

**SnoTRAC Board Meeting  
August 17, 2001  
Final Minutes**

Meeting commenced at 9:30 a.m. quorum present

**Committee members present:**

John Johnston - North Pole  
Marianne Beckham - Anchorage  
Mark Wilke – Juneau

Greg Barclay - Soldotna  
Christine Noakes - Big Lake

**Committee members absent:**

Kenton Bloom – Homer  
Frank Woods – Dillingham  
Craig Seibert – Trapper Creek

Bruce Richter – Anchorage  
Lee Johnson – TRAAK Board liaison

**Staff present:** Jim Renkert, Ron Crenshaw, Shannon Tucker, and Kim Kruse

**Visitors:** Albert Larson (Present for Frank Woods III), Sarah Wilson-Doyle (Land Design North), Howard Davis (Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers)

Minutes for the April 6, 2001 meeting were approved as published.

Agenda modified for conflict of interest. There are no proxies or amendments.

**Conflict of Interests:**

John Johnson had a conflict of interest with both the Fairnet grant and the Fairbanks Police Department grant. Although he is not directly involved with these grants, he feels that some conflict of interest is present. He will not be voting on these projects.

Christine Noakes had a direct conflict of interest with the Backcountry Avalance Awareness & Response Team. She will not be voting on this grant.

Greg Barclay had a direct conflict of interest with the Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers grant. He will not be voting on that grant.

**Staff Reports:**

Jim announced that he has received word that Bruce Richter is resigning from the SnoTRAC committee. ASRA will be asked to submit candidates for appointment to fill Bruce's seat.

**2001 Snowmobile Grants Status**

Caribou Cabin Hoppers grant will be closed out as soon as the state generates a check. The Chatanika Community Council Grant (Trail Maintenance Equipment) is closed out. Backcountry Avalanche Awareness & Response is submitting a progress report. Upon approval the grant will be closed out. Kotlik did not submit a grant agreement; their grant will be expiring next month. The Fairbanks Snow Travelers has submitted a progress report, but further clarification is needed in accounting before the grant can be processed.

### **2000 Snowmobile Grants Status**

Point McKenzie Trailhead submitted a request for reimbursement that is being reviewed. The City of Wasilla Trail grant is in litigation with some of the landowners in Wasilla. It may be some time before these issues are resolved. For their Trail Grooming grant, the City of Wasilla groomed once last year and submitted a progress report in June. The accounting department is reviewing the report for approval. The Sleeping Lady Trail has also submitted receipts and a progress report that are being reviewed. The Mountaineering Club of Alaska's grant for the Eklutna Cabin is almost finished. Their grant expires in March, but their progress report is expected at the close of this year's construction season.

### **Administration Financial Report**

Two hundred thousand (\$200,000) was appropriated. The appropriation breaks down into 69% Acquisition, Development and Maintenance, 17% Safety and Education, 14% for administration.

### **Travel Reimbursements**

Jim Renkert collected the signed travel authorization and travel reimbursement forms for reimbursement.

### **Alaska Trail Symposium (September 21-22)**

Ron Crenshaw suggested that there be a SnoTRAC booth at the Symposium. Board members are asked to attend the meeting for at least two days. All board members are registered. A number of rooms have been reserved for various meetings and workshops. A suite is being made available for a SnoTRAC reception and for a short SnoTRAC committee.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Sarah Wilson-Doyle from Land Design North presented a report on the "Winter Transportation Study" that they have been contracted to do by the Department of Transportation. Ms. Doyle also presented a flyer on snowmobile safety laws, rules and regulations that is to be distributed statewide. The main focus of the research was education and safety. DOT has been focused on solving the right-of-way problems, but the research has been inconclusive. Discussion followed regarding conflicting state statutes regarding operating motor vehicles.

### **2002 Grant Application Ranking:**

*Proposal #1* - Trail to Kintanga : Native Village of Savoonga. Discussion on the qualification of the grant included the lack of legal access information. The grant also had no letters of support and a score well below the minimum. **Score: 34**

*Proposal #2* - Lake Louise Recreational Trail Survey - Phase II. Lake Louise Snowmachine Club. The main point of discussion entailed categorizing the grant as an acquisition grant, the work that was completed the previous year and the application. **Score: 85**

*Proposal #3* - Nodwell Groom. Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers. Discussion on the qualifications of the grant. Prior grants have been awarded to Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers. **Score: 85**

*Proposal #4* - Tesoro Iron Dog 2000. Iron Dog, Inc. Discussion on the qualifications of the grant. The issues of food (1/3 of the total grant request), legal access and signage were discussed. Food expenses do not qualify as a grant expense. Legal access concerns at the beginning of the trail off Big Lake were raised. **DQ**

*Proposal #5* - Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail Maintenance. Interior Trail Grooming. The trail is one of the most used trails in the interior. The need for maintenance was agreed upon. **Score: 78**

*Proposal #6* -OTC Winter Trail Project. Ohogamiut Traditional Council. The board discussed usage. **Score: 73**

SnoTRAC Meeting  
August 17, 2001

*Proposal #7 - Bear Creek Trail Staking. Native Village of Koyuk. Discussion on the qualifications of the grant. The board came to agreement that the grant should have been a safety grant instead of an education grant. No match and non-responsive on legal access* **Score: DQ**

*Proposal #8 - St. Michael Trail Shelter. Native Village of St. Michael. Discussion about the qualification of the grant.* **Score: 73**

*Proposal #9 - South Fork Montana Creek Trail Improvements & Maintenance. Montana Creek Motor Musers: Discussion on the qualifications of the grant. No support, Right-a-way information absent and no cost benefit summary. Below minimum score.* **Score: 45**

*Proposal #10 - Amphitheater Mountains Trail Grooming. Denali Highway Trail Club, Inc: Discussion on the qualification of the grant included the lack of right-of-way information and letters of support. Legal access concerns were raised.* **Score: 57 DQ**

*Proposal #11 - Kroto Creek Snowmobile Trailhead Sanitation & Safety Project. Mat-Su / Copper River Area Office Alaska State Parks. Discussion on the need for letters of support from both the users and local business.* **Score: 59**

**Working Lunch: Discussion about Proposal #11 over lunch**

*Proposal #12 - Igloo Rescue & Training: Travis Butch Recer. Brief discussion on the grant. Did not meet the minimum score.* **Score: 12**

*Proposal #13 - Broad Pass Rescue & Recovery. Donna Recer. Brief discussion on the grant. Did not meet the minimum score.* **Score: 14**

*Proposal #14 - Snowmobile & Avalanche Safety Course. Southeast Alaska Outdoor Recreation. Discussion on the grant requirements.* **Score: 63**

*Proposal #15 – Fairbanks Northstar Borough Wide Safety & Education Program. Fairbanks Police Department & Fairbanks Snow Travelers. Discussion on the grant requirements and the need for curriculum in this area that is consistent. This grant application is very impressive with lots of support and community benefit. Could be a model grant application.* **Score: 97**

*Proposal #16 - Trail Marker Project. North Slope Borough. The grant applicant was a government agency. The group discussed the general qualifications.* **Score: 71**

*Proposal #17- Backcountry Avalanche Awareness & Response Team. Discussion on the grant included excellent letters of support, documentation and talk about education and awareness of avalanches in the area.* **Score: 93**

*Proposal #18 - Shaktoolik Snowmobile Safety & Awareness Project. Native Village of Shaktoolik/ Shaktoolik Transportation Dept. Discussion on the grant requirements: The camera, potluck, food and some transportation are provided by the grantee as part of the matching requirement. The grant is a supplement to a project funded by the native village.* **Score: 73**

*Proposal #19 - Snowmobile Safety: Curyung Tribal Council. Discussion of the grant. The paperwork was insufficient to approve the grant. Disqualified for insufficient information. The numbers also came in below the minimum requirements.* **Score: 47**

**Meeting recessed for a break @ 1:20 p.m.**  
**Meeting reconvened @ 1:35 p.m.**

*Proposal #20* -Snowmobile Avalanche Safety Education. Southeast Alaska Avalanche Center. Discussion about the need for two funded instructors. One instructor is for the motorized individuals and the other instructor is to stay with the individuals on foot. This raised the question of who should fund this grant. The individuals on foot may have qualified for a Trail and Recreation Grant. It was determined that the grant did qualify. **Score: 70**

*Proposal #21* – FairNet in Fairbanks, Standardized State Snowmobile Training & Education Program. The grant package included all pertinent budgets and information. The project is an education-based project that will help to develop curriculum in the state that promotes safety and education. The intent of the booklet is widespread distribution and education. The state will need to determine the legality of the copyright on the book. **Score: 78**

*Proposal #22* - Snow Sense for Snowmachiners: Alaska Mt. Safety Center, Inc: Discussion on the copyright of educational material, including books, videos and other materials. **Score: 96**

**Meeting Recessed for a break @ 2:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting reconvened @ 2:40 p.m.**

Grant applications #4 and #10 (Tesoro Iron Dog 2000 and Amphitheater Mountains Trail Grooming) were disqualified for legal access issues.

**Funded Grants:**

*Acquisition, Development & Maintenance Projects*

1. Lake Louise Recreational Trail Survey Phase II	\$15,000.00	
2. Nodwell Groom	\$15,000.00	
3. Chena Hot Springs Winter Trail Maintenance	\$15,000.00	
4. OTC Winter Trails Project	\$ 8,990.00	
5. St. Michael Trail Shelter	\$14,848.00	
6. North Slope Borough Trail Marker Project	\$15,000.00	
7. Kroto Creek Snowmobile Trailhead Sanitation	<u>\$ 9,800.00</u>	
		\$ 93,638.00

*Safety and Education*

1. Fairbanks Borough Wide Safety & Education Program	\$15,000.00	
2. Book Snow Sense for Snowmachiners	\$15,000.00	
3. Back Country Avalanche Awareness & Response Team	\$15,000.00	
4. Fairnet Standardized State Snowmobile Training & Education	\$ 4,350.00	
5. Shaktoolik Snowmobile Safety and Awareness Project	\$ 8,399.00	
6. Southeast Snowmobile Avalanche/Safety Education	\$10,000.00	
7. Ketchikan Snowmobile & Avalanche Safety Course	<u>\$ 5,765.00</u>	
		<u>\$ 73,514.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$167,152.00</u>

Proposed New Logo - Logo not available

**Date and Agenda for Next Meeting:**

John Johnston, Chair is resigning on October 31,2002. Agenda items for next meeting are: logo, status of past grants and accounting, filling vacant positions, list of grants awarded for 2002. Next meeting is at the Alaska Trails Symposium September 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Final date and time of meeting at the conference to be determined.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm**