



MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2025



Officers Present: President, Dan Marich; Co-chair/Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney; Secretary, Dave Houghton; Treasurer, Erin Schirmer; (Absent; Chair, Jodi Olson)

Meeting: Meeting called to order at 6:03pm, 36 in attendance

Meeting Minutes: Jan. 15, 2025 minutes approved, (M/S/C) Chris Beel/Barrett Ziemer

Treasures Report: Feb. 19, 2025 Financial report approved, (M/S/C) Jamie McKenney/Rick Harding
Chisholm 1st National: Main - \$2,000.00 Savings - \$1,000.00 Trail - \$2,000.00
National Bank of Commerce (new account): Checking - \$7,898.27 Savings - \$65,415.28
Treasurer Erin Schirmer reported that by the end of March we will have closed our Chisholm 1st National account. Benchmarks will be going to new accounts.

Presidents Report:

- Legislative Revenue Bonds, \$25K finally received into our account.
- Recap of our benchmarks. 2nd one was \$9684.xx. DNR not sure about 3rd/4th benchmark payments. (\$1875.xx/ea.)
- Listed several new business sponsors which came onboard this year to support our club. Big Thanks to them.
- US Steel permit updated. Negotiated the \$3million ins. policy. Saves our club lots of \$\$ because we would have to pay much higher ins. rates. '24-'25 season we paid \$4343.00 for everything. \$5mil policy is \$4k by itself. This agreement will help other clubs on USS property. Other clubs will have a separate contract from ours.
- Leetonia section of trail. Recapped situation and latest events. Discussion and ideas.
- Received grant monies from the American Legion Post 452, Sons of American Legion Post 452, and a special grant from The Keewatin Trail Runners ATV Club. A grant letter was submitted by Pres. Dan to the American Legion. The result was grants totaling \$1250 and an additional bonus of \$250 from the ATV club for our support of veterans.
- Erin Schirmer announced she will be stepping away from the treasurers position at the end of this season to focus on her and Ryans new family!! With heartfelt congratulations we thanked Erin for all she has done for the club. With that we will be searching for a treasurer for our club. Erin will help with all the transition for whomever is interested. (spl. election)
- Reviewed an email from Sheri @ DNR about MnUSA Winter Rendezvous meetings and the topic of G.I.A. funding for snowmobile trails. The '24-'25 season so far and what to expect for next year. Fortunately our club has been fiscally responsible. MnUSA & DNR working close together on snowmobile fund. Discussed funding \$\$.

Trail Report

- Not much grooming going on. Could use more cold weather and snow.
- Trails are in great shape.
- Brushing and trail work continues
- New groomer has about 150hrs. on it. Equipment holding up well.
- Shannon Lake road will be groomed by us for the Nortraxx ATV Club winter ride Feb. 22nd.
- Re-route near Keewatin on Sawmill Rd is cut in and groomed.
- Pine Tree Rd. re-route is next
- Leetonia route, please obey speed limits & report any problems.
- New brush cutter was ordered & received. Works awesome. Paid in part w/grant money form Iron Range Tourism bureau
- Member Dan Tarnowski covered a trail report on how great our trails were. Thanks for all the hard work everyone.

MnUSA News: Nichole Pankratz Region 2 MnUSA Director.

- Winter Rendezvous held in Bemidji
- Much talk at Rendezvous meeting about DNR funding and how low/no registration of our snowmobiles is affecting trail funding and what is to come.

Old Business:

- Blackwoods Blizzard Tour complete. Pres. Dan Marich thanked to all involved in setup and grooming. Many complements on our trails. One gracious rider donated \$100 to our club for the wonderful job on the trails. Member and Blizzard Tour participant John Taray recapped the tour and thanked everyone for helping exceed his goal of \$5000.
- Snowmobile Field Safety Training Saturday, March 15, 2025. Will be held based on conditions. Jim Watkins stepping down from instructor. Looking for someone to take over. Others are certified, just need an individual to take the lead. Jessica Stahl will still be there to assist with paperwork. Jim will help with transition. Pres. Dan Marich thanked Jim for his service and allowing our club to be able to finally provide this training to the surrounding communities.
- Club Ride, Jan. 31- Feb. 2, 2025. Jamie McKenney reports there were 23 people, 3 different groups, and had a lot of fun!! Lots of scenic views on the trails & lakes. Ready for next year.
- The Hydeaway Bar (Buhl) & Jim's Sports Bar held a vintage ride Feb. 8th.
- D.A.V. (Disabled American Veterans) Vintage Iron Ride from Palmers Tavern in Hibbing to VFW in Keewatin was held Feb. 15, 2025. Jason Husted reports \$6935.00 was raised during this event. Nice job guys.
- Discussed a hot dog/hot chocolate event at our new shelter. Hard to get organized. John Taray said he would head something up if conditions allow us to hold the event in March
- Secretary Dave Houghton talked about memberships (PathBlazers/MnUSA), some events, next months meeting

New Business:

- Region 2 Annual Spring Meeting will be held at the Drift Skippers Snowmobile Club in Grand Rapids, Mn. Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 3-7pm. Please RSVP. Open to all MnUSA members. Business meeting 3-5pm(no cost), meal 5:30-??(\$30), byob. notices going out to members via email.
- Reviewed new business partners with the PathBlazers.
- Member Greg Schweiss inquired about an organized trail to the Short Stop in Buhl. Discussion. Mentioned that any business can put signage on the trail systems to give directions or advertise.
- Next monthly meeting will be **Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ Bimbo's Octagon in beautiful Side Lake, MN.** Meeting starts at 6:00pm. Everyone (member/nonmember) is welcome. Please continue the giving of non-perishable food items.

Communications:

- Read an email from club member Renae DeHaven thanking all involved for the awesome trails this year.
- Read a Thank You from Chisholm Food Shelf on the PathBlazers continuous donations.
- Read a Thank You from the Boys & Girls Club of Hibbing for the monetary donation

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 7:01pm, (M/S/C) Rick Harding/Steve Carlson

Next Meeting:
Thursday, March 20, 2025
Bimbo's Octagon in Side Lake, MN
Meeting Starts @ 6:00pm
Please don't forget your non-perishable food item.
This months donation goes to The Hibbing Salvation Army

For more information, questions or comments, please feel free to contact the following:
Secretary, Dave Houghton - 263-5889 President, Dan Marich - 996-1003 Chair, Jodi Olson - 966-7817
Trail Coordinator, Joe McKenney - 969-9717 Treasurer, Erin Schirmer - 969-6125