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TRANSCRIPT OF SnowTRAC PROGRAM MEETING

ATWOOD BUILDING

ROOM 602

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

May 17, 2012

I N D E X

APPEARANCES :

DARCY HARRIS

CINDY HITE

STEVE NEEL

JUSTIN WHOLEY

SALLY DAVIES

JOHN SCUDDER

JOE GAUNA

ED FOGELS

ESTER TEMPLE

CLAIRE LECLAIR

RAY BAKER

MARK WILKE

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 11:00 a.m.

3 (On record)

4 MS. HARRIS: If you could just state your name quickly
5 before you have something to say, that would really help our
6 person who's taking minutes.

7 MS. HITE: Cindy Hite. Darcy, could you please let us
8 know who's in the room?

9 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely. That's -- you got it, that's
10 our next step here. So we're just going to do a quick
11 introduction around the room so that the folks on the phone
12 will also know and I'll go ahead and start. Darcy Harris,
13 Trails Program Coordinator.

14 MR. NEEL: Steve Neel, Grant Administrator.

15 MR. WHOLEY: Justin Wholey, Resource Specialist with the
16 trails program.

17 MS. DAVIES: Sally Davies, Grants Accounting.

18 MR. SCUDDER: John Scudder, Snow TRAC.

19 MR. GAUNA: Joe Gauna, Snow TRAC.

20 MR. FOGELS: Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner of the
21 Department of Natural Resources.

22 MS. TEMPLE: Ester Temple, Special Assistant to the
23 Commissioner.

24 MS. LECLAIR: Claire LeClair, Deputy Director, Chief of
25 Field Operations for State Parks.

1 MR. BAKER: Ray Baker, Accu-Type Depositions.

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the last
3 one.

4 MR. BAKER: My name's Ray Baker, I'm with Accu-type
5 Depositions, I'll be recording the meeting today.

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.

7 MS. HARRIS: Okay, great.

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) again Darcy, is
9 this a meeting -- is this with the public, is this considered
10 an official Snow TRAC meeting?

11 MR. WILKE: I'd like to answer that, if I could, Darcy?

12 MS. HARRIS: Yes, is this Mark?

13 MR. WILKE: This is Mark. I don't believe this would be
14 an official Snow TRAC meeting because I believe an official
15 Snow TRAC meeting would be called by the board.

16 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

17 MR. WILKE: I believe -- I would consider this an
18 informational meeting, so no motions, no decisions.....

19 MS. HARRIS: Right.

20 MR. WILKE:no formal actions are (indiscernible -
21 cough).

22 MS. HARRIS: Yeah, I think that's a correct assessment,
23 Mark. We're not planning on making any formal decisions
24 today. So did those folks online get an agenda for the
25 meeting? I sent it out to everybody I could remember.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: I got it.

2 MS. HARRIS: Okay. If you have any questions, we can
3 help you move along. So I'm going to pass it over for --
4 beginning with our Deputy Commissioner, Ed Fogels here.

5 MR. FOGELS: Thank you, everybody. Again, this is Ed
6 Fogels, I'm Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Natural
7 Resources and I want to thank everyone for being here. I want
8 to thank the members of the Snow TRAC board for serving and
9 advising the department on these issues.

10 I guess, first off, I just got back into town from kind
11 of a trip to Canada, so I'm only going to be able to be here
12 for the first 30 minutes of the meeting, and so my goal is to
13 sort of just kind of kick it off and give you my read on what
14 I think is happening and what should happen and then with me
15 is Ester Temple, Special Assistant to Commissioner Sullivan
16 who will be here for the whole meeting, (indiscernible) just
17 kind of listen and report back. Anyway, so I apologize in
18 advance for having to only spend 30 minutes with you all.

19 So anyway, and also, one of the reasons I'm here is
20 because Director Ben Ellis is out of state and was unable to
21 even call into this, so he asked me to sit in for him. I want
22 to just kind of start also by saying that I've sort of read
23 some of the correspondence, some of the papers that --
24 information that Darcy sent around, so I kind of read all
25 that, I have a feel for what's going on, but I don't know any

1 of the details, so I'm going to let Ben work with the board to
2 try and move forward and then I will kind of pay attention,
3 maybe come to some of the future meetings and see how things
4 evolve.

5 But basically, as I understand it, Director Ellis and
6 his staff have identified some adjustments that they would
7 like to make to the Snow TRAC program. Darcy sent out some
8 materials that sort of outline their view of the problems and
9 some potential solutions. I'd like to stress that nothing has
10 been decided by the Commissioner's Office or by Director Ellis
11 at this time. This was intended to be a starting point for
12 discussion, okay, and there was a dartboard that was put up by
13 Darcy to start throwing darts at. And so just remember that
14 we want to have a discussion with the board, we want the
15 board's advice on if and what -- if we need to make changes,
16 what those changes should be. So just because they're kind of
17 some specific proposals on here, again, nothing's been decided
18 and it's a total open discussion as far as I'm concerned and
19 as far as Director Ellis's concern.

20 So I guess what -- when I look at some of this material,
21 I kind of -- I'm trying to frame the problems, okay? What are
22 the problems we're trying to fix? Are they problems, do we
23 actually need to fix anything, okay? Me, I'd want to be
24 convinced that there are actually problems, so that should be
25 the first discussion and I think I'd be asking Darcy and

1 Director Ellis to kind of explain to me very clearly so they
2 can convince me there are actually problems that need to be
3 fixed here. If they're not, then why bother, okay?

4 I'm kind of looking at one problem that I see that
5 probably is at the top that it's kind of hard to argue with at
6 this point and that's less money, okay? So we're losing some
7 of the funding, there's a bunch of potential solutions that
8 could be out there. I mean, Darcy's outlined some on this
9 paper, but there are others and it would be good to have that
10 discussion. I think that's one problem that everyone can
11 agree that we are facing.

12 There are other problems that I've heard about, you
13 know, are the contracts being fulfilled or is the grooming
14 being done. I need to be convinced that's actually a problem.
15 Then, you know, how do we make sure that contracts are being
16 fulfilled. You know, there are -- I mean, it seems to me you
17 can always improve the way that's done, so there's probably
18 improved wording and stipulations and stuff that may be a no
19 brainer, whether we actually need to send stuff out on site
20 and spend more time. That's a whole other issue, you know, I
21 need the board's advice on and the director would like the
22 board's advice on. That may or may not be one of the
23 solutions when we come down to it because that costs money and
24 that takes money from other activities, so.

25 So again, I would urge you -- what I would ask is that

1 you guys start with a discussion of the problems, what are the
2 problems, and then you know, start attacking them one at a
3 time and figuring out, you know, if you all agree that there
4 is an issue, what do we need? I mean, it's clear to me that
5 we need to make sure that everybody in the State of Alaska has
6 an opportunity to apply for this money and I know that the --
7 we've got shrinking money, so if we're trying to broaden the
8 number of people that apply for this stuff, presents it's own
9 problems, right?

10 So -- but bottom line is that there has to be a program
11 for all of Alaskans whether they're in Southeast, the Mat-Su
12 or out in Bethel somewhere, right? So that's real important
13 to me and Commissioner Sullivan on -- we -- just as a bit of
14 an aside that that's related, we have been -- people have been
15 talking to us about possibly looking at maybe another program
16 that's parallel to this for ATVs. And so we've been trying to
17 figure out if that's worth advancing. There's a lot of pluses
18 to getting money somewhere that we would have to build hard
19 ATV trails around the state. I think I've mentioned this
20 before, but myself and Commissioner Sullivan, we'd like to
21 finish our terms here and be able to point to a mileage number
22 somewhere. There are X more miles of groomed snowmobile
23 trails and hard ATV trails in Alaska. We would really like to
24 increase that number significantly if we can.

25 And so if we're going to be proposing at some point a

1 program and if it's to work, I mean, it has to be clear that,
2 you know, all Alaskans will benefit from that whether they're
3 in the Mat-Su or in Fairbanks or villages, connector trails
4 between villages, right? That has to be part of the deal, so
5 those are all some of the bigger picture ideas that I have in
6 my notes. And so I guess with that, I'd turn it back to Darcy
7 to run this meeting and I know there's some emotional feelings
8 about some of this stuff. I'm -- I just -- I ask you to just
9 -- just to roll up your sleeves, you know, be polite. Darcy
10 was doing her best to try and frame some ideas for you to work
11 with that are just ideas and let's try and see if we can make
12 the Snow TRAC program a better program. That's really the
13 bottom line I don't think anyone can argue with.

14 So with that, I guess I turn it back to Darcy and let
15 you guys continue and I'll sit here for another 15 or so
16 minutes, but then I'll have to leave, I apologize for that.

17 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Ed, appreciate all your thoughts
18 there. Okay. Did somebody else join us, I heard another call
19 in there? Somebody new? Maybe not, maybe somebody just does
20 want (indiscernible). Okay.

21 So the main points that we really want to stress here
22 are that we feel as are very important for administering the
23 snowmobile trails grant program, we need to be accountable for
24 state funds, we should have equitable distribution of the
25 snowmobile registration fees and the fact that the federal

1 funding that has been used in the past to supplement the
2 program will be unavailable in the future. We've been
3 fortunate in the past to have some recreational trails program
4 grant money to be able to put into the grooming program or the
5 snowmachine -- the snowmobile trails grant program for
6 grooming or other projects.

7 And as an example, in the 2011/2012, we had a total of
8 \$328,706 that was from the registration fees and from some
9 recreational trails grant program money that was used for the
10 Snow TRAC program. In the 2012/2013, we won't have any of the
11 recreational trails program money, but we -- so we will just
12 have the registration money, which will be approximately
13 between \$185,000 and \$200,000, so it's -- we're going to --
14 one issue that I see that's very important is that we have
15 less money to work with, so we need to adjust and think about
16 what that's going to mean to the program and how we can
17 continue to have a, you know, important and meaningful
18 projects come out of the program, but with reduced funds.

19 So the solutions that I proposed after identifying what
20 I saw and that we, as the staff in the Parks Office saw as
21 problems that should be adjusted to make the program better, I
22 threw out some ideas that could potentially solve these
23 problems. They are one solution to solve some of the
24 problems. It is important to our director that we, in some
25 way, not have the state -- to have parks be the number one

1 supporter for the grooming program and for this program. And
2 so that is something that we're working on ideas and we're
3 working on tools to -- to make that possible, whether it's a
4 match program, that is one solution, or if there are other
5 good solutions out there, that's one of the reasons why we're
6 bringing it to the board because we really like people's
7 ideas, but it's something that we, I think, as a division are
8 trying to move away as the primary funder for a program, in
9 particular, because at the moment, with the -- it's growing.
10 We have more demand for more trails to be groomed and I think
11 that maybe things could be better and if we're not doing an
12 excellent grooming program with the amount of money that we
13 have had in the past, what can we do to have an excellent
14 program?

15 Maybe that means getting donations from other groups,
16 maybe that means pulling in our -- ourselves a little bit and
17 making the program a little bit smaller and diversifying funds
18 to other projects. I'm not sure what exactly would be the
19 best solution, but I'd like to have -- I'd like to see this
20 program be an excellent program and however we get there, I'd
21 like to see it be accountable, I'd like to see us really
22 distribute the funds to a wide variety of needs and uses
23 around the state. Safety and education or whatever is needed
24 and as well as grooming. It's a very small budget, so we have
25 to kind of pick and choose what we're going to spend it on. I

1 wish we had a bottomless budget or a budget like some of the
2 other states have, but we have this to work with, so let's --
3 let's try to make it a really good program and we can do that
4 together with your expertise, so I'm going to start that out.

5 Ed, do you have any thoughts, I know you're going to
6 have to leave. Are there anymore thoughts on that initial --
7 okay.

8 MR. FOGELS: No, I think that's fine.

9 MR. HARRIS: I don't mean to put you on the spot,
10 but.....

11 MR. FOGELS: Yeah, I mean, how you structure the meeting
12 to get everyone's input's.....

13 MS. HARRIS: Sure.

14 MR. FOGELS:going to be, you know, how you guys
15 want to handle it.....

16 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh, okay.

17 MR. FOGELS:but yeah. I mean, and.....

18 MR. MORRISON: And this is Andy Morrison?

19 MS. HARRIS: Yes, Andy.

20 MR. MORRISON: One of the first questions I have is just
21 in the fact that we're looking -- you said less funding from
22 rec trails in the future or no funding for rec trails in the
23 future. And correct me if I'm wrong, I thought it was a
24 shortfall, just a temporary shortfall because of the way the
25 feds had calculated the amount that the state gets. As far as

1 I know, there's no like standing resolution to eliminate the
2 funding from Ortab (ph) to Snow TRAC.

3 MR. NEEL: This is Steve speaking. You're correct,
4 Andy, in that there's -- that hasn't been severed. We're
5 looking at one -- and I don't want to take up a lot of time
6 with the history of the rec trails program, but there was no
7 funding for FY12 for the Snow TRAC and they money from FY11,
8 and right now, since there is no new highway bill in Congress,
9 there is no guaranteed rec trail money for FY13 for anything
10 at the moment. Now they may put another CR -- continuing
11 resolution in that gives us money for FY13, but at -- when I
12 talked to the federal highway's director for Alaska, he had no
13 idea if that was going to happen or not or whether they were
14 going to come up with something, so at this moment, I -- you
15 know, there is no rec trail money other than what Bill had set
16 aside with FY11 dollars to put into Snow TRAC.

17 And there might be some left over from this year, I
18 mean, it could be \$10,000, \$15,000, maybe at most, that leaks
19 into -- that we don't use, but we're not going to have
20 anywhere near what we've had for the last couple years to
21 supplement the registration fees.

22 MR. MORRISON: And I'm trying to remember about how much
23 that was. Was it 50 or 100, I was trying to remember.

24 MR. NEEL: Well, we had -- originally for FY11, we had
25 \$174,000 and then federal highways took \$45,000 of that away

1 leaving us with about \$125,000 or so and we've already used up
2 about \$110,000 or so of that for this year due to the increase
3 in snowfall.

4 And the exact amounts are going to change or vary a
5 little bit, but that's pretty close.

6 MR. MORRISON: You mean Snow TRAC using Ortab (ph)
7 money?

8 MR. NEEL: Using -- yeah, rec trail money that was
9 dedicated motorized that Bill had put aside for Snow TRAC
10 grooming.

11 MR. FOGELS: Darcy, can I just add real quick that.....

12 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely.

13 MR. FOGELS: This is Ed Fogels again, I just want to
14 make one point here that we're not just giving up on all this
15 too. I mean, Director Ellis is back in D.C. meeting with
16 people to express Alaska's support for continuing this program
17 and other programs, so you know, I mean, we are working on
18 trying.....

19 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely.

20 MR. FOGELS:to get additional funding, so.

21 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. That's a good point,
22 absolutely. So and the registration -- this is Darcy Harris
23 again. Snowmachine registration fees will vary every year a
24 little bit, but typically are about -- after we take off some
25 money for administration, which covers the Snow TRAC meetings

1 and some -- a few inspections and things like that, we have
2 around \$200,000, and so that's been the average roughly.

3 And so in the past, we've enjoyed some extra funding
4 from the recreational trails program, which will go to --
5 there's usually a group of groomers that will put in
6 applications and then a couple other applications will come in
7 for safety and education, the Iron Dog and some avalanche
8 safety training.

9 So one of my concerns is that with just the registration
10 fees, that the program will not have enough money to sustain
11 the grooming pool at its current rate of expenditure and that
12 doesn't allow for any additional projects to be included.
13 Like we have less -- we'll have less money this year than was
14 spent just on grooming last year and that doesn't include
15 safety for the Iron Dog or any other safety and education
16 projects or any shelter cabins or trail marking projects or
17 anything else.

18 So that's a concern because we won't have enough -- I
19 mean, we might have another heavy snow year, we don't know,
20 that's never predictable, but so that's one of my concerns.

21 And looking back at the last several years and Steve has
22 done a lot of work as well looking at all the minutes and
23 reading all the minutes from the last meetings over the last
24 several years and looking at applications that came in. And
25 we would get, on occasion, up to two dozen grant applications

1 for various projects throughout the state. Safety cabin in
2 Shaktoolik and trail marking in a whole bunch of different
3 places and education programs out in the west and up north and
4 those applications have really dwindled off as the grooming
5 pool has continued to get stronger. And I -- what I'd like to
6 see is that funding get more -- have a little more -- a few
7 more user groups in there because it's -- there's so much that
8 we could do with this program, so many needs to education and
9 safety and trail marking that would really benefit the
10 snowmachine community. And although the grooming definitely
11 benefits the snowmachine community, there are other things as
12 well.

13 So that's one thing that I noticed that I would like to
14 have the money be more diversified. And if we did have more
15 money being spread out throughout the state, this would
16 encourage, theoretically, more people to register their
17 machines because then they would see that money coming back to
18 their communities.

19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Darcy, you're breaking up.

20 MS. HARRIS: Oh, sorry.

21 MR. FOGELS: There's someone else making noise on the
22 system that is interfering with the mic.

23 MS. HARRIS: Can you hear me now?

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

25 MS. HARRIS: Okay, great.

1 MR. FOGELS: Yeah, whoever's typing online, could you
2 please mute your phone? Thank you.

3 MS. HARRIS: So -- and I think we've all agreed, and I
4 know there's been discussion at previous meetings before my
5 time that there needs to be some kind of an oversight trail
6 inspection program and I know that Cindy and I have talked
7 about having volunteer groups doing it, different snowmachine
8 clubs getting together and doing that. That would -- I think
9 it's important if we did employ that to have some kind of an
10 infrastructure that then these volunteers could work within.
11 I do think this also poses some questions and some things we
12 would really have to work out because of potential conflicts
13 that would arise, so we need to have some strict
14 infrastructure for those volunteers to work within, but that
15 could be a great resource because obviously, those volunteers
16 from the snowmachine clubs would be -- have a valid interest
17 in the trails they were inspecting.

18 At the moment, there are not snowmachine trail standards
19 as far as grooming goes and that would be something else that
20 I know you guys have talked about in your meetings that would
21 need to be set, so those volunteers would have a way to gauge
22 what they saw out in the field.

23 And the thing that -- if we did have volunteers, that
24 would be an excellent way to use people's time and when it
25 comes to funding from our office to go out and do trail

1 inspections, we have the one pot of money that comes -- that
2 the Snow TRAC meetings come out of and our work on say these
3 meetings and Sally's work and Steve's work on grants. All
4 that comes out of that 12 percent, but also the trail
5 inspections come out of that pot of money and I know that
6 there has been limited -- definitely there is limited funds to
7 do that and also limited personnel.

8 So one of the things that Ben and I were thinking that
9 would be a way to solve that problem would be to make sure
10 that there was inspection money taken out of the funds that we
11 could then use for inspections of the grooming and have
12 grooming and trail inspections come out of that and maybe have
13 some more standardized grooming.

14 (Whispered conversation)

15 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Ed.

16 MR. WILKE: Darcy, this is Mark.

17 MS. HARRIS: Yes, Mark.

18 MR. WILKE: I guess we're starting off on the topic of
19 trail inspections since we've been going that way for just a
20 few minutes here. I think -- I have a little bit of a problem
21 with volunteers doing the trail inspections, particularly if
22 we're finding the situation which somebody hasn't been meeting
23 the obligations of the contracts.

24 MS. HARRIS: Right.

25 MR. WILKE: I just wonder if what -- you know, what

1 authority of volunteers trail report would have in taking
2 action against somebody not meeting the terms of the contract.

3 MS. HARRIS: No, I totally agree with you, Mark, that's
4 -- that is definitely one of the issues that we would have to
5 think about and -- you know, if we have a contract with a
6 groomer, then we have -- and I'm not as familiar with maybe
7 people who have a little more familiar -- Claire, you probably
8 do, with if we have competing interests, we would go to a
9 request for proposal, we had that meeting, which would give us
10 some kind of authority to then -- if they weren't meeting
11 contractual agreements, we could discuss that with them and
12 say you're out of compliance.

13 But without that, do we have authority to go -- if we
14 have a contract with them, and I know that Teri administers a
15 lot of contracts and works really hard with that every year.
16 And I do think we maybe should refine -- it's getting a little
17 off topic, but we need to refine those contracts a little
18 better to be very specific.

19 MS. LECLAIR: Well, the question is, do you have --
20 would the state have some way to clearly enforce standards in
21 a grant versus a contract and a grant agreement is not
22 enforceable in the field, whereas, a contract, you know, the
23 state could not pay a contractor if they don't fulfill -- if
24 they don't do the work that they signed up to do on the
25 contract.

1 But once a grant is -- and maybe Teri, correct me, or
2 Karlyn, you're on the line as well, but my understanding is
3 once a grant is allocated to a group, that's it and then they
4 report at the end, but there's no real teeth to it, there's no
5 way to enforce the -- them providing the work that they say
6 they will.....

7 MS. HARRIS: Right.

8 MS. LECLAIR:into the grant.

9 MS. HERRERA: And this is Karlyn Herrera and
10 (indiscernible) that's a correct assessment.

11 MS. LECLAIR: Okay, thanks.

12 MR. MORRISON: Andy Morrison. I got a chance to check
13 out a lot of the areas, Lake Louise, Eureka, I do some riding
14 up in the Mat-Su a little bit too and I mostly see really
15 dedicated volunteers that.....

16 MS. HARRIS: Oh sure.

17 MR. MORRISON:are really passionate about grooming
18 trails. I don't really see or meet too many people that are
19 just trying to work the system and it almost seems like
20 they're putting in more effort than they're probably getting
21 paid for in most cases.

22 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely.

23 MR. MORRISON: And you could talk about this trail
24 inspections, and you know -- but I don't think you want to
25 discourage that volunteerism and.....

1 MS. HARRIS: No, no.

2 MR. MORRISON:that (indiscernible - up here.

3 MS. HARRIS: I agree with you, Andy, and that's what
4 I've -- from talking with you in the past, I understand and I
5 believe that the volunteers certainly volunteering their time
6 is a really -- it's important to them and it helps.....

7 MR. LUTH: This is Bill Luth.

8 MS. HARRIS:the community.

9 MR. LUTH: I just wanted to add in on that note a little
10 bit.

11 MS. HARRIS: Yeah.

12 MR. LUTH: That I think if we use the clubs to do base
13 inspection and if they find that there's a problem and refer
14 it to the state, that the state could take, at that point, and
15 have an official inspection of a problem area. But you're
16 going to find that most of our people that are out there
17 grooming, I have not really seen anything in the past year
18 that has been a problem.

19 MS. HARRIS: Right.

20 MR. LUTH: They're putting in way more hours than
21 they're billing out for and putting in a lot more time and
22 effort than I have seen in the past and it's just amazing the
23 amount of grooming getting done with the little amount of
24 funds that we are providing at this point.

25 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

1 MR. LUTH: It's -- you know, to have this done by an
2 actual contractor on a regular basis would cost well over a
3 million dollars in the effort that's been put out in the last
4 year.

5 MS. HARRIS: Right. And I.....

6 MR. LUTH: Yeah, Andy, I'd have to agree with that
7 statement again too. A lot of times, it seems like the clubs
8 and the groomers, they know if the trail is bumpy, they know
9 if they need a few more signs. A lot of times, they just need
10 signs sent to them, they need a little extra help with
11 volunteers to get out and put them up and things like that.
12 It's not -- I don't think it's a huge problem, I think most of
13 them know what their trails are like.

14 MS. HARRIS: Right.

15 MR. LUTH: And (indiscernible).

16 MS. HARRIS: This is Darcy again. I have gotten
17 numerous calls this year from various places around the state
18 about -- with people with concerns, people from equipment
19 freighters -- or I mean, supply freighters out on the Yenta
20 and different people who use the Denali Highway on -- the
21 groom trails on the Denali Highway and various other places
22 who are very concerned that the trails weren't groomed to any
23 kind of standard or at all and I realize we had very -- we had
24 tough conditions this year. There was a lot of snow and wind
25 and I know that the conditions were tough and hard to keep up

1 with I'm sure.

2 But I -- it's really hard for me to ignore people
3 calling me and saying hey, this trail never got groomed this
4 year and I go back and look at the contract, and sure enough,
5 that contract's fully paid. And we don't have any people to
6 go out and say hey, this was done or this wasn't done and so
7 it's just -- it's this problem that I'm trying to manage and
8 I'm not exactly sure how we can solve that yet, but I know
9 that there are parts of the snowmachining community that are
10 really unhappy with the grooming program as it stands.

11 MR. CROSBY: Yeah, Darcy, this is Randy Crosby, I'd like
12 to interject if I could?

13 MS. HARRIS: thank you.

14 MR. CROSBY: First of all, we would need access to --
15 what (indiscernible) said in these phone calls, I mean, we
16 need some more documentation other than, you know, I received
17 some phone calls, so that we can analyze what is being said
18 and see if the complaints are legitimate or not.

19 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

20 MR. CROSBY: And then as far as the trail inspections
21 and making sure everybody is responsible and everything, this
22 has been discussed at -- in depth in the past and the bottom
23 line is, is that you can groom a professional trail today and
24 do everything that was required and tomorrow, because of
25 weather, because of heavy trail use, because of a lot of

1 freighters or a lot of -- some big tour group, the trail, you
2 know, completely changes and now needs grooming again, but we
3 don't have the funds to go out there and groom
4 (indiscernible).

5 MS. HARRIS: Right.

6 MR. CROSBY: And then as far as the issue of not being
7 able to withhold payment if the job is not done, I've been
8 signing the contracts for years. I call them contracts,
9 they're grant agreements, it's the same thing in a business
10 sense and I provide the work first and then you get reimbursed
11 once the work is done. And so if a person isn't doing the
12 work and is yet getting paid, then they are in violation of,
13 you know, state laws. It's pretty well spelled out. I don't
14 see where, you know, that issue really needs to be dwelled on,
15 but if you just want to change the document from grant
16 agreement to contract to tighten something up, well then that
17 should be done without it costing any money or taking a lot of
18 time.

19 MS. HARRIS: Sure.

20 MR. CROSBY: And we employed a gentleman for two years
21 in a trail coordinator position to come up with standards, to
22 come up with, you know, some sort of framework to guide us
23 through this and we got nothing. And we bought this
24 snowmachine for him and where is that snowmachine today? That
25 snowmachine money came out of the Snow TRAC program, so a lot

1 of time and money have been spent up to this point by the
2 State of Alaska and now we're hearing the State of Alaska come
3 back and saying we need to do all this again and I just am at
4 a complete loss of words over this whole subject.

5 MS. HARRIS: Thank you for your input.

6 MR. ANDERSON: I agree with Randy, and this is Tinker.

7 MS. HARRIS: I think -- and Teri, you're on the line and
8 you're the one that deals most closely with those grooming
9 contracts and I know that.....

10 MS. ZELL: Yeah, I just -- I would like to just have a
11 little bit of input here. I know that we did have an issue
12 with one groomer. We got a call evidently or Darcy got a call
13 that this work wasn't being done, but you know, when I get
14 invoices from the club or whoever is doing the grooming, what
15 I'm looking for is if they -- first of all, their pictures say
16 a lot and I'm looking to make sure that they are billing for
17 what they were originally granted to do and make sure they're
18 not on trails that -- and billing for trails that haven't been
19 authorized. I look for time that it takes, you know, like oh
20 my goodness, last time this took 10 hours and now you're
21 saying it only took fives hours, what was the difference and
22 maybe I'll call somebody and ask them why was there such a big
23 difference here.

24 But like the one that we had complaints about, well,
25 this groomer could probably go through that trail system on a

1 daily basis, but it is such a high freight area that -- and
2 due to the snow and the wind conditions or whatever, there's
3 so many factors dealing with it that this particular trail
4 could be done on a daily basis and still somebody could
5 complaint about it because it's so heavily used.

6 MS. HARRIS: Right.

7 MS. ZELL: So I basically -- without any oversight in
8 the field, I have to take them at their word unless I see
9 something that's just way out of whack and then I call them
10 and I ask them what are you doing here?

11 MS. HARRIS: Teri, this is Darcy. On those contracts, I
12 know that I've looked at the applications and they might say
13 we'll groom this trail from here to here three times per month
14 and then they sign their name to their application. Do we
15 have a mileage and/or frequency component of the contracts
16 that they sign?

17 MS. ZELL: We have mileage and there should have been
18 frequency and I was just explaining to Wayne. On your
19 programmatic, sorry, changes on number seven, the last
20 sentence, it says the contract agreements are insufficient and
21 do not hold groomers accountable for the miles or frequency
22 outlined in the application process.

23 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

24 MS. ZELL: They are held accountable for the miles and I
25 check those miles to make sure that.....

1 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

2 MS. ZELL:what they're doing.

3 MS. HARRIS: Okay, good catch.

4 MS. ZELL: The frequency outline, my bad. When I set
5 these up this year, I did a cut and paste from the original
6 that was sent out and the frequencies did not get on there.
7 My fault. But I'm also watching for that to see how often
8 they do it.

9 We have another contractor that is supposed to be doing
10 from mile one to mile 150 and he's only sending in invoices
11 for mile one through mile 75 and the other 75 aren't never
12 getting billed for. So I call him up and find out well, he
13 can't do it because the wind is so strong, there's no reason
14 to be doing it because he can turn around and have to do it
15 all over again the next day. It just is impossible to get to.

16 MS. HARRIS: Right. Yeah, that makes sense.

17 MS. ZELL: A lot of give and take with these things and
18 it's all pretty much weather based.

19 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Teri, yeah, that makes a lot of
20 sense.

21 MR. LUTH: Yeah, I have to agree with Teri, being a
22 groomer on the ground, I've had times where I'd love to go out
23 and groom, but there's so much overflow you can't drag your
24 groomer through it or the snow is so darn deep that you got to
25 go out and pre pack it before you can take and go out and

1 groom it.

2 MS. HARRIS: Right.

3 MS. ZELL: And I'd also like to say one more thing that
4 was mentioned earlier. I get a lot of these invoices coming
5 through where the groomer has put down the trail that they've
6 groomed, how many hours, how many machines they put on it and
7 then in the far column, it says NC, no charge.

8 MR. LUTH: There's a lot of that.

9 MS. ZELL: They are doing a lot of that and so they're
10 already putting in a lot of their time and especially towards
11 the end of the season and people are running out of funds. I
12 see that end fee a lot more. They're doing it because they
13 know it needs to be done even though there's no money.

14 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

15 MR. LUTH: And with a broken shoulder.

16 MS. HARRIS: Right.

17 MR. NEEL: Is that Bill?

18 MS. HARRIS: Yes.

19 MR. ENOCHS: Steve Enochs in Fairbanks, I'd like to make
20 a comment, please.

21 MR. NEEL: Okay.

22 MS. HARRIS: Go ahead, Steve.

23 MR. ENOCHS: My comment is I'm glad that I live in
24 Fairbanks because we don't have all your grooming problems
25 that you have down in south central, but I do welcome the

1 comments about benefitting what limited resource we have for
2 all of Alaskans in all part of Alaska. I think that that's
3 something that's really lacking as I listen to all this poor
4 little groomers out there that just don't have enough money to
5 do it. All the grooming that's done up here is primarily done
6 voluntarily and they seem to do it just fine and I don't hear
7 any whining about the lack of funds up here or oversight
8 because we don't have that problem, so that's a good thing.

9 The other thing that I'd like to talk about is I also
10 welcome the anticipation of a short fall of funds to the
11 grooming or should I say the Snow TRAC funds because I think
12 it's about time that the Snow TRAC board and everybody
13 realize, go back to the origination of this program that was
14 poorly put together, I think, when Governor Knowles took over
15 and made this point of registration BS because this is what we
16 got now and instead of doing what we should be doing and
17 looking at ways -- I mean, personally, I'd like to see money
18 go towards improving trails and not necessarily grooming them,
19 but fixing them, repairing them and making them good so that
20 when wintertime comes around, we can actually go over them.
21 That would be a better use of funds in my opinion and marking
22 is certainly a good thing.

23 All this grooming stuff needs to go away. I think it --
24 I welcome the comments by Darcy on her letter, though I don't
25 know if I agree with all the options. I think there's a

1 couple of other options that need to be discussed in some
2 future, but really, this grooming stuff is nonsense. I mean,
3 I understand without throwing names out there, when you're
4 talking about the Denali Highway, I know that people try to do
5 their best. I've gone on the Denali Highway and I've seen
6 where it was groomed and it might have been groomed two hours
7 ago, but it's tough to tell now because of weather.

8 MS. HARRIS: Right. The winds are high out there.

9 MR. ENOCHS: So we're just throwing away money for a
10 limited few people on an occasional day and I don't know how
11 it is in other areas. I just know the Denali Highway is very
12 volatile weather wise. If trails are groomed in the Cantwell
13 area or at Summit where I happen to go occasionally when I
14 feel like going up in the mountains, which is rare, you know,
15 groom that. Sure, I mean, it snows all the time and that
16 would be a good waste of money.

17 People need to wake up. Let's go back to the original
18 thing of this program and start using the money for what it
19 was intended to do, grooming was not it as far as I know and
20 if I'm wrong, I'm sure there'll be at least three or four
21 people who will throw darts at me and say I was wrong, which
22 is fine.

23 But I'd like to go forward and say look, we got a
24 problem with the shortage of funds and lets look at the way
25 this all -- and use the money appropriately instead of

1 throwing it away because I'd like to see some benefit north of
2 Palmer or Petersville or wherever people snowmachine down in
3 southcentral and see some of that money come up here and I
4 don't like seeing it go to the -- no the Iditarod, but the
5 Quest, I think that's foolish too. Let the dog mushers pay
6 their way, we shouldn't be using money for Snow TRAC or
7 snowmachiners to groom the Quest. I think that's silly.

8 I don't think we should be using money for the Iron Dog,
9 let the Iron Doggers pay for it, they're the ones that get the
10 money if they win, so why don't they use some of that money to
11 groom? Why come after a state portion of it? I know they put
12 out some safety programs and I was pretty adamant about making
13 sure that they got it only because I want to see some
14 equitable distribution of money instead of it all going to
15 grooming. Enough said.

16 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Steve. That was -- that helps
17 at least to begin the discussion on some of the points that I
18 brought up because I would really like to see some more equal
19 distribution of funds to different kinds of projects because
20 we just don't have very much money and if we can get various
21 things going from different regions from the state. And these
22 -- the things that I -- the percentages of breakdown that I
23 threw out as options, these are not our only options. They
24 were suggestions of ways that we could equitably break down
25 the funding and it came from an idea of how the recreational

1 trails program is broken down into 30 percent diversified, 30
2 percent -- excuse me, 30 percent motorized, 30 percent non-
3 motorized and 40 percent diversified projects.

4 So it kind of spurred on an idea that, you know, you can
5 ensure that certain projects, certain types of projects have a
6 little money there to help them out, to get them started at
7 least and so that was where that breaking it down came from
8 and none of this is set in stone. It was an idea that I think
9 could solve some of those problems and I really appreciate
10 your input, Steve, thank you.

11 So that brings us to this idea of funding for grooming
12 program and the idea that I threw out for a match program and
13 the match program is just one idea. Obviously, somehow --
14 obviously, people are putting in a lot of time and volunteer
15 money that it's just not being -- they're already, I bet,
16 putting in a lot of what this match idea and it's just not
17 being captured as that because this match doesn't have to be
18 dollars, it can be volunteers, donated equipment, any kind of
19 that volunteer from the clubs, that can be counted as match,
20 so I think it's already happening from what I'm hearing here
21 and people just aren't counting it or calling it a match
22 program. But because we obviously don't have a million-dollar
23 budget just to put into the grooming pool.

24 People are soliciting from their clubs and their
25 neighbors to get out and get the job done so everybody can

1 have great trails to ride on because that's the goal. So
2 that's just one -- that's one thing that will help us to
3 bolster the fact that we will be having reduced funds in the
4 future. And that's something that our director felt pretty
5 strongly about, that we could have a better program if people
6 knew that there would need to be funds coming from the
7 community. Yes, John.

8 MR. SCUDDER: Yes, this is John Scudder. You talk about
9 match fundings. How about DOT start matching? A lot of the
10 trails -- I want to change that, a lot of the trails that were
11 recreational are not trails of commerce.

12 MS. HARRIS: Sure. The freights and stuff.

13 MR. SCUDDER: The Denali Highway, freighters are using
14 them to get to these remote villages, remote lodges, they're
15 not breaking no more eggs, they're getting their eggs in one
16 piece. They're getting customers out to their lodge now with
17 groomed trails. Why can't DOT now slide some money over
18 because we are grooming Petersville Highway, Hatcher Pass
19 Road, Denali Highway.

20 MS. HARRIS: Denali Highway, right.

21 MR. SCUDDER: That is a highway.

22 MS. HARRIS: Yeah.

23 MR. SCUDDER: DOT should be providing some funds for
24 winter use of those roads and when I talked to the governor a
25 couple years ago, we also have the right-of-ways.

1 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

2 MR. SCUDDER: Signs that have to stop -- someone
3 (indiscernible) across the highway, Snow TRAC is buying them,
4 DOT can buy them.

5 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

6 MR. SCUDDER: It's in their right-of-way. They should
7 provide some funding, especially when you get on the west part
8 of Alaska, DOT does fund some of that out there.

9 MS. HARRIS: Yeah.

10 MR. SCUDDER: Because that's their only roads they have
11 in the wintertime.

12 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

13 MR. SCUDDER: They should start looking at the central
14 to north regions.

15 MS. HARRIS: So that would be outside of our
16 jurisdiction and our office.

17 MS. LECLAIR: Well then -- no, that could be a
18 discussion the DNR Commissioner could have with the DOT
19 Commissioner.

20 MR. SCUDDER: Because even in Fairbanks, you know, they
21 got remote villages that they're getting trails to.

22 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

23 MR. SCUDDER: They got lodges.

24 MS. HARRIS: Sure.

25 MR. SCUDDER: It's not a recreational trail no more,

1 it's a commercial trail.

2 MS. LECLAIR: Right.

3 MS. HARRIS: That's a good point.

4 MS. LECLAIR: Yeah. Yeah, I didn't realize DOT
5 maintains those ice roads in the villages, is that what you're
6 saying?

7 MR. SCUDDER: Yeah, and any place. There could be just
8 in urban areas. If it -- lodges on Skwentna River.

9 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

10 MR. SCUDDER: Freighters are using that. They're
11 complaining about the trails aren't being groomed, about ran
12 out of money, but the DOT provides extra funds. They don't
13 have to buy -- or provide a million dollars, but \$100,000,
14 \$200,000, that'll help the program out, it'll help get these
15 trails down so they can get their supplies out there without
16 getting them all smashed up, beat up, broken, whatever the
17 case may be. I think that's a lot of your complaints is from
18 the freighters.

19 MS. HARRIS: Yeah.

20 MR. SCUDDER: And they're the ones beating up the trails
21 too.

22 MS. HARRIS: Yeah, they've put a lot of miles on those
23 trails.

24 MR. MORRISON: Darcy, it's Andy Morrison and I was just
25 sort of going through your comments about trying to find other

1 aspects of the program and I feel that there is quite a bit
2 that could be done on Ortab (ph). I know that they're mighty
3 stressed over there as well, but when you're talking about
4 some of the safety education programs and I'm not even sure
5 what other things you're talking about is that, you know,
6 those grants are out there to apply for Ortab (ph) funding.
7 There's no reason that Ortab (ph) money can't be spent in the
8 winter and (indiscernible) projects as well as summer.

9 MS. HARRIS: Right. No, that'd be great.

10 MR. MORRISON: (Indiscernible) projects and other
11 projects as well.

12 MS. HARRIS: Good point, Andy, absolutely and I think
13 we've encouraged that in the past.

14 MR. MORRISON: Well, that's one reason that I feel that
15 the grant applications for both Ortab (ph) and Snow TRAC
16 should be very close to each other so that someone doesn't
17 have to go completely redo a grant to make it work for one
18 program or the other. You could -- you know, there's quite a
19 bit of stuff, safety and education included, that could go
20 towards the Ortab (ph).

21 MS. HARRIS: I think that's what Samantha Carol
22 originally had planned with that application being very close.
23 I talked to her about that and it's just for that so people
24 could switch back and forth and try to get money from
25 somewhere as necessary.

1 MR. MORRISON: Well, a lot of the infrastructure,
2 purchasing equipment, doing land surveys, all that stuff can
3 be done on Ortab (ph) and especially if it's a multi-use trail
4 (indiscernible) put it all in the snowmobile category, keep it
5 out there in the general recreation category.

6 MS. HARRIS: Well, to kind of circle back on the idea of
7 spreading these funds, you know, on the website, it talks
8 about this program, snowmobile trails grant program as being
9 -- it says primarily for trail development and maintenance and
10 safety and education programs and I think that is what was
11 originally planned with this project -- or this program and I
12 just -- I think that we should diversify the funds so it's --
13 so we get more benefit for the small amount of money and I'll
14 reiterate, I think that we could have an excellent program if
15 we scale it down and do a few projects really well versus
16 trying to do too much with a limited budget and it's just
17 unfortunate. Yes, Joe.

18 MR. GAUNA: This is Joe Gauna. Maybe we should suspend
19 grooming it for one year.

20 MR. LUTH: That'll throw some stuff up in the wind.

21 MR. MAYFIELD: Oh, I don't think so.

22 MR. NEEL: If you're on the phone, can you please state
23 your name?

24 MR. GAUNA: That was Bill and.....

25 MS. HARRIS: Dan Mayfield.

1 MR. NEEL: For recording. Yeah.

2 MR. GAUNA:Dan. Maybe we should suspend grooming
3 for one season.

4 MR. MAYFIELD: This is Dan. You know, I just have a few
5 comments I'd like to make. You know, I don't know much about
6 the history of Snow TRAC, but I do this program evolved
7 through the years and the evolution was really based on public
8 need for well groomed trails. I mean, that was the need. You
9 know, well groomed trails provided an elevated level of
10 enjoyment and safety for the -- you know, for the vast
11 majority of our users out there. And in my opinion, that was
12 the correct evolutionary path of this program. The evolution
13 -- this evolution has brought us even closer to a statewide
14 trail system than we've ever been before and the changes in
15 (indiscernible) in this proposal, with all due respect, I
16 think it'll slap us back in the dark ages and make the dream
17 of a statewide trail system impossible.

18 MR. GAUNA: Dan, this is Joe. I agree with you, but the
19 only way we're going to find out is to either do it or not do
20 it. Maybe we should suspend grooming for one season and let
21 the public speak to the governor, the legislature and DNR and
22 then figure it out and go from there.

23 MR. MAYFIELD: You know, I do believe that there would
24 be a gigantic public outcry, but I -- you know, I don't know
25 that we want to get that reactionary in that kind of move.

1 MR. GAUNA: I don't either, Dan, but so far the last 10
2 years, not much has worked. I agree with you that the
3 evolution to grooming came from the Snow TRAC board telling
4 DNR what the public has said they wanted, I agree that it's
5 evolved and that is what the public wants. They don't care
6 that much about safety, they don't care that much about other
7 stuff. They want groomed trails, but until DNR sees it from
8 the public, we're going to continue going on, find -- spread
9 less money over more things, so let's just cut out the
10 grooming for a season and let them spend the money where they
11 want to.

12 MR. ENOCHS: This is Steve again in Fairbanks. I happen
13 to agree with most of what you said with the exception I do
14 not agree that we should suspend any grooming even though I'm
15 pretty much opposed to grooming. I also don't believe there
16 will not be any gigantic or gigantic outcry except for those
17 in a limited area, i.e. those that get the majority of the
18 money for grooming. Everyone else will not cry because
19 they've already been complaining that they don't see any
20 benefit to it, so you know, so what?

21 However, when I talk to people around the
22 Fairbanks/Delta area and they all basically give me the same
23 smirk. Grooming? What they have said is when I've brought up
24 the bullets from about three years ago when I first came on
25 the board about the possibility of increasing the fees, but

1 one of the bullets to justify increasing the fees was the
2 development of a statewide trail system. There was a lot of
3 interest in that, so you know, I go back to what I said
4 earlier and I'll stay with it. I don't really think that the
5 grooming is really absolute answer, though I also agreed with
6 you, a lot of people, they really don't care about safety,
7 that's true, you know, boring, but that doesn't preclude the
8 requirement to be responsible to stick education out there to
9 try to prevent death and destruction because we know it
10 happens. Certainly out in the villages, people drive across
11 rivers and ground every year, there's plenty of them that go
12 around, a little more education might prevent that.

13 We know that avalanches happen, we need to continue
14 putting education for that. Yeah, people don't want to hear
15 it, but they need it. I really think so anyway, so I still
16 think that there's a reason to keep the program going, but
17 there certainly has to be some kind of scaling back of money
18 going to grooming because it's not the only thing that's out
19 there that matters and the little area that we're talking in
20 the state is not the entire state and we need to do a better
21 distribution of money even though it's limited. Thank you.

22 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Steve.

23 MS. ZELL: This is Teri.

24 MS. HARRIS: Teri Zell?

25 MS. ZELL: Yes.

1 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

2 MS. ZELL: I agree with all these comments that are
3 going on. I've been with this grooming pool from the get go,
4 from it's start and it has evolved quite a bit and I think the
5 public has driven that process into a grooming program. Now I
6 know that there's a huge need for safety and education and I
7 have been a proponent and keep asking every year why don't we
8 have a snowmachine safety program like we have a boating
9 safety program, a full blown one that we go out into the
10 schools and do all of this stuff.

11 But I also have to just agree a little bit about the
12 spreading of the monies. I think that if you try to diversity
13 this money too far, you're going to have little bits for lots
14 of things and it should, in my opinion, it should all be set
15 for whatever the public wants and like I said, the evolvement
16 has been they want grooming. If people are not getting
17 grooming funds in certain areas, it's because they're not
18 applying for them.

19 MR. ENOCHS: I'm sorry, this is Steve again from
20 Fairbanks. I hate that comment because.....

21 MS. ZELL: I'm sorry.

22 MR. ENOCHS:you're penalizing a population that if
23 a snowmachine club doesn't ask for the funds, the population
24 doesn't get any benefit so they pay into it, that's BS. I'm
25 sorry, but you know, I get angry too. I wish the snowmachine

1 club up here in Fairbanks -- and I've heard this criticism for
2 years now, but you know -- well, they ought to ask for the
3 money. Well, you know what, it shouldn't be dependent upon a
4 snowmachine club asking for money. Everybody pays into that,
5 at least most people pay for it, they register the snowmachine
6 and they ought to get the benefit from it. And it shouldn't
7 be -- just be dependent upon a snowmachine club that makes it
8 happen. There has to be a way to make it equitable for
9 everybody that pays into it, at least somewhat.

10 I realize that there's going to be some give and take
11 here, but it shouldn't -- to say that if we don't get
12 (indiscernible) we don't ask for it, that's just malarkey.

13 MS. ZELL: But -- okay, I -- and I agree with that, but
14 we can't just read your mind and say oh, they probably want
15 some too and I -- and for me, I know that -- probably that
16 statement is not well received and I'm sorry, but it should be
17 up to that area, like Northern State Parks, to get out there
18 and beat the bushes and say you guys -- we'll help you apply
19 for this stuff, but.....

20 MR. ENOCHS: I agree with that, I definitely agree with
21 you there, there's no doubt.

22 MS. ZELL: But there needs to be an application process
23 and there's a lot of people onboard in certain areas that do
24 it. A few years ago, we had nobody on the Kenai Peninsula and
25 all of a sudden, they were saying well, what about us? Well,

1 apply for the money and they did and we started getting lots
2 of applications from there. So I know it may not be a well
3 received comment, but it's still very applicable.

4 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Teri.

5 MR. ENOCHS: Again, Steve from Fairbanks. I still don't
6 have to take exception to it because I do know that the -- at
7 least from Fairbanks and I don't recall the gentleman's name
8 that's from White Mountain that he shows up every year, but he
9 and I both laugh every time this stuff just comes up because
10 people in Nome area of White Mountain, if you will, they could
11 care less about grooming trails. And the same thing -- most
12 people here in Fairbanks, at least in this particular area
13 that I know of, most people don't care about groomed trails.

14 They break a trail, it's good and then you have a few
15 volunteers, so the whole subject is like they don't care about
16 that. But I do think that there's still a need to look at
17 education and safety, and yeah, you're not going to -- I want
18 to get some money so I can go teach those people up in Hugla
19 (ph) not to cross the river until it's safe. That isn't going
20 to happen.

21 MS. HITE: This is Cindy Hite. (Indiscernible) we go to
22 two meetings a year, we have the same discussions at every
23 meeting. We did put some bullets together a few years ago,
24 Steve's right, were never addressed. They actually addressed
25 the program, think it's a great program, but we keep going

1 around in circles every year and I actually started to believe
2 this was on purpose. I work full-time and I don't want to sit
3 here for two more hours doing this.

4 You say they're dropping applications. Application
5 process is a monster, so no one's been dropping applications,
6 that's because it's all going to grooming now. And Steve, I'm
7 trying to understand, anybody can -- this is a free will,
8 anybody can apply for this money, I don't -- they can apply
9 for it up north or anything they want, I (indiscernible) make
10 any cuts or, you know, get signs, so I'm not understanding we
11 as a Snow TRAC board, are arguing amongst ourselves.

12 We know how this program works and we can make it work,
13 but we're not full-time employees for DNR. Every year we get
14 together and it seems like we're supposed to advise them. We
15 advise them and they go on and they do exactly what they're
16 going to do and we come back the next year and we do it again.
17 I am sick of doing this. You know, Teri's right, we talked
18 about a safety program, part of our bullets. Statewide trail
19 system, marking and safety. There. We don't need
20 distribution amounts, we need common sense and we need to get
21 working on this, not have these (indiscernible) meetings every
22 year. So there, there's my advisement. Let's get working and
23 stop talking.

24 MR. MAYFIELD: And I'd like to chime in on this.

25 MS. HARRIS: Dan Mayfield.

1 MR. MAYFIELD: In a greater amount of safety and
2 education that's providing through grooming and our local
3 grooming organizations and ever to be achieved by funding
4 workshops or, you know, with limited audiences. That's just a
5 fact. You know, we get more bangs than the buck by grooming
6 trails and keeping them safe for the public than we do through
7 funding some workshop with a limited audience.

8 There's trials and tribulations of the grant process and
9 the compliance fees and a limited amount of funds that are
10 available, just take an extremely (indiscernible) for
11 volunteer organizations just to begin with. You know, those
12 same barriers make it difficult to attract organizations to
13 want to contribute, you know, to a better rider experience.
14 You know, I really believe that it's only through the strength
15 of character and an overriding desire by, you know, a lot of
16 the folks that are out there that, you know, the groomers that
17 are out there that keep their wanting to put up with the
18 barriers in this program as today.

19 You know, if you want more grant money to be spread out
20 in a more diverse manner, the answer is to attract more money,
21 you know, to a fund and make it where it needs to be
22 attainable rather than restricted to divide the funds, and you
23 know, like the proposal we have in front of us, so that's my
24 two cents.

25 MS. HARRIS: Steve Neel?

1 MR. CROSBY: This is Randy up in Trapper Creek.

2 MS. HARRIS: Oh, you got it.

3 MR. CROSBY: You know, Steve, up there in Fairbanks, I
4 mean, I agree with the basis of what you're saying but the
5 program already provides those opportunities for the money to
6 go into other areas and it always has. I sat on the Snow TRAC
7 board in the very beginning, helped kind of come up with the
8 idea of how this thing would all work and grooming was not a
9 component in the beginning and it was divided into safety and
10 education 20 percent, 30 percent for administration and then
11 the rest went into trail development, trail this, trail that,
12 whatever you wanted to do, there's been cabins funded, all
13 sorts of projects funded.

14 That process is still in place and the way I understand
15 it, although it gets more confusing every year, is that
16 grooming is the last thing to get funded. The applications
17 are requested for your normal grant process and those come in
18 for safety education, for any other ideas trail related,
19 building, whatever. Once that process has been figured out,
20 then the money that's left over goes towards grooming and
21 there certainly has been efforts to make as much money
22 available for grooming as possible in the past few years.

23 But see, the process of getting money into other areas
24 of the state for other things has always existed. Here in my
25 community, Trapper Creek and Petersville, we're a rural

1 community and we've been overrun by snowmachiners for the 30,
2 40 years that snowmobiles have been around in the area. And
3 this grooming process is something that our club and myself
4 and our community have struggled with and we developed a
5 system that would be able to apply for money to go out there
6 and groom because our community sees grooming as the number
7 one benefit in our situation.

8 I would never say that that's the best benefit for you
9 or people out in Nome and I've never implied anything like
10 that and I don't think anybody has. But in our area, without
11 the grooming, it's chaos. We are overrun by thousands of
12 snowmobilers every winter on every weekend coming down from
13 Fairbanks, coming up from the Kenai, coming wherever because
14 we always have the snow and it's good terrain. And now we
15 have great trail system that gets people around safely into
16 the areas. Some people come to ride just because they are
17 groomed, but people come up here and ride this trail system
18 because they provide the safe, fast, easy way for them to get
19 into the back country and enjoy things.

20 I think one of the biggest problems here is that we're
21 trying to combine too many things into one pool of money and I
22 would love to see the grooming separate completely out and
23 funded just like roads are funded to be plowed, to be graded,
24 to have the ruts graded out, how the highways out here is
25 funded to be plowed instead of trying to combine everything

1 into a bunch of other projects and then we always end up, you
2 know, competing and fighting and dividing and accomplishing
3 nothing.

4 So you know, I just want to stress that I agree,
5 grooming may not be the thing for your area, but it is the
6 number one thing for our area, and without it, you know, we're
7 going to have a lot of problems up here.

8 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Randy.

9 MR. ENOCHS: I don't disagree with you and I welcome --
10 this is Steve from Fairbanks and I think what you just said is
11 very, very, very true. And I can't disagree with what you
12 say, but it isn't important up here. I mean, dog mushing is
13 the number one sport or snowmachines, pick one. Those are the
14 number one sports, but across the board, I would -- I
15 personally would love to see grooming as a separate item. The
16 problem is, is we have more grooming money requested than
17 we've money available, so what do you do when you have all
18 those things. I really think that you can't support
19 everybody.

20 I mean, I look at last year or the last two years what
21 Big Lake wanted and what they got. I mean, good grief, they
22 got good people, they know how to write the request and they
23 do a good job, and you know, what can I say? I mean, hey, if
24 you don't know how to do it, you ought to go to Big Lake and
25 figure out -- and watch them because they know how to get

1 money and we're -- you know, the Snow TRAC board or funds
2 weren't the only place that they got money to do their
3 grooming, so that's a good thing.

4 But we do have to look at the fact that you have limited
5 resource, so a decision has to be made how do you use that
6 limited resource. It can't all go to Petersville, it can't
7 all go to Big Lake, it can't all go to Hatcher Pass. I mean,
8 that's just a limited -- too limited an area of the state for
9 that limited amount of money. I mean, between those three
10 areas and maybe the Kenai, you've just gobbled up almost all
11 the money.

12 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Steve, we have.....

13 MR. MAYFIELD: This is Dan again. Steve.....

14 MS. HARRIS: Dan.....

15 MR. NEEL: No, that's fine.

16 MR. MAYFIELD:the thing about what you said there,
17 you know, Snow TRAC ought to be funded 59 percent of our
18 effort this year. You know, we're very, very grateful for
19 that, but you know, it didn't fund our complete effort and I'm
20 not saying that they necessarily should, but I do believe that
21 they should be the primary funder of the grooming efforts. I
22 mean, we live in Alaska, snowmachines, the users and the trail
23 systems, they're just critical to our social and our economic
24 welfare in this state.

25 And you know, I truly think that there will be a huge

1 outcry from users if these proposals are accepted and -- or
2 if, you know, some critical cutbacks are made on the grooming
3 effort. I just truly believe that and.....

4 MR. ENOCHS: I agree with you. Again, this is Steve
5 from Fairbanks, I don't disagree with you. (Indiscernible -
6 simultaneous speech).....

7 MR. MAYFIELD: (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

8 MR. ENOCHS:or what I'm suggesting is, is that the
9 people are going to be crying the loudest is those people in
10 the limited areas that all receive the funds. The people in
11 Fairbanks or in this area could care less about it, but we're
12 paying for your groomed trails and that's the issue that I've
13 got. There has to be more representation of the money that's
14 gotten.

15 It's like the two or three years ago when there was an
16 effort to try to increase the registration fees, there was a
17 huge outcry up here, totally against it and I think that
18 you'll see the same thing happen and there'll be a whole bunch
19 of people lining up with their legislators and standing
20 outside ready to put both feet on somebody's desk if there's
21 an effort to put all the money in one little area.

22 MS. HARRIS: Okay, I think -- this is Darcy and I
23 definitely -- I really appreciate the discussion, this is
24 really good. We have very clear ideas, I think, about what --
25 how we feel about the registration fees in various regions. I

1 want to give a couple people in the room a chance to talk. I
2 know Steve Neel and also Joe Gauna have a couple things they'd
3 like to say. Steve?

4 MR. NEEL: This is just from historical perspective
5 after having worked on the program for a couple years. I
6 notice that when I talked to several grantees from the rec
7 trails program out in the western part of the state and also
8 in the northern part and I've asked them why they don't apply
9 for snowmobile trail assessment or equipment or shelter cabins
10 or safety. They've indicated that they know it's there, but
11 they don't use it because they assume that all of it's going
12 to go to grooming and I'm not saying that's necessarily an
13 accurate statement, but I picked it up from more than one area
14 and more than one town.

15 So while, in essence, it's true, that funding is out
16 there and available for everybody to apply for. I think since
17 the grooming pool has grown exponentially with the addition of
18 RTP funds, the attitude out there has been less -- that they
19 will be successful in applying because there's more money
20 going into grooming, and again, I'm not stressing that I --
21 that that's totally accurate, but I think the perception is
22 that there's -- they shouldn't -- they don't need to apply
23 because they don't have a chance to fight against the grooming
24 pool.

25 So I think there's a difference between yes, they have

1 the access, yes they have the ability to apply just like
2 everybody else does, but at the same time, the perception in
3 some of those areas is that because grooming has become so
4 large, it will -- we will not fund the smaller safety and
5 education projects.

6 And you know, it's -- basically it's down to one or two
7 groups that continually now applies for safety and ed, Iron
8 Dog, sometimes Mat-Su Borough and of course, NAOI applies, but
9 after -- you know, other than that, not a whole lot of people
10 are applying for safety and ed, and you know, I've run into
11 just that current of well, we know it's going to go to
12 grooming and breaking that perception I think is going to be
13 hard enough.

14 So I just wanted to throw that out there that after, you
15 know, being in and around it for a couple years with the
16 programs, I start to see where people are just, you know,
17 they're backing off applying because of the assumption that
18 grooming will get, you know, the massive amount of dollars.
19 So I just put that out there as my observation.

20 MS. HARRIS: And Joe?

21 MR. GAUNA: Well, that kind of falls in with what I was
22 thinking here. What Steve is saying is, okay, the perception
23 of course is reality to whoever is perceiving it, so maybe we
24 should suspend grooming for a year and put all the money into
25 something else and notwithstanding what Dan and Steve are

1 saying, let's see what the public says and find out what's
2 really important to them. This is one way to do, it's drastic
3 and it's reactionary, but I'm with Cindy, I'm really tired of
4 doing this thing every year, the same thing.

5 You know, one of the other things that needs to be done
6 is, I believe, is separating the DMV registration fees from
7 this Snow Trac.

8 MS. ZELL: Yes.

9 MR. GAUNA: This was a temporary thing 10, 12, 13 years
10 ago that -- hell, longer than that. The DMV funds were a
11 (indiscernible) agreement with the legislature to get around,
12 we can't have dedicated funds and at the time, the state parks
13 leadership promised oh yeah, and after this thing gets going
14 for a couple of years and it's accepted and all that, then
15 we'll go ahead and start increasing the line item that goes in
16 the budget every year and separate away from DMV.

17 We have been tied to the DMV for way too long. That
18 money comes out of the general fund, it doesn't come from DMV,
19 it comes out of the general fund and there's no reason that
20 that can't be increased. Unfortunately, state parks, DNR has
21 never done that. Strato (ph) didn't do it, James King didn't
22 do it and now Ben has said he's not going to do it last summer
23 -- or last winter.

24 But that's what needs to be done. Look, if we don't
25 have enough money to do all the grooming that we want to do

1 this year, then DNR needs to figure out how much money you
2 want to spend on grooming and you guys designate which trails
3 are going to get groomed. This is nothing new, I've said this
4 before. You guys designate which trails you want groomed and
5 issue the contracts. That's the way to take care of the
6 shortfall this year. If it's one trail for 50 miles, you
7 announce it and say here it is instead of going through all
8 this garbage of us sitting here and scoring applications and
9 deciding where the funding line is and all that. Go ahead,
10 you decide the funding line, you decide which trails are going
11 to get done and what part of the state or none and let's keep
12 moving on.

13 But we've got to get away from this artificial and
14 inappropriate connection with the DMV registration funds. You
15 guys don't look -- when you go for a line item budget for
16 summer trails, you don't say well, let's see, so many people
17 bought shoes and so many people registered their cars or their
18 bicycles. You go, this is what we need to do summer trails
19 for tourists and for our local citizens and here's how much we
20 need. And the legislature says go, here you go. Do the same
21 with snowmobiles, do the same with snowmobile trails.

22 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

23 MR. GAUNA: There shouldn't be a connection.

24 MS. HARRIS: Can Claire.....

25 MS. HERRERA: I'm sorry to talk over you, but I would

1 like to -- I'm sorry. I'm the administrative officer for the
2 division and a lot of the things that you're saying are
3 awesome. They were (indiscernible) what I was thinking. We,
4 as a division of parks, would request a capital project for
5 (indiscernible) specifically. Then the other funds in the
6 Snow TRAC could be used elsewhere. We would have to ask the
7 state for general fund dollars. Here's where the problem
8 comes in.

9 We as a division can speak about this forever until your
10 tongues fall off unless the public, you, this board and
11 snowmachine riders get in there and say we want this to
12 happen, it won't happen. They only see us as you guys just
13 want more money, you guys just want more money no matter how
14 much talking we do, we cannot get the (indiscernible) costs by
15 ourselves. So your idea is wonderful.

16 MS. LECLAIR: Could I -- yeah.

17 MS. HERRERA: It's our division -- sorry, go ahead.

18 MS. LECLAIR: Yeah, Karlyn, it's Claire. Joe's looking
19 really quizzical.....

20 MS. HERRERA: Okay.

21 MS. LECLAIR:and I think -- and maybe you can help
22 straighten out. The receipts that come from DMV are indeed
23 program receipts, is that correct?

24 MS. HERRERA: They are, yes.

25 MR. GAUNA: No. No.

1 MS. LECLAIR: Yeah, Joe is.....

2 MS. HERRERA: They're not to us.

3 MS. LECLAIR: Yeah, Joe's shaking his head.

4 MS. HERRERA: Okay Joe, what they are, they're actually
5 called registration fees in our capital request for snowmobile
6 money, we put in there as not general fund dollars, it is
7 requested as registration fees.

8 MR. GAUNA: And we've been told for years.....

9 MS. HERRERA: That's why they give it to us.

10 MS. LECLAIR: Okay.

11 MR. GAUNA: We've been told for years you can't do that
12 because the constitution doesn't allow dedicated funding.

13 MS. LECLAIR: It doesn't and this is the way around it.
14 I'm sorry, this is Claire LeClair.

15 MS. HERRERA: There's no way around it, exactly.

16 MS. LECLAIR: Yeah, and I shouldn't call it the way
17 around it, but.....

18 MR. GAUNA: Okay, well.....

19 MS. LECLAIR:we did something similar, the charge
20 -- we charge fees for overnight camping, right? When the fee
21 legislation was passed in 1987, the legislature well, we can't
22 just roll that money right into parks budget because.....

23 MR. GAUNA: Yeah.

24 MS. LECLAIR:you can't have dedicated funding,
25 but.....

1 MR. GAUNA: I remember.

2 MS. LECLAIR:we'll make the commitment to do our
3 bets to allocate the money that you receive back to your
4 agency in order to fulfill your mission and that's exactly --
5 it's the same thing.....

6 MS. HARRIS: You're right, Joe.

7 MS. LECLAIR:that's happening here, so it's not
8 dedicated, but it is not general fund dollars, that -- the
9 funds that come in for Snow TRAC are not general fund dollars.
10 Karlyn, sorry.

11 MS. HERRERA: Correct.

12 MR. GAUNA: Well, that's.....

13 MS. HERRERA: No, that's fine. (Indiscernible).

14 MR. GAUNA: Well, that's a complete surprise to me
15 because that's what we've been told for years and years and
16 years that there was a tacit agreement between the legislature
17 and DNR and the gov that when he signed off on the
18 legislation, that they promised that they would allocate from
19 general funds the same amount as DMV collected if DNR would
20 ask for it. That's how it was explained to us by Strato (ph)
21 and a number of others. Regardless.....

22 MS. HERRERA: Well, so this -- to go deeply -- this is
23 Karlyn again, to go deeply into the budget, there are lots of
24 different fund titles that are classified as general fund
25 under the state.

1 MR. GAUNA: Okay. So.....

2 MS. HERRERA: Okay? So basically, what they're saying
3 is the government is not funding us any of this money, no
4 outside company is giving us any money. It's either general
5 fund or its other money, so in essence, these revenues created
6 from the registration fees would go into the state's general
7 fund if we didn't use it. So basically, they're saying you're
8 not going to count it as revenue to the state, you're going to
9 use it to support the snowmobile program. It's kind of a
10 wash.

11 MR. GAUNA: Then change it. Change it. Get Ben down
12 there or whoever does the budget.....

13 MS. HERRERA: Well, that's my point.

14 MR. GAUNA:and change it.

15 MS. HERRERA: It was my point, yes.

16 MR. GAUNA: So.....

17 MS. HERRERA: To try to get different type of funding, I
18 understand completely. The best thing that we can do at this
19 point to get any additional money is to have the public, as
20 you say, have an outcry.

21 MR. GAUNA: Okay. Then.....

22 MS. HERRERA: We need money for this.

23 MR. GAUNA: Okay, then let's suspend grooming for one
24 season, that's all it's going to take.

25 MS. HERRERA: I think that's kind of drastic.

1 MR. GAUNA: I -- so do I.

2 MS. HERRERA: I'm sorry, I understand your point.

3 Excuse me?

4 MR. GAUNA: I do too. I think it's very drastic and I
5 really don't want to see it happen, but I got to tell you, if
6 we don't have enough money to groom, then let's suspend it
7 because putting a few bucks out on a couple of trails is just
8 not going to be adequate because the public is used to what
9 they've been getting the last five, six years. Let -- suspend
10 grooming for one season. I'm finished for now.

11 MR. WILKE: Joe, this is Mark. Well, what happens when
12 season number two comes around and we still don't have enough
13 money?

14 MR. GAUNA: We suspend grooming. I mean, that's the
15 answer. That's the answer I have, suspend grooming until DNR
16 gets the budget money that we need, go ahead and shut down
17 Snow TRAC. We don't need Snow TRAC, DNR knows what to do and
18 that's the money that 12 percent we'll get back and get away
19 from the Snow TRAC DMV connection and let's get to a point
20 where DNR goes to the legislature and says this is money we
21 need for our citizens to service our citizens in the
22 wintertime. And the public, the citizens will let the
23 legislators know that you got to do this. I mean, it sounds
24 real simple, doesn't it?

25 MS. HARRIS: Joe, what would your suggest -- this is

1 Darcy again. Joe, what would your suggestion be for then to
2 do with that money, the registration money as it is -- comes
3 through the legislator? Would -- if we do suspend, if you
4 wanted to suspend grooming hypothetically, we could -- what
5 would you see as your vision to do with that money instead?

6 MR. GAUNA: As Steve says, let everybody in the state
7 know it's all available for safety and education grants.

8 MS. HARRIS: But also for trail development and trail --
9 other trail.....

10 MR. GAUNA: Trail development.....

11 MS. HARRIS:maintenance, widening.....

12 MR. GAUNA: Trail -- yep, you bet. Surveying.

13 MS. HARRIS:straightening, flattening, whatever we
14 need to do.

15 MR. GAUNA: Yeah, yeah. But no grooming and let the
16 grooming -- or let the grant requests come flying in. What
17 the snowstorm of grant requests that comes flying in here and
18 then we'll score them and the good ones we'll pay for and the
19 bad ones we won't pay, just like we've done before. Just
20 completely remove the grooming component for one season.

21 MS. HARRIS: Well, that is certainly.....

22 MR. GAUNA: I know, everybody's sitting there going.....

23 MS. HARRIS:an option.

24 MR. GAUNA:this guy is nuts, this guy is nuts. I
25 am tired of doing what Cindy described.

1 MS. HARRIS: You have some very good points and I think
2 that that is certainly an option we have. You know, these are
3 all things that are good suggestions. We have to start from
4 somewhere discussing how to solve these problems, so I really
5 appreciate the discussion here definitely.

6 MR. ANDERSON: Hey Joe?

7 MR. GAUNA: Yeah.

8 MS. HARRIS: Who's this?

9 MR. ANDERSON: This is Tinker again.

10 MS. HARRIS: Tinker.

11 MR. ANDERSON: You know, I agree with you -- I mean,
12 sort of, but anyway, just suspend the grooming, put the park's
13 phone number on every tree or post or whatever and that way,
14 they can call in and complain, do whatever. But also in that
15 same tone -- I've been on the board for two years now and I
16 have set there in the meetings and listened to the Snow TRAC
17 advisory board to come up with suggestions and take them to
18 the state, give them to the state and they went in one ear and
19 right on somebody's desk like grooming standards and other
20 things.

21 I mean, if we're going to advise and stuff, it needs to
22 go further than that. I think that might help a lot, you
23 know, if it just doesn't dead-end someplace real quick and
24 that's what I've seen happen and seen it happen it more than
25 once and that's where it's been going, you know?

1 MS. HARRIS: I -- this.....

2 MR. ANDERSON: That's all I got to say.

3 MS. HARRIS: Tinker, this is Darcy and I do think those
4 -- and I can't speak for anything that happened before I
5 started last August, but I think these are really complex
6 situations and questions and I think sometimes those
7 questions, we -- personally, I can speak to that I -- working
8 through these solutions and trying to provide some kind of
9 equitable ends to these concerns, I come on walls that I don't
10 know how to pass through, I come on questions I don't know how
11 to answer and I can put questions out to the board, but these
12 are really complex. They affect a large number of people and
13 people have varying concerns and interests. There's a lot of
14 stakeholders in these projects here and I really think it's
15 important to consider all of the stakeholders.

16 So it's pretty complex and I'm sorry if you feel like
17 things have dead-ended on people's desk. I would imagine if
18 questions have not been addressed, it is has been because
19 someone just didn't know how to proceed. I can see that
20 happening certainly.

21 When -- so that brings me to the fact that it's 12:30,
22 we need to wrap this up around 1:00 if we can have I'm
23 thinking maybe we could have some -- a summary and also maybe
24 some action items, where we should go from here, how we should
25 we proceed with out next stage of discussion or what would

1 people like to see. What would people like to see from this
2 meeting today? Do we -- I don't think any decisions need to
3 be made today, but this has gotten the discussion going,
4 people have started to have a dialogue from the different
5 areas of the state and different interests, the groomers and
6 other folks. What should -- where should we go from here?

7 MS. HITE: This is Cindy Hite, I'll tell you what I'd
8 like to see.

9 MS. HARRIS: Cindy, you're good at this.

10 MS. HITE: I would like to see that no more money goes
11 to state parks as far as any kind of grant requests because
12 that's the only applications we've been getting lately is
13 state parks because I know how to write them and they're
14 inside, so I don't think any money should go to state parks
15 because state parks is running the program.

16 Number two, I think that you need to make that
17 application process easier so that people actually will apply.
18 And number three, I went through the same (indiscernible)
19 safety grants are run as you're looking at the groomers
20 because I've never seen any reports come back, I've never seen
21 a website up for a person that's been asking for \$25,000 the
22 last five years for a website. I don't give any
23 accountability for those people.

24 So if you're going to ask for accountability, ask for it
25 from everything, not just one.

1 MS. HARRIS: Absolutely.

2 MS. HITE: So that's my advisement.

3 MS. JONES: Darcy, this is Kit Jones. I just wanted to
4 mention, I think we need to be careful from divorcing the
5 issue of safety away from the assigned and groomed trails
6 because I think, as Randy mentioned, it certainly provides a
7 safe riding area.....

8 MS. HARRIS: I agree.

9 MS. JONES:and I know for more inexperienced
10 people like me, they are very important.

11 MS. HARRIS: I agree with you, Kit. I think that the
12 trail marking is a huge safety issue as well as even in
13 various places where shelter cabins have been built. That is
14 certainly a safety issue as well and trail marking and
15 grooming. Good grooming helps people have a safer ride,
16 so.....

17 MR. LUTH: This is Bill Luth, I'd like to interject one
18 other thing.

19 MS. HITE: I want to make a remark to that because
20 that's actually where we were going two years ago with our
21 bullets was to actually look at the Snow TRAC program as we're
22 on a statewide trail system, which is a safety issue and
23 having marking, which is a safety issue. And in letting
24 somebody else apply (indiscernible) safety education program
25 because it's obvious we do not have enough money for \$150,000

1 safety education system and a trail system, so we decided that
2 the Snow TRAC -- that was going to be Snow TRAC's goal was to
3 go for the statewide trail system, which is a safety issue
4 along with markings for this state, that's a safety issue.
5 But no, now we're wrapped up in this again.

6 MR. ANDERSON: Hey Darcy, Tinker again.

7 MS. HARRIS: Hi, Tinker.

8 MR. ANDERSON: Last year, the safety request got full
9 funding in the grooming pool, which was the last of the line,
10 took a hard hit.

11 MS. HARRIS: How many safety requests were there last
12 year, do you remember?

13 MR. ANDERSON: No, I don't, not offhand.

14 MR. GAUNA: Three I think it was.

15 MS. HARRIS: Three?

16 MR. NEEL: Four.

17 MR. ENOCH: There was (indiscernible) NAOI.

18 MR. NEEL: NAOI, Iron Dog.

19 (multiple speech)

20 MR. NEEL: Mat-Su Borough had one.

21 MS. HARRIS: Three or four? Okay.

22 MR. GAUNA: Oh yeah, that's right, four. There was the
23 Quest, the Mat-Su signage.....

24 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

25 MR. GAUNA:the dog and.....

1 MS. HARRIS: And these are folks that apply on a regular
2 basis, is that correct?

3 MR. GAUNA: Yep.

4 MR. NEEL: A couple of them.

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Every year.

6 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

7 MR. LUTH: Well, that's not true because Mat-Su actually
8 didn't apply last year, it was the year before.

9 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

10 (multiple speech)

11 MR. ENOCH: Well, Big Lake last year, due to the thing
12 that was going on with them and theirs is put off to the side,
13 I think they got the whole funding also.

14 MS. HARRIS: Who's this?

15 (multiple speech)

16 MR. MORRISON: I'm sorry, this is Andy, I accidentally
17 disconnected and reconnected.

18 MS. HARRIS: Okay, thanks, Andy. Joe.

19 MR. GAUNA: It doesn't really matter -- this is Joe. It
20 doesn't really matter that much how many safety grants there
21 were last year. The fact is, the ones that came in were fully
22 funded and then the grooming pool took a hit, that's Tinker's
23 point, isn't that right, Tinker?

24 MR. ANDERSON: Correct, sir.

25 MR. WILKE: This is Mark. Darcy, I think what you're

1 trying to ask is, you know, if this is the road we're going
2 down, if we're going to, you know, not do the grooming pool
3 for a year, how -- what do we need to do to get to that point,
4 what are our next steps to make that happen. I think key to
5 that is making sure that we get that diversity around the
6 state, that the groups and organizations that should be
7 applying for these grants are actually applying for them and
8 I'll second Cindy's comment about the grant process. I
9 believe our old grant paperwork used to be four pages. What
10 it is now is just way too mind boggling for the small
11 organization or the small group trying to fill out that
12 paperwork.

13 We've got to get an easier application process and we've
14 got to get the word out to all the groups around the state,
15 all the cities and boroughs and all of the native
16 corporations, they need to know that this money's available.

17 MS. HARRIS: We need to do some marketing then, huh?

18 MR. WILKE: Some marketing, that's exactly right because
19 what -- if we're not careful, we're going to cancel the
20 grooming program and not get enough grants to spend all of our
21 money.

22 MS. HARRIS: Right. Well, I.....

23 MR. LUTH: Hey, this is Bill Luth.....

24 MS. HARRIS: Yes.

25 MR. LUTH:I'd like to interject one thing here

1 too. One of our biggest problems, if you take a look at it
2 and really look at how many machines out there are actually
3 currently registered that are out and active on the trail,
4 I've been watching very carefully the last two years and out
5 in both Big Lake, Willow, Petersville, on average, I'm seeing
6 no more than three out of 10 with current tags on them. We
7 have no enforcement, no pressure for these people to pay it,
8 so if for some reason we could get 80 percent of the machines
9 registered currently, you would have twice the money you have
10 now.

11 MS. HARRIS: Right. So.....

12 MR. ANDERSON: And if they are fined there, Bill -- this
13 is Tinker. If they were fined, that money goes to a different
14 pot, it doesn't go back into anything like for grooming or
15 anything like that.

16 MR. LUTH: Right. Well, fix it ticket's the way to go.

17 MR. ENOCHS: This is Steve in Fairbanks. I'd have to
18 say that this year was probably the most snowmachines that
19 I've seen not registered on the local trails and it was
20 interesting we brought the State Troopers in a local club
21 meeting and they talked about, you know, ticketing
22 snowmachiners without proper registration. It's probably one
23 of the last things that's on their mind because they're
24 usually busy doing other things. I mean, if they're -- it's
25 just not a priority according to at least the two troops that

1 came to our meeting. They just said look, if we got time and
2 the situation's right, yeah, maybe we'll ticket, but normally,
3 they just look the other way, they don't have time. That's
4 basically what they're saying, but I do agree that this year,
5 the most snowmachines that I've seen that were not reg -- and
6 I'd say the number was a lot higher than what I just heard.

7 But I'd also like to comment a couple things, is that
8 time is limited, I know that we'll have our annual meeting in
9 August and I don't know if I've gotten a feel that we have
10 anything resolved or looking towards as a solution, but I do
11 think that, as a Snow TRAC board member, my obligation is
12 going to be -- or at least my commitment is going to be to try
13 to put out the information that I've heard as generically as
14 possible and see what the comments are and just say hey, look,
15 there's going to be a shortage, we're going to see less money
16 in the grooming pool even though the grooming isn't popular up
17 here or necessarily done and just see what the comments are.

18 I think that a Snow TRAC board member, the one thing
19 that we should do is go back to the areas that we represent
20 and say what is your feelings and start getting some comments,
21 some solicitations as to what they would like to see. I don't
22 want to see anything suspended because I think that that's the
23 wrong signal. Granted, we're going to have a shortfall of
24 money, at least that's the way it looks, but I don't think
25 that suspending anything is the right answer at this point. I

1 think that we still need to continue using what limited
2 resource we have and let the rocks fall wherever at least at
3 this point.

4 We only have a few months to go, I mean, we're already
5 dealing with next year's limited money and we got to come to
6 some conclusion.

7 MS. HARRIS: Thanks, Steve. I think Joe has a comment
8 to that.

9 MR. GAUNA: Yeah, I agree with what Steve as far as
10 going back to his constituents, that's our job and I know I
11 certainly do. Every time there's a meeting or a
12 teleconference or a bulletin, I go to the clubs and I go to my
13 contacts, so yeah, that's our job.

14 The other thing is the limited amount of money that's
15 going to be available for grooming, however you guys figure it
16 out, if you want to have a grooming component, it's going to
17 be so limited that DNR is going to have to make the choice
18 about what trails to groom. I don't think it would be a good
19 idea to come to the Snow TRAC and say here are 27 trails, you
20 guys tell us.

21 MS. HARRIS: Right.

22 MR. GAUNA: You guys are going to finally have to start
23 making the decision about what you want groomed for the state
24 and Bill, you mentioned enforcement will bump up
25 registrations. I think we better -- we've better off if we

1 got the folks at DNR to put an effort into breaking away from
2 the DMV, the artificial DMV connection. Let's get away from
3 that and go to the general fund and say this is what we need
4 to have a decent program.

5 A statewide trail system that's ungroomed, I don't think
6 so. People are not going to want that, but hey, we should
7 work on that as well, so there are some things that obviously
8 we can all discuss I'm sure. Thank you.

9 MR. ANDERSON: And I got another comment here, Darcy.
10 It's Tinker. One thing -- and Randy kind of directed kind of
11 at him. Also, the groomers are out there, they're probably
12 working on 30 to 40 percent of the money that they really
13 should have and they're just requesting the funds just enough
14 to get through and get -- but you'll see, like Teri said,
15 you'll see a lot of no charges and that's the only way, so
16 far, the program has been working or is working. You know,
17 Randy's got a lot of money tied up to it and cabin
18 (indiscernible), Big Lake, everybody's already tied up in this
19 stuff and like I say, they're only working under a percentage
20 of what they actually should have. Right, Randy?

21 MR. CROSBY: Right. That's right.

22 MS. HARRIS: So we really are already needing what the
23 director would like to see as the state not the primary funder
24 for these programs and it sounds like we're already getting a
25 lot of volunteer time and money and effort and equipment put

1 out there in the field on the ground and it sounds like
2 there's a -- I know from what you guys are saying and what
3 I've heard before, there's a whole lot of people doing a lot
4 of work for essentially free or volunteer.

5 MS. HITE: Darcy, I have a questions, this is Cindy
6 Hite. Two questions actually multi-pronged. First of all,
7 why does Director Ellis not want to see grooming primarily
8 funded through the Snow TRAC fund and what does he want to see
9 funded to the Snow TRAC?

10 MS. HARRIS: It's my understanding that one of the
11 reasons is, is because we don't have -- the program is
12 growing, but the money isn't growing and there -- we're not
13 able to satisfy what the grooming needs are with this program,
14 so to kind of turn over some of that responsibility, which
15 sounds like it's already being done to the clubs and the user
16 groups and the people that are most interested that that's, I
17 think, his interest is to make sure that it's -- it is spread
18 out among the user groups because we really don't have enough
19 money to fund everybody as fully as we'd love to if we had a
20 million dollars. But we're -- we can only be a small part of
21 people's funding for every year. John.

22 MR. SCUDDER: That was what Joe said and that's what
23 everybody else here has said, get a line item in there and
24 increase it.

25 MS. LECLAIR: So can I address that? This is Claire and

1 on behalf of Ben, sort of a point of procedure. The
2 department can certainly make a case for priorities for the
3 budget, but we work for the governor, so we don't ask the
4 legislature for money, that is not what somebody in the
5 administration would do. So that's -- you know, you have to
6 understand that there are a lot of things that the state
7 budget needs to address and this is one of them certainly, but
8 it's -- but we can't turn on the spigot and flow some money
9 straight into the Snow TRAC program. I know you guys
10 understand that.

11 MR. SCUDDER: I have -- right, especially on that.

12 MR. WILKE: (Indiscernible) I'd like to take an issue
13 with that, actually capital budgets begin in the departmental
14 level.

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hang on a second, Mark.

16 MR. WILKE: The director or the commissioner would.....

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Mark. Mark.

18 MR. WILKE:certainly be capable of including line
19 item requests in the capital budget.

20 MS. LECLAIR: And I -- Mark, this is Claire and I
21 understand what you're saying. What I'm trying to convey is
22 that we cannot guarantee that, any request that we make would
23 be in the administration's budget.

24 MR. WILKE: Yeah, it could be pulled by the legislature,
25 it could be line item out by the governor, absolutely, I

1 understand that, but if we have the support of the director
2 and of the commissioner to include items for grooming in the
3 capital budget, I believe that that's a viable way of doing
4 it.

5 MS. LECLAIR: It's one way.

6 MR. ENOCHS: If I could, this is Steve Enochs from
7 Fairbanks, and just to kind of follow along with that and
8 something that's kind of the direction that I personally think
9 I'm going to take is that I was actively involved this past
10 summer with a group and we met with Director Ben Ellis twice
11 over the summer over the issue of the state parks up here in
12 Fairbanks, the (indiscernible) Pond are and the lower
13 Chatanika (ph) and we were able to successfully, through our
14 legislators and through Director Ben Ellis's efforts, to come
15 up to Fairbanks and to talk to everybody, the individual
16 groups, the northern region parks folks and individual groups.
17 And we were able to get our legislators and everybody involved
18 and the end result was, is that we got a park ranger funded up
19 here, fully funded. We got our parks out of passive
20 management into active management and extra money so he even
21 makes some improvements to a park that was closed 10 years ago
22 and is in shambles.

23 So my point being is that -- and this is what I was more
24 or less leading to when I was talking earlier, is that I think
25 as a Snow TRAC board member, one of the means of communication

1 should be to our legislators and say look, you know, we don't
2 have enough money, this program as it is, in my opinion, is
3 broke and the only way we're going to effectively change it is
4 to start going to these legislators and start getting some
5 support for the legislator to take action. That doesn't mean
6 that we shouldn't talk to Director Ben Ellis and say look, you
7 know, you can do this on your -- we recommend that you go this
8 route every -- I don't know how to put it any other way, but
9 certainly, we should go to our legislatures and say look, the
10 Snow TRAC funding as it is is almost broke and it's not
11 working, we need help, let's look for an avenue, a consensus
12 avenue of approach and let's start talking to our legislators
13 and effect change there because that's where it's going to
14 happen anyway.

15 MS. HARRIS: So Steve, this is Darcy, thank you. That's
16 -- and so maybe that's one of our action items out of this
17 meeting. We have about 10 more minutes in the room here and I
18 would like to kind of summarize this and wrap it up. I know
19 there's a lot more discussion and a lot more questions. We've
20 got -- because I don't think we have a clear path forward, but
21 we've started the discussion, so we have established that
22 probably need to talk to some legislators, those people who
23 are interested in adding the funding need to do that.
24 And.....

25 MR. GAUNA: Well now, when you say those people are

1 interested, you're saying I? I mean, I'm going to, but.....

2 MS. HARRIS: Yes. I can't.

3 MR. GAUNA:I'm saying -- you know, Ben keeps
4 saying that too. I can't talk to the legislature, I can't
5 talk to the legislature. Well, Strato (ph) could and James
6 King did. They managed to get down there somehow and get
7 those legislators where they needed something done. They
8 managed to do that when they want to get something done. What
9 I'm saying is Ben needs to, you guys need to, Claire or
10 whoever it is and so get the legislators to call you and say
11 hey, what's going on here?

12 Now my legislator, Lesil McGuire said she did. Her
13 staffer queried Ben or queried state parks is what she said
14 and they really haven't heard anything, so you know? I had a
15 meeting with both Mia what's her name and McGuire's staffers
16 and followed up with emails and said look.....

17 MR. SCUDDER: Mia Costello.

18 MR. GAUNA: Mia Costello, yes, thank you, John. And I
19 said you guys need to get the boss to call Director Ellis and
20 here's his phone number and here's his email and ask what's
21 going on with the Snow TRAC and I don't know -- they told me
22 okay, we're doing that, but I don't know if Ben's heard from
23 them or not. What I'm saying is that with state parks or DNR
24 or Ed or Sullivan, whenever they want something really done,
25 they figure out how to do it and I'm just saying that for 10

1 years, I've been saying you guys need to do this. Split from
2 DMV, get this stuff in the line item and our troubles will be
3 partly over.

4 But every single year, I hear we can't do that, we're
5 not allowed, we can educate, but we can't cajole, we can't --
6 I can't meet with them. King said the same thing out in the
7 field when he said this is fabulous out here, I can't believe
8 how wonderful this country is when he was watching the bear
9 across a gully eat up a spring kill. He was just amazed and
10 blown away and he loved it. He loved it. He said God, we've
11 got to get something better, but when it came right down to
12 it, it was like well, you know, I really can't talk to them
13 and I believe that it's because they just don't realize how
14 important snowmobiling is to Alaskans.

15 MS. HARRIS: Well, I think.....

16 MR. GAUNA: We are the winter tourists here. We, the
17 local folks. I know state parks is established to promote
18 tourism, I know about all the enabling legislation, way way
19 back in the old days, I was here prior to it, way prior and
20 after. I know that. We are winter tourists and we are
21 getting screwed and I'm just really tired of it.

22 MS. HARRIS: Ester, did you have something to say?

23 MS. TEMPLE: Yeah, this is Ester.....

24 MR. GAUNA: Sorry.

25 MS. TEMPLE: No, that's fine. I mean, I think -- so my

1 -- just for your guys' knowledge, my position in the
2 Commissioner's Office is actually the legislative liaison, so
3 I do work with the legislature. As far as budgets go, I mean,
4 I think what you're saying is that maybe DNR should look at
5 perhaps adding a budget line item, but say if it goes through
6 our process and it doesn't make it into the governor's budget,
7 then at that point, DNR cannot go in and go to the legislature
8 and partially, I think a separation of powers issue of we
9 can't force their hand to say.....

10 MR. GAUNA: Oh, sure.

11 MS. TEMPLE: Right. And so I think that's the thing, is
12 it could be a collaborative process in that if we were to say,
13 okay, we're going to try and look at how we can improve the
14 funding or whatnot, but that we also need your assistance if
15 it were to make it in the budget to say hey, we really want
16 this in the budget, don't take it out or don't, you know,
17 there's -- and you can even ask potentially for them to
18 increase the budget, you know? But it's just at a certain
19 point where if it doesn't get in from our end, we can't do
20 anything and so.....

21 MR. GAUNA: And I go it.

22 MS. LECLAIR: And that's all I was trying to say.

23 MS. TEMPLE:and that's all.....

24 MR. GAUNA: I got it.

25 MS. TEMPLE:I think what we're trying to say.

1 MR. GAUNA: I've got it.

2 MS. TEMPLE: And then the only other thing I think that
3 we mention is that with trying to bypass the DMV even though
4 it does sound like a great idea and it's just a complicated
5 thing I think with budgets and how they go, so unless I
6 believe -- and correct me if I'm wrong, unless parks were to
7 create a fee, then that -- for snowmachines like -- kind of
8 like a parking fee that we do for state parks or whatnot.

9 MR. SCUDDER: Trail pass.

10 MS. TEMPLE: Right.

11 MR. SCUDDER: Just like a trail pass.

12 MS. TEMPLE: Right. Right, like a trail pass. Then
13 that's the only way we would get around I think sometimes
14 doing the dedicated funds of how we're going to do the DMV,
15 but.....

16 MR. LUTH: You got to go back to enforcement.

17 MS. HARRIS: Uh-huh.

18 MR. GAUNA: Okay. So -- well, trail pass
19 (indiscernible) because people ride (indiscernible) so that
20 ain't going to work.

21 MS. TEMPLE: Right.

22 MR. GAUNA: But you got to try .

23 MS. TEMPLE: Right. So I mean, I think.....

24 MR. GAUNA: Now if you guys.....

25 MS. TEMPLE:Darcy's doing a great job and I think,

1 you know, you have Director Ellis and Claire as well is that
2 we want to start this conversation and it seems like we're all
3 kind of maybe not coming in new, but we are, you know, a
4 different group of people who are working, so maybe we'll
5 actually get something done, but we do need your help, so.

6 MR. GAUNA: Yep. You will get the help.

7 MS. TEMPLE: Yeah.

8 MR. GAUNA: Here's the thing. There are 80 or 100,000
9 snowmobilers from all the old surveys and all that stuff and
10 we can get to a lot of them. Not all of them, but we can get
11 to a lot of them. The thing is, if you guys -- DNR starts the
12 process to change the line item, get away from DMV and not
13 even bother about a fee, just get the money in there. And if
14 it doesn't make it, then there's no grooming and the public
15 will scream, but we -- when you do that, when you show us that
16 you're putting it in there and you're doing it, then you will
17 get a lot of support from the snowmobiling community because
18 every one of us on the Snow TRAC plus the state association
19 will put the word out. Call or write your legislator and tell
20 him we want this in.

21 But up until now, every director and every person has
22 said it's real complicated, it's hard to do and we can't do it
23 and dah, dah, dah. I am really tired of hearing that. When
24 you guys need \$2.7 million to put in some program that you
25 really want to put in, you figure out how to do it and this is

1 not that complicated to me based on some of the other things
2 that DNR and the state and the gov have all done. There's
3 some pretty complicated stuff out there, I get that. I under
4 -- the thing is I don't understand some of it. Mark does
5 because he's pretty good at those numbers, but I got to tell
6 you, somebody's just got to do it and it's not us to start it.
7 You guys got to do this. I'm ranting, so I'm real sorry.
8 Sorry, folks.

9 MS. HARRIS: We appreciate your input, Joe, thank you
10 very much.

11 MS. HITE: This is Cindy Hite. I guess, you know,
12 you've got about my two hours here, so I know that Darcy wants
13 to wrap this up.

14 MR. GAUNA: Yep.

15 MS. HITE: Just a few points to make is I don't think
16 the changes that have been recommended here today are
17 beneficial to have the snowmobilers of the board snowmobiling
18 (indiscernible) in Alaska. And I think before you make the
19 kind of change you're talking about, maybe to look into public
20 comments from around the state would be interesting too.

21 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, that's a good idea.

22 MS. HITE: So that's it. I think it's time to wrap it
23 up, folks.

24 MR. GAUNA: Thanks, Cindy.

25 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Cindy. Are there any other

1 final comments from folks on the phone?

2 MS. HITE: Oh, I'm sorry, I did have one question. It
3 was a lady, I don't know who it was in the room that said
4 something about we need your help.

5 MR. GAUNA: That was Ester.

6 MS. HITE: I'm actually kind of curious about she was
7 asking about. I mean, what she wants help from the advisory
8 board. Through the years of help, you know, change in the
9 application and volunteers for trail inspections, you know,
10 funding for the statewide trail system idea, so I'm trying to
11 figure out what help you need from the advisory.

12 MR. MAYFIELD: It goes in one ear and on somebody's
13 desk, right, Cindy?

14 MR. GAUNA: Wait, you guys, wait. This is Joe, hold on.
15 That was Ester saying when they start the process of changing
16 away from DMV and getting the budget going.....

17 MR. MAYFIELD: Oh, okay. Got it.

18 MR. GAUNA:she is going to need our help that's
19 when I pledge that they'll have it.

20 MR. MAYFIELD: Okay. See, I was confused, that's
21 exactly what I needed to know. Thanks, Joe.

22 MR. GAUNA: Yeah.

23 MR. MAYFIELD: Yeah, this is Dan. I -- you know, I am
24 fairly sure that I can pull together my 200 members in support
25 of any DNR initiative to increase the grooming pool.

1 MS. HARRIS: The other issue with grooming, we've gotten
2 several people who have wanted to add new trails, one in
3 Southeast and one Sitka and are interested in that, and that I
4 think should also be an option. If we're going to build this
5 program to be bigger and better, we ought to allow more people
6 to apply for the trails in their areas, you know?

7 MR. GAUNA: This is Joe. Let's keep -- there's two
8 parts to this. We said last year we're going to not add any
9 trails to be groomed.....

10 MS. HARRIS: Right.

11 MR. GAUNA:but there should be a process of some
12 sort to identify a trail as a dedicated Snow Trac trail.....

13 MS. HARRIS: Okay.

14 MR. GAUNA:that would make it eligible for
15 grooming in the future at some time. Okay? So let's make
16 sure that we're talking the two things. Maybe Southeast wants
17 to put a trail in and Copper Center, they wanted to put in a
18 trail, okay, well that's fine, let's designate it as a Snow
19 TRAC trail and then when money comes, they can put in for
20 funding.

21 MS. HITE: The trails to nowhere again. Instead of
22 making a statewide trail system where everybody actually has a
23 trail somewhere in their district then and is getting money
24 for it from Snow TRAC.

25 MR. GAUNA: Right, and Cindy, that's where DNR says when

1 they start getting the statewide trail system designated,
2 that's when we'll jump in and help out as well. Well, we
3 probably should need another telecon in a few weeks or take
4 this up in the August meeting. We do have to button up.

5 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. Does anyone else have a final
6 thought at this moment? We didn't come away with any action
7 items, but I do think we opened some discussion topics here
8 and I really want to continue this discussion. What I'm going
9 to do is when Director Ellis gets back to town, I'm going to
10 -- we'll have a very clear record of the meeting and
11 everybody's comments and concerns and I'll sit down and talk
12 with him about these things and people's concerns, solicit
13 some more public comment at some point, that's very important,
14 Cindy, and come up with some different and maybe a different
15 set or proposals for solving some of these issues.

16 I know that one thing that Deputy Commissioner Fogels
17 has said that he really wants us to have a clear
18 identification of some of these issues that are most important
19 to us and ones that we would prioritize for solving or
20 resolving. And so maybe we can also come up with a clear
21 short list of the most important problems that we see as the
22 ones that are most important to come up with solutions for in
23 the short-term or in the long-term, either way, but the ones
24 we really want to prioritize.

25 So I'd like to get that to the Commissioner's Office at

1 some point and.....

2 MR. WILKE: Darcy, this is Mark.

3 MS. HARRIS: Yes, Mark.

4 MR. WILKE: I think I can probably sum this up pretty
5 succinctly on what I heard and through all my experience in
6 doing this is that it would be the feeling of this group that
7 the Department of Natural Resources should be requesting
8 grooming money in the budgetary process and that the Snow TRAC
9 program, grant program, the \$5 DMV fees could be used for
10 safety and education and trail development programs.

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Here, here, Mark.

12 MS. HARRIS: Yep, that sounds right.

13 MR. WILKE: I think that's as simple as it gets right
14 there.

15 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, Mark.

16 MR. WILKE: Let me clarify one thing. Grooming, staking
17 and marking should all be paid for through the budgetary
18 process.

19 MS. HARRIS: Yeah, that's all part of the same thing,
20 making the trails clear and safe and marked. Thank you, Mark,
21 that was excellent.

22 MR. BIESSEL: Hey, Darcy, this is Wayne, I just got one
23 quick item.

24 MS. HARRIS: Yes, Wayne.

25 MR. BIESSEL: For the next agenda items for future Snow

1 TRAC conferences or whatever, we do need to finalize what the
2 grooming standards are. I know they've been kicked around and
3 you know, I'm hearing that it's on somebody's desk. That's
4 because we don't have a sanction set by both the Snow TRAC
5 board and state parks, so we need to work that one out so that
6 we can include those in the next grant cycle.

7 MR. LUTH: Hey, Wayne, can you take and email to the
8 board your thoughts on what should be on that and we could
9 just reply to you directly and get that cleared up real
10 easily?

11 MR. GAUNA: Yeah.

12 MR. BIESSEL: Let me get back to you on that. I think
13 it's -- it's not something that I'm specifically going to
14 recommend because there was a lot of work done.....

15 MR. GAUNA: Yes, yes, yes.

16 MR. BIESSEL:that I wasn't a party to.
17 (Indiscernible) did a lot of work on this a few years ago and
18 I know it was a controversial issue with the board, so this
19 needs to be kind of a separate -- we need to talk about this
20 separately and I don't think we have the time right here to do
21 it.

22 (multiple speech)

23 MR. LUTH: Maybe we could have a mini meeting just with
24 you and the board.

25 MR. BIESSEL: Thank you, Bill.

1 MR. MAYFIELD: Darcy, this is Dan. Those standards need
2 to be talked about in the public form.

3 MR. BIESSEL: I'm not comfortable just putting off
4 recommendations right now because I don't know enough about it
5 and -- yeah.

6 MR. MAYFIELD: I think it just needs to be another
7 agenda item at our next discussion.

8 MR. GAUNA: This is Joe. Wayne, you've been doing this
9 stuff for a number of years. How about at least starting with
10 a draft like we did today. Let's talk with some -- just some
11 talking points, but you need to do it, not us.

12 MR. BIESSEL: I'll talk to Darcy about it.

13 MR. GAUNA: Okay.

14 MS. HARRIS: Sounds good. Thanks, Wayne. Okay, any
15 other final thoughts? I think we've talked about having
16 another meeting at some point. Yes, John.

17 MR. SCUDDER: Are you going to email us the minutes like
18 you did last time?

19 MS. HARRIS: Yes. When we get them, we certainly will,
20 absolutely everybody will have them. You bet. Of course. So
21 then everybody will have a record of these things and we can
22 come up with the next agenda and where we go from here for our
23 agenda items. Does anybody have any final thoughts? I think
24 Mark had a good summary of what came out of here and --
25 somebody have a thought?

1 MR. MORRISON: This is Andy. Yeah, and it's -- the
2 other thing with (indiscernible) with DMV and I understand,
3 you know, going through a bunch of (indiscernible) it's a good
4 idea and it could also take five or 10 years.

5 MR. GAUNA: Nope.

6 MR. MORRISON: Is that if we can get mobile DMV
7 (indiscernible) and like Arctic Man, (indiscernible) Alaska,
8 Iron Dog, maybe Petersville Road on a busy weekend and just
9 make it easy for people to register their sleds instead of
10 asking the troopers to do it. I think a lot of people will
11 glad to spend the 10 bucks, 20 bucks and you'd probably get
12 (indiscernible) maybe \$50,000 or \$60,000 (indiscernible).

13 MS. HARRIS: Okay, we'll add that to one of the ideas,
14 Andy, thank you very much. I really appreciate everyone's
15 input and time away from your busy days. It's really valuable
16 to have all of you share your thoughts and ideas for how we
17 can make this program better and that's really the goal here.
18 Me, as a new program administrator, is I'd like to see
19 whatever this program turns out to be, I'd really like it to
20 be an excellent program that we can all be really proud of and
21 happy with and I'd like it to be accountable and we have
22 everybody can say they were part of doing something that was
23 excellent for the state and the citizens.

24 So whatever that evolution needs to be, I'd like to be a
25 part of that and I'd like you guys to continue the dialogue.

1 Thank you very much for joining us today.

2 (Whispered conversation)

3 MR. SCUDDER: See you guys.

4 MS. HARRIS: Bye everyone.

5 MR. BAKER: We are off record.

6 (Off tape)

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I, Sonya Hewes, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 88 are a true, accurate and complete transcript of proceedings in the SnowTRAC Program Meeting administered by Parks and Outdoor Recreation, as transcribed by me from a copy of the electronic digital sound recording to the best of my knowledge and ability.

June 22, 2012

Sonya A. Hewes
Sonya Hewes