

# **VALLEY COUNTY GROOMER ADVISORY BOARD JANUARY 11, 2024**

Chairman Ron Platt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Lake Ford Road & Rec Department. Present were Ron Platt, Vic Greenfield, Mark Sabin, Ron Thiessen, Mark Wood, Larry Meredith, Larry Laxson, and Terri Klanderud. Also present were John McClain, McCall Area Snowmobile Club President; Jason Wright, Donnelly Snowmobile Club President; Dennis Benson, McCall District Ranger; Kevin Turner, Valley County Sheriff's Office; Jerry Whortley, Sled Dog Races; Danny Amen, Valley County Grooming Program; Jay and Ray Jaques, McCall Area Snowmobile Club.

**Approval of December Minutes** – Mark Wood motioned that the December minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Vic Greenfield. Motion carried.

**Public Comment** – None

**Changes to the Agenda** – Mark Wood motioned that the "Francis Wallace Parking Lot" be changed to "Gordon Titus Parking Lot"; seconded by Terri Klanderud. Motion carried.

## **USFS**

**Payette Forest** – Dennis Benson introduced himself; he is the new McCall District Ranger. He had attended a Groomer Meeting previously while acting as interim on the Cascade District. He mentioned that he appreciated how everyone in the Winter Rec meeting was respectful and how well they worked together.

**Boise Forest** – No one was in attendance. Larry Laxson will get Terri the new Cascade District Ranger information. Jason Wright commented about a grant need that is being applied for to Idaho Department of Parks & Rec for a snowmobile for the federal law enforcement officer. A letter of support for this can be written.

## **SHERIFF'S REPORT -**

Kevin Turner reported that they had gone up and done a patrol out of upper elevation a couple of weeks ago. Once we get some more snow they will make some extra trips back in there. They were at the Donnelly Fun Run and checked 139 sleds. Three were non-compliant. They will be at Smith's Ferry for their Fun Run this weekend.

Mark Wood spoke about some carbonite stakes that they had previously received from IDPR that they had a system for installing that worked well. The Brundage incursions seem to be coming from the south. If Brundage needs help installing the poles, they can contact Mark.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Letter of Support for the Donnelly Groomer** – Larry Laxson reported that we will likely get a new groomer next year and it will replace the Donnelly Groomer. They would like letters of support. Mark Wood motioned that the Groomer Advisory Committee send a letter of support; seconded by Vic Greenfield. Motion carried. Terri Klanderud will work with Ron Platt and get the letter sent.

**Dog Sled Races** - Jerry Whortley reported they were looking very closely at the trails because of the low snow, but that has changed. They are fortunate as the Oregon and Minnesota races had been cancelled; however, the Minnesota races are possibly being rescheduled. They have 8 entries on the 300 mile race, 8 on the 100 mile, and 7 or 8 on the Warm Lake. They are using the same trails as they did last year.

**Gordon Titus Parking Lot** - Mark Wood talked about the Titus parking lot enlargement; they are using the original spec and plan. Adams County has offered to haul the rock for them. Valley County has issued a letter of support. The Club has already provided, and will provide, in-kind labor. They are looking at 95,000 -96,000 to complete the project. Valley County is asking to apply for the grant, and they will administer the grant. They will be renting equipment from a local equipment company. Mark Wood motioned that the Groomer Committee write a letter of support; Larry Meredith second. Motion carried. Terri Klanderud and Ron Platt will write and submit a letter of support.

**Update on Brundage Incursion** – Larry Laxson stated that he is of the opinion that Brundage is a for profit, private sector company, and we should not be paying for their signage. Mark Wood stated that in light of what happened, they hoped to come together with some action. IDPR stepped up and said that they would purchase the signs if we can get them up in short order. They have put together a banner that will catch everyone’s attention. Terri Klanderud mentioned that we should use caution doing this in the future as the funds are coming from our registrations monies.

**Update on Grooming Equipment** – Danny Amen reported everything is up and running. They will be doing Warm Lake next week. Smith’s Ferry has gone out, West Mountain, Titus – Claiborne and Fish Creek have been opened up. They will be going to West Face tomorrow night. They aren’t sure if they can get over the rocks. Jason Wright will be over there and will let Larry know how it goes. We are not able to do Copett yet. Francis Wallace has been groomed into Burgdorf, and then in to Warren. They will open remaining areas when they have enough snow – possibly this weekend. The truck that was stuck up on the way to Sescesh won’t come out this season, but they have put poles on it. They also marked a rock that rolled down.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT-** Larry Laxson is going to ask for a letter from everyone on the Granite Goose Project. Dennis has been very supportive on this. There is a lot of disappointment. There is a lot of documentation because it has to be manageable and definable. The Commissioner’s have commented that there should be a no net loss if there is no net gain. Brundage wants to open up the East side of the mountain. Larry is going to send information to Terri Klanderud for her to get out to the snowmobile community to respond. With Brundage having the plan to expand, they can’t do it all at once, and they will only be able to do it in small segments at a time. Mark Wood asked Dennis about the plan. It has been accepted except the East side. He questioned why it was on the master development

plan and Jason Wright explained that they do not update that. Each piece they have to submit, and requires cost recovery. They have to do NEPA for each item. Dennis stated that they have since changed it.

## AREA REPORTS

**Smith's Ferry** – Terri reported that their Fun Run will be this weekend.

**West Mountain** – Larry Meredith doesn't have anything to report.

**Warm Lake** – Ron Thiessen reported it was snowing up there and they will be grooming next week.

**Donnelly** – Vic Greenfield reported that they had a great Fun Run! Vic thanked the Sheriff's Department for showing up. The trail held up really well. Jason Wright thanked everyone for coming out and helping.

**McCall** - Mark Wood said they are getting ready for their Fun Run on February 3. They would like to have the groomer pack the snow through at the Sescesh fire station as they are having a checkpoint there. There is a new Beacon Park installed at the Francis Wallace parking lot. Once they get some good snow coverage, they can ride in there. Friends of the Payette will be out there during the Fun Run. The Club purchased two new signs for the Beacon check station. First of next week, Mark will get them installed.

Terri Klanderud motioned that we adjourn the meeting; seconded by Larry Meredith. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Mark Wood	McCall Area	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Mark Sabin		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Jay Jacques		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Jay Jacques		Signs	9 hours
Mark Wood		PAC meeting	2 hours
Mark Wood		Winter Rec Meeting	4 hours
Mark Wood, Jay Jacques, Shane Hinson		Beacon Park	12 hours
Mark Wood		Adopt a trail signage	6 hours
John McClain		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
John McClain, Mark Wood, Dave Pfof		Installing signs at Brush Crk	15 hours
John Hicks		Financials	4 hours
Ron Platt	Donnelly	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Ron Platt		Grooming	28 hours
Vic Greenfield		Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Jason Wright		Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Ron Thiessen	Warm Lake	Groomer Meeting	3 hours

Ron Thiessen		Trail inspection	4 hours
Larry Meredith	West Mtn	Groomer Meeting	3 hours
Terri Klanderud	Smith's Ferry	Groomer Meeting	6 hours
Terri Klanderud		Minutes/emails/agenda	2 hours
Terri Klanderud		Meeting/Dave/Danny	2 hours
Rick Dolphus		Meetings	