

VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY BOARD

December 14, 2023

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at the Lake Fork Road & Recreation Department at approximately 7:00 pm. Present were Ron Platt, Mark Wood, Rick Dolphus, Ron Theissen, Mark Sabin, Vic Greenfield, Larry Meredith, and Terri Klanderud. Also present were Savannah Steele, Payette Forest; Carole Lundgren, Warren; Kevin Turner, Valley County Sheriff's Office; Jason Wright, President Donnelly Club; and Danny Amen, Valley County Parks & Recreation.

Minutes – Mark Wood motioned that the November minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Larry Meredith. Motion carried.

No public comment or changes to the agenda.

USFS

Payette Forest - Savannah Steele talked about the Ranger program. They have hired a permanent employee; she has snowmobile experience. They are trying to figure out future needs as far as equipment right now, and improve the skill set. They are trying to procure two new sleds. Savannah isn't directing the avalanche center, but works in the same office as Will Smith. They will have a new supervisor come on this year. Two other previous employees will be returning and are in the process of becoming permanent employees as well.

Payette Avalanche Center realized that they could not be in the back country with the trail sleds. They are working into a partnership with the Friends of the Payette to get sleds appropriate for their needs.

Granite Goose will be open for commenting – possibly some time later this month. The Forest Service highly values the comments coming in. Winter travel map will go to print in March, please review the data. Wolverine was just listed on the endangered species act. It has high elevation implications.

SHERIFF'S REPORT- All of their equipment is up and ready to go. There is a stuck vehicle on Warren Wagon Road. They are scheduled to be at the events.

NEW BUSINESS

Ron Platt visited with Colin, and DF has decided that they want to engage a little more. They were given permission to do some of what Ben had on his contract and we will get Red Ridge back.

RAC & RTP Grants/Polaris Grant – Larry was testifying at the Planning and Zoning meeting tonight for the Clear Creek camp ground, and was unable to attend.

Newly Opened trails & Grooming options at Smith's Ferry Area – Rick Dolphus stated that he is getting the signs from Parks and Rec. for the DF trails. On Packer John side, they will have access from Smith's Ferry Drive to Scriver. The issue will be getting permission from the homeowner's. Rick Dolphus is waiting on the combination for locks to open trails.

Parking Lot Cleaning Operating – Rick Dolphus mentioned he doesn't like how the parking lot is being plowed. Dave is already piling snow up against the west side of the Groomer Garage. He is already starting to close himself off on both ends right now. Discussion took place regarding plowing of the parking lot, and that Dave plows at no cost to the program. Terri mentioned that we would have even less grooming funds if we had to pay to have the parking lot plowed. Danny Amen will have a conversation with him.

Rick Dolphus stated he would like to see more grooming. There is 110 miles of trails and he would like to see more of it groomed. Danny Amen stated that they were grooming the trail system and asked if there was a particular trail that Rick wanted groomed that wasn't being groomed. Danny asked him the question multiple times; Rick did not respond with any additional trail that he would like to see groomed.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron Platt reminded everyone on the Committee that we are to always come to the Groomer Committee and work issues and problems through the Committee without going around the Committee to other agencies and Commissioners as it ends up creating other issues and problems.

Savannah Steele asked for, and Ron Platt explained, a brief history of how the Committee was formed and what their mission/purpose is.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT – Danny Amen reported for Larry Laxson. There is no snow. They groomed out of Fisher Creek to Fisher Creek saddle. They went out Tuesday afternoon to Burgdorff and cleaned it up. Carole Lundgren said that there was pretty good snow all the way into Warren. Sescesh has about 8-10" At Donnelly, Danny and Ron Platt went out, and Ray went up to the Warming Hut on West Mountain.

AREA REPORTS

Smith's Ferry - Terri Klanderud asked Rick Dolphus to explain what his justification was to call the ISSA President, Scott Chapman, and ask for help in getting Larry to groom more miles at Smith's Ferry, and why that was done without bringing it to the Committee first. Rick responded that he had just called Scott for assistance and suggestions on how to communicate with Larry.

West Mountain – Larry Meredith hasn't heard anything. Danny Amen asked if anyone knew who had decorated the Warming Hut up there and set up tables and candles. It looks really nice.

Warm Lake – They had to cancel the Fun Run. They are looking at doing some kind of a family day up at the lodge. They will start games and food at 3:00 pm, so people can go ride by themselves before the event.

Donnelly Club - Jason Wright informed everyone that their Fun Run is December 30th. DF will allow them to go through Jungle Creek if there is a problem with snow at the lower elevation. Vic Greenfield stayed on the trail, but went up Council Mountain on his sled, and it was pretty decent. There was an outdoor recreation grant proposal that Jason put in for to purchase an 18 acre parking lot for \$800,000. They are supposed to know by mid January.

McCall Area Snowmobilers – Mark Wood spoke about the Granite Goose closure and the Bear Basin Closure. The Granite Goose Closure has been signed – it will be closed January 15-March 31st. There is a possibility of it becoming a winter long closure. Discussion took place on the Bear Basin closure. Mark Wood also informed us that he will be representing the Club to discuss grants and ideas regarding funding for parking lot attendants, etc on 9:00 Tuesday at the Supervisor's office. They are putting the parking lot signs at Brush Creek on Saturday.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mark Wood	McCall	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Mark Sabin		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
John Hicks		Financials	4 hours
John McClain		Cleaning Warming Hut	3 hours
Mark Wood		IRC Meeting	10 hours
Mark Wood		Firewood	5 hours
John McClain		Firewood	5 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	6 hours

Vic Greenfield hours		Groomer Meeting	6
Ron Platt		Meetings	8 hours
Ron Platt		Trail work	12 hours
Larry Meredith	West Mountain	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
		Phone calls/meetings	2 hours
Ron Theissen	Warm Lake	Groomer Meeting	5 hours
		Forest Service discuss	6 hours
Rick Dolphus	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Terri Klanderud		Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Terri Klanderud		Review contracts	2 hours
Terri Klanderud		emails/minutes/agenda	2 hours
Rick Dolphus		Picture of Fireplace	2 hours
Rick Dolphus	*Sept, Oct. Nov	BFC Meeting	6 hours
Fall Clean Up Wellington Snow Park			
	Sean Burgess and his father, Monte Benson, Nadine Horn, Bryce Yamamoto, Anna Eveland, Lori Ellis		63 hours