



# **Fifield Sno Drovers Meeting Minutes**

**Pat Ley – President**

**N14710 Shady Knoll Road, Park Falls, WI 54552**

Below are the Minutes from the **October 9, 2025** meeting

**See you at the Kickoff Party on November 8th!**

Meeting called to order by President, Pat Ley at 7:00 pm

A Quorum was met with 31 members attending the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all members.

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

Minutes from the September 2025 meeting were emailed to all members. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Rick Sironi/2<sup>nd</sup> by David Dick. Motion carried.

## **TREASURER REPORT**

The Treasurer's report was presented by Derek Dieringer in Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois' absence. The report covered the period of September 11, 2025 to October 8, 2025 and included expenditures, deposits and ending balance. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Mike Sloane/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Eibergen. Motion carried.

**Membership: 155 (individual, business and landowner memberships)**

## **TRAIL AND EQUIPMENT REPORT**

Roy Funk, Trail Boss, reported that there had been two trail workdays so far this Fall. The first attended by 16 volunteers that worked on the northern trails and the second by 9 volunteers on the eastern trails. The wet spot on Trail 111 just off of 182 was back filled. The upcoming workday on October 11<sup>th</sup> will focus on Trail 121 and vicinity. Volunteers should meet at the Pike Lake Fire Hall and will trailer to the USFS chalet on Highway 182. Lunch will be at Wintergreen Resort following the work.

Trails have been dry allowing Mike Sloane and Terry Mantor to mow and brush the trails. A BIG thank you to all of the volunteers for their contributions!

Roy informed the members that he will be in contact with Frank Dusek to see if a mini drag can be borrowed from the PCSTA. The use of this equipment is SNARS eligible.

Pat Ley informed the group of his recommendation to sell the Club's 271 Farm Boss chainsaws and to purchase an equivalent sized Stihl electric saw. Pike Lake Fire Department personnel were interested in purchasing the gas-powered saws at a cost of \$125 each. The electric chainsaw has an 18" bar, battery and charger. There is a promotion currently offered that would add a second battery at no cost. Each battery should maintain a 44 minute non-stop running time. The Sno Drovers would also be eligible for a 20% discount on the new purchases based on our 501 (c) (3) status. Roy Funk offered that the Mercer Sno Goers have no gas-powered saws. The electric saws are also lightweight. A motion to purchase one new electric chainsaw at a cost of \$1,469 was made by Cindy Ley/2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Funk. Motion carried.

Pat also informed the members that Lucas Bacholl will be using his brush hog this coming Wednesday or Thursday on Trail 120 and on the southern-most part of the Sno Drover trails to clear the tag alders. Lucas stated that there should be no debris left behind him on the trail. The expense for this service was approved at the September meeting.

### **GROOMER UPDATE**

Mike Ida, Groomer Coordinator, updated the group on a few items. On Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> Track Inc. will be holding an open house at their Rhinelander location from 11 to 3 pm. Lunch will be served. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mike.

Mike and Bonnie Ida will be hosting a groomer and spouse get together at their home on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't already RSVP'd please do so.

Mike is working on the grooming schedule. He is trying to accommodate the days and routes that each groomer prefers. If you have dates on your personal schedule that you cannot groom, please let Mike know. There are 15 groomers this year and hopefully going to 16 later in the season. If you are interested in grooming, please contact Mike Ida.

### **COUNTY MEETING REPORT (PCSTA)**

No report as the meeting is only on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Peggy Kuss updated the members on the PCSTA BOGO which will begin on November 1<sup>st</sup> and end on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Eighteen establishments in "north" Price County have signed up. Materials will be distributed by November 1<sup>st</sup> to the participating establishments. Patrons can purchase as many BOGO cards as they would like at a cost of \$10 each. The Sno Drovers have signed six establishments in our area to participate. Rick Sironi clarified the purpose of the BOGO as a PCSTA fundraiser and that this was the first fundraiser the Price County Snowmobile Trails Association had conducted.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SURVEY RESULTS**

Derek Dieringer presented an overview of the results of the Member Survey that was conducted during the Spring of 2025. The results included feedback regarding the Kickoff Party, Winter Run, Christmas Party, Annual Raffle, Club and Membership, Philanthropy and Vision and Overall Comments. The online survey was sent to 232 members with 96 responding. This being a 41% response rate which is quite good.

Interesting points included the following:

87% of respondents were 51 years of age or older

40% of respondents live in the area year-round while 33% of respondents are part-time residents

89% of respondents are satisfied with the Sno Drovers and 96% of respondents would recommend joining the Sno Drovers to a friend

72% of respondents believe we should keep club events within a 20-minute drive of Pike Lake  
Respondents would like to have more reminders sent before meetings and events

The Board has reviewed the survey results and comments and are actively working to improve the Club based on the feedback we received. Derek asked that members understand that we cannot act on every single comment and suggestion so if your comment or suggestion is not addressed, please know that the Board is doing its best to address the major themes found in the survey.

Members were offered to view the full survey results following the meeting if they chose.

### **GROOMER BARN LEASE AGREEMENT**

Peggy Kuss, Secretary, presented information regarding the Town of Fifield's request to begin collecting an annual rent payment and monthly utility payment for the months our groomer is stored in the fire barn in Pike Lake. The Board has utilized the services of an attorney to oversee the update of the lease originally presented by the Town of Fifield to the Board to ensure the Club's interests are represented. This modified lease will be presented to the Town of Fifield Board shortly.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2025-2026 BUDGET**

In Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois' absence, Derek Dieringer presented the 2025-2026 season budget to Club members. Derek informed the members of the three general areas of income for the Club. These included fundraising income, membership income and supplemental income generated from the non-grooming trail work the members perform.

Expenses are broken into the following categories:

Administrative – office supplies and the like

Business – conference expense, lodging, meals

Business Service – advertising, insurance, licenses printing, etc.

Fundraising – Kickoff Party, cash raffle, Winter Run

Gifts and Donations – Donations to charities, scholarships and donations in general

Membership Services – Processing AWSC memberships, Christmas party, monthly meetings, etc.

Trail Maintenance – building rent, equipment, supplies and tools

Miscellaneous – trail maps and utilities for the groomer building

Notable changes affecting the budget included an increase in membership dues and AWSC costs, increased charitable giving, rent being paid to the Town of Fifield and generally an increase in the cost of goods and services that the Club purchases.

Members were offered a chance to review the proposed budget in detail following the meeting. A motion was made by David Dick/2<sup>nd</sup> by Jayne Robinson to accept the budget as presented. Motion carried.

### **TEXT REMINDERS**

Derek Dieringer, Communications Director, presented information regarding a new text reminder service that the Club is offering. The membership survey suggested that members would appreciate more reminders regarding the Club's meeting and events. As a result, the Board approved implementing a text reminder service. Sign up is quick and easy. You will find the signup at the Sno Drover website, <https://snodrovers.com>. The current text message configuration is set to

notify individuals the day prior to an event. Some members would appreciate an earlier reminder. Derek will look at this further.

### **2025 APPAREL ORDER**

Derek Dieringer presented information on the season's apparel order. The 2025 apparel order is now open. Orders must be placed online by visiting the Sno Drover website. There are a few new items along with two new colors this season. The order period will close at 11:59 pm on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Orders should be delivered in mid-December. Derek is hoping to have orders available at the Sno Drover Christmas Party for those that order. As in other years, payment for your orders will require a credit card.

### **CLUB RIDE SCHEDULE**

There have been five planned Club rides for this season as presented by Derek. These dates are Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. These will be listed on both the Sno Drover website and Facebook and will take place trail conditions permitting. We will meet this year at 9 am at the Federal boat landing on Round Lake. Ride routes will be determined closer to the date of the actual ride.

Merle Schellinger, Eisenstein Bushwacker Trail Boss, asked that the February 28<sup>th</sup> ride visit Wintergreen Lake to take in their vintage "Back in the Day" event.

### **WINTER RUN BUS TOUR**

Derek Dieringer presented information on the Winter Run Bus Tour in Melissa Dupke-Bourgeois' absence. The bus will be scheduled for Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> regardless of trail status and will depart Moose Jaw at 4 pm. The cost of the bus ride will be \$10 along with a Winter Run sheet. If interested, you will need to RSVP via the Sno Drover website. Space is limited on the bus so don't delay.

### **KICKOFF PARTY**

The Kickoff Party will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> at Moose Jaw. Donations from businesses are underway and members are encouraged to donate as well. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Mary Dupke-Bourgeois. You can reach Mary at (920) 901-5551. Your support for this event is appreciated.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Otto Kuss/2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandy Sironi to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy Kuss, Secretary