

Table Rock Riders Meeting

Wednesday, December 23rd, 2020 7:00 P.M.

Executive Committee:

President: Mike Oldenburg, **Treasurer** Rob Hanson, **Secretary** Andy Meyer, **Trail Boss** Terry Logging

Attendance:

Steve Falkenberg, Terry Logging, Lance Jochen, Tom Luethe, Mike Oldenburg, Jason Schwier, Kyle Soden, Rob Hanson, Heath Weisenberger, Steve Dano

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Secretaries Report- Andy Meyer

- Secretary was absent.
 - Terry read the previous months' minutes.

Treasurer Report- Rob Hanson

- December ending balance: \$20,456.74
- We purchased the chainsaws that were requested last month.
- Motion was made to approve last month's Secretaries minutes, as well as the Treasury reports, by Jason
 - Seconded by Tom
 - Motion carried

Alliance Report- Steve Falkenberg and Terry Logging

- We received the first half deposit from the state that we requested.
- We still have 3 open bridge grants in the works.
- The Alliance voted to purchase a used lightweight drag from Michigan for \$1800.
- Kevin, Dan, and Heath went to Minneapolis to look at a PB400 Piston Bully.
 - That one was too large, but the dealer had just taken possession of a PB100 that would be for sale as soon as they were able to go through it.
 - They looked that one over and suggested that the Alliance buy it.
 - It is 197 horsepower, with 3300 hours on the machine total, only 100 hours on the planetaries due to a track change.
 - It would be delivered with our choice of metal or rubber tracks.
 - Price is \$63,000 delivered, with the sales tax waived, if they deliver it.
- Nancy is looking ahead to 2022 and wondering if the Alliance should continue with the calendar raffle.
 - She suggested that we could reduce the number of payouts, but increase the amount paid to winners.
 - Terry suggested the Alliance look into a golf outing for fundraising to possibly replace the calendar.
- There will be an ATV ride January 23rd, 2021, from Burr Oak to Mindoro, and from Mindoro to Stevenstown.
- The Alliance would appreciate it if anyone with knowledge of upcoming Snowmobile classes could pass the info to their reps. so that it can be posted on the Alliance website.
- All trail passes expired in June.
 - You need to renew club memberships in order to get your discount when purchasing licenses and trail passes.
 - This can be done online, or pay Rob.
 - · Go to <https://www.laxsnowmobile.org/member-login/>
 - · Use the email address you received this email at
 - · If you don't know your password use the "Forgot your password" link and you will receive an email to reset your password
 - · Once logged in click the green "Renew membership" button

- · Confirm your contact information
- · Choose single or family membership
- · Click "Pay Online" button
- · Complete the PayPal payment process using debit or credit card

Trail Boss Report- Terry Logging

- The only section that needs to be finished is the section of Kohlmeier's that is pasture.
 - Dave still has cows there, and hay bales in the way. He will move them if we get snow, and we can sign it then.
 - Thanks to everyone for getting their respective sections done!
- Rip Rap on Doc's needs to be set yet.
 - Heath will put it in on Monday or Tuesday...
- Dirt work repaired on Doc's.
 - 4 stumps were ground off for a better trail location.
 - Nathan worked in the wash out, and repaired a couple of other portions.
- Trimming trees along Schneider's old farm on Jandt's was completed.
 - Terry Wilker secured the permissions from the landowners and the work was completed on December 6th.
 - 11 people showed up, along with Batzel's skid steer, and Collin's tractor with forks.
 - Awesome participation, and a huge job completed.
 - The new chainsaws worked great!
- Jason took his field finisher and knocked down the dirt clumps on Kohlmeier's.

Old Business

- Steve would like to put a new deck on the Kohlmeier bridge, as the boards continue to lift each year requiring regular maintenance.
 - He already repaired it this year.
 - The bottom layer should be fine, so we may be able to replace the top layer only.
 - We should wait for lumber prices to go down before we do this.
- Clothing order.
 - Wayne can make anything work, but a mass order saves money.
 - Chase will look into getting something together for the next meeting.
 - We'll attempt to collect an order during the February meeting, or they can contact Donnie via email: dd2horse@yahoo.com
 - Anyone can also look up the options at Advertising Concepts website: <https://adconceptslax.esppwebsite.com/>
 - They already have the artwork, for anyone interested in getting their own order going right away.

New Business

- We need to vote whether our club is in favor of the Piston Bully purchase suggested by the Alliance.
 - Steve is strongly against using the fold up drag on any new equipment, if the Alliance does purchase this.
 - He wants a minimum of a class 3 drag.
 - He says Whitetail ridge had a tiller on their PB.
 - At that time, the salesman from PB did not recommend installing a fold up drag on a PB.
 - Lance says the 4 axle machines can't pull the weight like the 5 axles can.
 - The 4 axle is known to porpoise.
 - There's more weight on the back of the 4 axle than the 5's. You end up with only half a track on the ground while attempting any turn on a hill.
 - He says that there really aren't many good reviews on this machine with regards to operating on hills, from the people that have already upgraded.
 - Caledonia has Trail Bully's that are the 5 axle.
 - Lance would rather spend more money and get the machine we need, rather than spend less and have trouble, if we are going to go down this path.

- He also feels strongly that if we're going to purchase an expensive track machine, we need to have the ability to maximize the return by pulling the best drag we can.
 - Lance feels that there should have been a committee and discussion prior to us putting a down payment on a machine.
 - We should've done a cost analysis prior to bringing a purchase of this magnitude to the Alliance/clubs.
 - Steve says we could always try the Arrowhead Ultralight, if we get to that point.
 - Kyle moves that we vote no at the Alliance vote for this proposed machine, but that we are open to finding a track vehicle replacement for our DX machines.
 - Lance seconded the motion.
 - Motion carried
- Lance suggested that the Alliance demand more from the groomer operators, and the Alliance representatives tasked with the oversight, with regards to where, when, and who uses the grooming equipment.
 - He pointed out that groomer operators are paid, making them employees, and should be held more accountable to someone in charge of the respective work.
 - He believes that the Alliance could/should have standards that need to be met by both the operators, and the weather conditions required prior to operating the equipment.
 - The volunteers put in hundreds of hours each year that can, and has been jeopardized by poor decisions/operations.
 - No operator should be allowed in machine's until they have been brought before the Alliance, and approved by them, and after meeting whatever qualifications the Alliance decides are required.
 - Steve pointed out that there is a Grooming handbook that has been provided to all the clubs detailing everything that Lance has described.
 - Heath says that he has never seen it, and he operates for the Ridge club a lot.
 - Lance also suggested that the Alliance be run more like the business that it is.
 - He pointed out that a \$63,000 capital purchase is a tremendous expense to be undertaken without first creating a committee, and discussing it with the clubs and soliciting input.
 - Had this been done prior to this purchase, the Alliance might've had the input Lance provided tonight, and likely not have placed a down payment on a machine that probably won't solve the problems the Alliance is hoping to correct with this purchase.
 - A proper committee would contain different viewpoints and would allow for objective viewpoints that would challenge, and answer the tough questions.
 - Terry pointed out that the club members present at the last Alliance meeting, and therefore available to weigh in on this decision, were the usual attendees, with exception to 3 members present from just two out of the 6 clubs.
 - Two of these members went to view the machine in question and provided first hand input.
 - They both also regularly operate the Ridge club DX.
- Steve looked at battery operated chain saws that could be used in the groomer cab, and not need to worry about gas.
 - Lance said that we should get the charger for the tractor right away, if we purchase this...
- Lance asked if we have any wants as a club?
 - Terry suggested that we ask to knock down the cattle ruts on Kohlmeier's as a future trail option to solve the need to wait for Stello to get his corn out each year.
 - We could ask Doc about moving the trail up top.
 - Mount the business and intersection signs to the trailers and leave them out when trailers are set for the year.
 - He would like the Alliance to approve any new groomer operators.
 - They should be vetted.

- We should have a list of approved operators, and only those operators until any new ones are approved by the Alliance.
- He feels strongly that the tractor shouldn't ever be sitting. The main arteries should be done regularly and first.
 - Go when it's cold/conditions optimum for grooming.
- Steve pointed out that Lance's ideas need to be discussed at the Alliance meeting, as some members of the Alliance have been opposed to too much grooming and where the tractor can or cannot go.
- He emailed the GPS tracking system for the groomers to see if we could add a sign at the trailhead stating that a groomer is on the trail to allow for better safety and notify users that a groomer is on that section of trail.
 - They are sure that they can do it, they just need to decide how.

Upcoming Events

- January 23rd ATV ride from Stevenstown to Burr Oak to Mindoro.
- Onalaska Club's CMN Fundraiser, the second weekend in February.
- Christmas Party/Spring Fling will be held in March again, if possible.

Motion to adjourn at : Made by: Jason

Seconded by: Kyle

- Motion Carried

Next Meeting: January 28th, 2021, 7pm at Westview