take a look and clean up

Snowmobile

Working to assure that project work is requested to spend for engineering planning and construction. As with other trails programs, snowmobile program is year-round, and most clubs have been in communication with their DNR contact especially as it pertains to special maintenance projects and '21 applications.

Non-motorized

Challenging to get any maintenance done with most activities just approved even by volunteers. Several inquiries to volunteer maintenance on some major pathway/non-motorized. Still working on getting the NLP Regional Rail Trails herbicide, mowed and plans made for resurface- along with several bridge repairs reviewed and prioritized for funding and labor by partners, sponsors, contractors and staff.

Equestrian

Unfortunately, the large rides were canceled but hopefully equestrian trail riding groups are making some progress on some of the trail maintenance activities in the NCLP

AMY SWAINSTON

NORTHEASTERN LOWER PENINSULA

ORV

I have been working on Maintenance Request for Reimbursements, and grading on highly impacted trails and routes. I have been working some potential trail proposals and re-routes. Some large club projects on hold but moving forward with the smaller dollar amounts.

Snowmobile

Several projects are on hold with the spending amounts and determining the path to get them started.

Equestrian

None

Non-Motorized

Engineering survey Design work for Cradle of Forestry continuing; anticipate receiving preliminary layout mid – August. Pathway maintenance being worked on as park operation and forest resources staff can



allocate time. Pine Haven Recreation Area in Midland is reopened after the dam failures in Midland County.

Other

Coordinating a review for the potential to reopen the Temple State Forest Campground on behalf of PRD Operations. Other time is being spent on Oil and Gas Lease Nomination reviews, Capitol Projects List, Compartment Reviews, and Use Permits Reviews.

JEFF KAKUK

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA

Restrictions on sponsors and staff during snowmobile season had a large impact on current trail conditions. ORV sponsors are having to address a large amount of trail impacts that were not addressed due to the restrictions. An unmonitored transition from snowmobile to ORV occurred in West U. P. The main issues have been extensive beaver impacts, damaged bridge safety railings, missing and broken traffic signs, downed trees and trail washouts.

1. ORV sponsors are still conducting the first trail maintenance runs. System is at 80% complete.
2. Funding restrictions have required sponsors to flag and sign many issues rather than repair.
3. High numbers of trail and dust complaints this year. Sponsors have also reported very poor trail surface conditions. Due to funding restrictions there will be minimal grading.

Logging has impacted trail use in many areas. There is currently a half dozen forest operations **OCCURRING** which impact trails. Increased trail use has also increased the safety impacts with this dual use. Once commercial landowner has chosen to close trails during logging operations based on several close calls. More educational information for our recreational users may help with shared use and better understanding.

5. Initial delivery of Alpha Signs to sponsors is occurring this week. I am a little hesitant to fully implement as the section has not provided complete guidance documentation. Signing is always an issue with consistency and rolling out without clear guidance and handbook updates may come back on us.
6. Menominee River Bridge: Bid out and over budget. I have been working with WI DNR and trails grant staff to develop funding options and meet the agreed 50% cost share.
7. Little Carp Trestle Bridge: Bid out an over budget. Working to address the shortage and determine course forward.
8. Ripley Contamination: Trail section from Hancock to Dollar Bay remains closed. DNR, EPA, EGLE and Julio Family met the requirements for interim trail usage on July 2nd. We are still waiting on DHHS and WUPHD to review and lift the health advisory. Expecting to hear any day now.



9. Calumet Re-route: Working with Township and Village legal counsel on lease agreements. Material bids went out this week. Coordinating with township and UPPCO for utility guy wire relocation to accommodate trail within easement property. Abutment engineering nearly complete and will then work with Baraga staff to build form and pour footings.
10. Wakefield extension of state line trail project bidding is still paused.
11. Nearly 7 inches of rain fell in Crystal Falls on July 9th and the ICR (Iron County Recreation) trail had to be closed. Damage assessments and repair costs are still being determined. Much of the damage was due to poor trail conditions and water channeling down trail and not able to shed off.
12. Beaver have been very active this year. The approval of funding for USDA Wildlife Services has been extremely helpful on the SL trail. The trapper has had to respond to issues over a dozen instances and looks to finally have the large family units dealt with and we are moving to a much easier maintenance situation. This is a great opportunity as a simple email/phone call addresses the issue. All permissions, public safety, and permits are handled by USDA. This saves a tremendous amount of time for sponsors and DNR staff. Would be exceptional to extend this opportunity to other state trails.

RON YESNEY

UP TRAILS COORDINATOR

Houghton County Trails Incident:

- DNR staff have begun brushing work on Houghton to Chassell non-motorized trail. The brushing has caused some concern with local residents. Brushing is necessary to reach the FEMA sites and prepare for construction
- We are working on getting the Engineering on Lake Linden restarted. It was paused due to COVID
- Reconstruction of Lake Linden, Houghton to Chassell, and Freda grade are on pause while we work through Critical Project Requests

Permanent Trail Easements:

- We are close to securing permanent easement on 53 miles of trail in West UP
- We have another project in the works that would include over 100 miles of permanent trail
- These projects are funded with a combination of snowmobile easement dollars and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars

West UP Citizen Advisory Committee Resolutions:

- The advisory committee passed two resolutions related to snowmobiling that have been forwarded to the Director
- 1. A resolution recommending a state law prohibiting the installation and use of aftermarket exhaust systems
- 2. A resolution recommending that the DNR develop a tiered funding system for the snowmobile grant sponsors so that grant sponsors in higher snowfall areas would be reimbursed at a higher rate than grant sponsors in southern MI. The concept being that the grant sponsors



in high snowfall and traffic areas cannot keep volunteers, mechanics, and groomer drivers because of the amount of work and the lack of available help. A higher reimbursement rate may help the grant sponsors hire folks to do the work.

Jenny Cook

July 22, 2020 Michigan Equine Trails MTAC Report

An Inventory of our assets:

Horseback riders are thankful for the **wise management teams** who help keep public lands open and available for horseback riding and horse camping throughout Michigan. We are thankful for avenues of **communication** with MTAC, ETS and public comments.

The State of Michigan is blessed with very capable people who volunteer their energy, money, time and wisdom to plan, build and maintain horse trails and horse camping. Please consider these **volunteers** as **our most treasured living natural resources**. Not only are we responsible citizens that take premium care of our own families, farms and properties; we rise up and serve our communities and public lands. We give, because our horse trails and horse camping are more than an occasional hobby or interest but are our healthy lifestyles. By donating materials and services, we expect horse riders will be able to **recreate safely** on horse trails and horse campgrounds.

Our **public lands and waterways** in Michigan are some of the **most preferred** horseback riding areas in the nation. We have abundant access to fresh water, canopies of shady trees and favorable sandy soil to traverse. Public horse campgrounds and horse trails are home base for competition, education, exercise, healthy lifestyles, recreation, rest, sport, therapy, tourism, training and transportation. Please consider all these priceless attributes when we are looking for trail funding.

In recent years, scientific studies have concluded **horses are proven health answers** for people.

Opportunities for fresh perspectives:

As we develop our new ways of life, **more people** are recognizing the health benefits of outdoor activities and there is a **greater variety of users**.

Horses are prey animals. Although all meat-eaters (including humans) are horses' predators, horses are honored to serve humans especially when they have trusting relationships. These behaviors and benefits of horses are not always understood or respected by the general public because many people have not had access to horses and horse lifestyles. Therefore, we **invite the public to experience** horseback riding at one of our several horse rental locations throughout Michigan.

Please know there are many levels of knowledge and experience with both horses and horse riders, which results in **many variables** in our horse activities.

With these multiple factors, the **best safety plans** are to keep horse trails and horse camping separate from other user groups.

Pathways for success:

We (ETS, Horse Friends Groups, horse riders and volunteers) continue to increase and improve public lands.

The **Michigan Horse Trails Directory** has been established for information and communication.

We are working with the **DNR Signage Workgroup** to communicate safety and etiquette on horse trails and horse campgrounds.

We are working with the **DNR Trail Funding Workgroup** for trail development and sustainability.

We are inviting public land management teams, decision makers, NRC, Wildlife Division, MTAC members and any other interested persons to experience **Trail Demo Days** with horseback trail riding and horse camping to recognize the benefits horses provide for our society, how horses co-exist with all other creatures and how horses are helpful to the environment.

When encounters on the trails happen:

Please: **Stop, Speak and Stand Back**

All trail users should yield to horseback riders.



Let's celebrate our rich natural resources.

Best Regards,

Jenny Cook

Michigan Equine Trails Representative (MTAC)

SW Michigan Equine Trails Representative (ETS)

cookjenny@hotmail.com

269-998-5916

STEVE DAVIS / MTAC Meeting

Non-Motorized Report

7/22/2020

From Andrea LaFontaine

NAW in the process of conducting an etiquette survey:
https://umichoud.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81ycwFQX16wtuCh
(so far over 500 people have participated)

From Jason Jones

Current DTE use numbers 1200 passes across his trail counters per weekend

Would like to see a monthly meeting (10,000 foot approach) with DNR regarding solutions to both trail groups and the Department

He has already implemented monthly Zoom meetings with other Michigan Mountain Biking components across the state

From Lori Hauswirth

Would like to see a statewide social media or traditional media campaign to support trails (and trail systems) across the state

From the water cooler:

Concerns about the lack of progress in Copper Harbor regarding the Phase 3 build of the Point Trail

Respectfully,

Steven M. Davis

Thomas Dunn

ORVAW Report to MTAC

7-22-2020

The ORVAW last meeting was held on May 13, 2020 and was reported on at the last MTAC meeting on May 20, 2020

As the Covid-19 Issues still evolve the Trail system has seen a major uptick in both use and damage.

Licenses and trail permit sale continue to increase over last year.

Michigan motorcycle Dealers have not been able to keep up with demand for new bikes and ORV's.

Maintenance has finally begun as the Department was able to get the Executive office to release some funds for the first round.

The Department has also been able to obtain 1.4 million of the ORV funds for projects and second round of Maintenance.

The Department has worked hard to get fund monies released but its has been a struggle as they have to ask for a case by case request.

Many Clubs and Non-profit organizations have expressed concerns to me about getting the funds that have been budgeted and contracted out as grants for project.

Another concern expressed to me has been if the ORV trail fund is not release and allocated in the fiscal year, that by Legislation (the departments interpretation of legislation) is that that moneys goes back into the General ORV fund and then will be budgeted again by formula, This means that if 1 million dollars of the Trail monies allocated for grants in 2020 fiscal year is not used or released then it would be put back into the formula and that \$1 million in 2020 would be \$500,000 in 2021.

This limits our ability and funding for projects, maintenance, repair, restoration and expansion of our trail system.

Another concern is the inter departmental discussion and recommendation to have seasonal closure of ORV trails. Some discussion has been on shared snowmobile trail, but other caveats of the proposal has departmental ability to close as they see fit.

The ORV System in the State due to climate changes and the rise in Side by Sides has transformed us to a 12-month sport.

Prohibit Wheeled Vehicles on Groomed Snowmobile Trails- The Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association is requesting that a law be introduced to prohibit wheeled vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails from December 1- March 31 of each year. This is being proposed due to safety issues. Wheeled vehicles to be allowed would be Emergency, Maintenance, Forest Harvest Equipment, and residential property owner access to their property provided no other access is available.

ORV tracked vehicles 50" wide or less may gain access to designated groomed snowmobile trails with a valid Snowmobile Permit on any trail other than snowmobile trails on private property unless allowed on private property by owner. ORV's over 50" width would cause a safety issue to all snowmobile operators and therefore be prohibited. ORV must have a working headlight and taillight.

Snow-Bikes can also be approved to use designated groomed Snowmobile Trails with a valid Snowmobile permit provided Snow-bikes have a working headlight and taillight.

Pre printed Trail permit sales – SNOWMOBILE AND ORV recreation is a self-funded programs, we purchase permits to provide the changes, additions, and maintenance to the trails. The DNR sells and controls the sales of all permits. We should not be in competition with the DNR for permit sales. MISORVA employs 2 individuals to perform all the distribution to private members and agents as well. The DNR must employ more individuals to perform this task thereby further reducing the funding pool of our trail's, equipment, and infrastructure. MISORVA receives \$1.00 per permit sold to the public and .46 cents for each sold to a consignment agent. MISORVA incurs all cost to mail or UPS consignment permits. And no cost to the program. The program then receives 46.53 back to our coffers to maintain our program. When our DNR partner mails or ships a bundle of permits the program pays for it. See funding flow chart.

ORV permits- We need legislation to again require one permit instead of 2. There is currently one permit sold for \$26.25 and another at \$10.00. Each permit allows separate liberties to access the trails. Within the ORV law there is .25 cents for the distributor to profit for the sale. ORV trail improvement fund has no provision to purchase equipment to maintain the trails, this will save the fund money overall. Much of the snow grooming equipment can be easily modified to use in dirt grooming. The equipment in the field currently is mainly reinvented equipment purchase by some of the clubs and grant Sponsor groups. Why? To entice riders with good trails to visit the area and support their local economy. This is being accomplished by fund raising efforts of the VOLUNTEER clubs. Fees generated through ORV licenses and trail permits are reinvested back into the ORV system. However, one major difference in funding is the ORV funds are distributed by percentages, not a hard formula per dollars collected. These important dollars help fund trail expansion, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements, such as bridge and culvert construction and repair, as well as law enforcement and the offsetting of damage created by illegal use. The distribution of funds needs to be modified closer to the snowmobile permit funding. \$1.00 per snowmobile permit sold remains with the selling agent. At this point in time MISORVA does not have a contract with the DNR to distribute permits as only .25 cents remain with the selling agent. This will not cover the postage to mail. MISORVA proposes that the funding breakdown be closer to the snowmobile breakdown. See funding flow chart.

Establish into law the Off-Road Vehicle Workgroup (ORVWG) Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (SAW), Non-Motorized Advisory (NAW) Equine Trails Sub Committee (ETS) currently all subcommittees of the Michigan Trails Advisory Committee. (MTAC) Currently each group is a subcommittee under MTAC, we would propose that each committee standalone and established into law. This will be a safety net for recreation should we have a Governor abolish all the work groups and voice again. This change would benefit and protect all the Recreation Sub Committees in Michigan.

Free Snowmobile Weekend – to promote use and awareness of the state's 6500 miles of beautiful trails, hundreds of destinations that present a totally different perception in the winter as opposed to summer. This proposed FREE weekend would entice the family with a couple older snowmobiles sitting in their barn to get them out on the trails, introducing younger members of the family to snowmobiling. We would like to propose Martin Luther King Weekend.

Definition of a snowmobile

With all the aftermarket add-ons to ATVs, motorcycles, and 4X4 trucks, we need to restrict the width of vehicles to 50" or less and give law enforcement the tools to keep our trails safe. This will benefit the safety of the riders. This will also alleviate a horse draw sleigh or others from using the snowmobile trails.

Update Snowmobile stationary sound Test

The manufactures and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) have updated the sound test to include 4-stroke snowmobiles. The snowmobile law must be changed to include this, so law enforcement can enforce it out on our trails. When a snowmobile exceeds the noise level, we would like to see a civil infraction that carries a heavy fine. One of the two reasons we lose a trail is loud noise. (the other reason is trespassing.)

Rental operations —Snowmobile and ORV -One rental carries the same \$48.00 (Snowmobile) and \$36.25 (ORV) permit as an individual. The average rider accumulates approximately 500-1000 miles per year, Rental units can accumulate 5000 or more, nearly 5 times the average rider. We need to balance the scales as the rentals continue to increase and the sales decline. More and more individuals are renting snowmobiles, ORVs' and UTV's to avoid the high costs of purchasing a personal machine that may only be used 2-3 times per year. Rentals are on the rise and the increase in the permit cost will simply be passed on to the individual. MISORVA would propose a \$150.00 yearly snowmobile permit and \$100.00 ORV permit. We have a potential of 17 weekends in our snow season, and 8 months of dirt, it seems reasonable that these rentals will be purchased at least 10 weekends thereby adding a cost of only \$10.00 per rental event. This could simply be established with a standard rental yearly permit of a larger size and identifying color. *This very important change will require more conversation on the right costs for each group.*

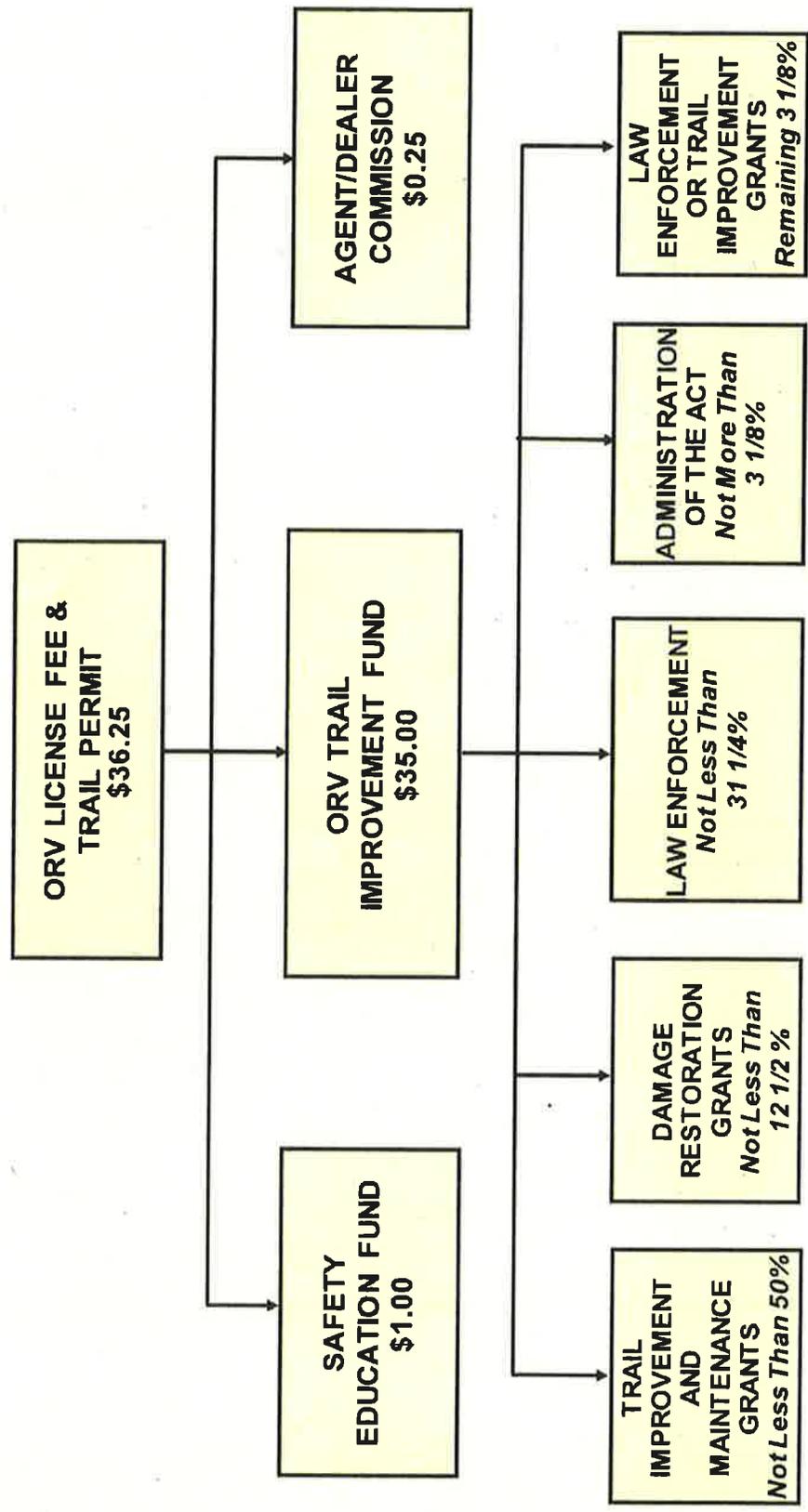
Historic Snowmobile section

We are looking to fix the date to be stationary one. We want to make a change in the "Definitions" section. We are looking to change it from 25 years old to manufactured before 1993 model year. There still remains many snowmobiles out on the trails from the mid-90s and early 2000's by allowing the purchase of a onetime \$50.00 historic permit would further defund the already under financed snowmobile program due to not purchasing a yearly permit.

Discuss Permit Costs

This is an ongoing issue. MISORVA will continue to look at and evaluate what we need to maintain and grow our first-class snowmobile and ORV programs. We would like to propose the Annual Trail permit to increase to \$65.00 as suggested by the DNR Parks and Rec.

ORV Revenue Distribution



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



SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE

