

**Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Club  
Board Meeting, Nov. 16, 2016  
Co-op, Noon**

**Present:** Teresa Baker, Paul Hendrix, Adam McClory (Liaison from the Forest Service), Pete Minard, Alice Schroeder, Paul Spencer, Tim Stury, Bill Thompson

**Finances:** Paul Hendrix announced that we currently have \$5,988 in two accounts of \$1,776.87 and \$ 4,210.81. The two accounts are due to past history but help the treasurer keep track of money from different sources. This money can be used for any expense. We also have between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in Idaho Park and Ski funds. This money can be used for any legitimate expense if we have the receipt, including gas, porta potty, website costs, ect. If you have a receipt send it to Paul Hendrix.

Bill noted that the Park and Ski funds cannot be used for permanent equipment such as snowmobiles and we will need a new snowmobile in the next 3 years. Pete Minard said that a new machine will cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 because grooming requires a 24 inch track and a 4 stroke engine, bigger than a standard recreational machine. The machine to be replaced should have about a \$2,000 trade in value. Since the Forest Service has actual title to our machines, we can ask them for matching funds. Adam explained that the local Forest Service office is currently selling some surplus equipment. This money may be available for matching funds. **Update:** at the evening general meeting Nov. 16, 2016, Adam reported that there is \$9,100 in our Park and Ski account. Also, equipment worth approximately \$4,000 is being put up for sale and will probably be available for a new Snowmobile. Finally, the Forest Service now tries to have a replacement fund for major equipment and he will try to get such a fund started for the club's grooming equipment.

Tim asked if we could rent snowmobiles, rather than buy them. Adam will try to find out. However, Pete noted that machines suitable for grooming may not be easy to find. Bill thought that Idaho Park and Ski money could probably be used to pay for a rental.

Pete mentioned that some welding on the grooming hitches needs to be done. Paul Spencer offered to do welding if needed. Currently, there is a good shop that does this for us so Pete is reluctant to change.

**Trail Status:** Bill reported that all the trails on the East Side of Hwy. 6 are in good condition thanks to Shawn and Adam. They arranged for crews from the Forest Service and Idaho Dept. of Corrections to cut small trees and brush for several days last summer. This required a match of 65 volunteer hours which was easily filled by 13 people who came to the trail day, October 29, and finished cleaning the brushed areas and the approximately 200 yards of trail on Meadow Loop which were not reached by the crews. Tim and Bill added to those hours by using Tim's mower to mow Meadow Loop.

Bill and Shawn are working on getting signs at junctions that direct to trails and also back to the parking lot. They will work on a grant. Pete and Shawn will meet at the Divide to

decide just what is needed. Adam has supplies for a new signboard at the trail head. He needs volunteers to help with installation the week of Dec. 5. Bill will help and send a notice out. This will be a board for posting information. The club would like to have envelopes available at the signboard for getting Park and Ski passes and paying for club membership. There would be no slot for money there. Rather, these would be addressed envelopes with the proper form which people can take and mail in. Thus, vandalism would not be a problem. Paul Hendrix noted that he can get signs at wholesale rates if needed.

The two West Side trails were not used the last two years because of logging on Idaho State Lands on the West Side. The Idaho Dept. of Lands owns 50% of the land on the West Side in and around the East Dennis Trail. They do not own the roads but can plow them when they are logging. This plowing means that while the Sampson Trail is not plowed and could be groomed for skiing, one has to walk on the muddy road for about one half mile to reach it. Pete suggested we work with the Dept. to have the saddle where the roads meet plowed for parking. It would hold 6-7 cars. Then we could groom and use the Sampson trail. **Update:** Adam reported at the evening general meeting that the Idaho Dept. of Lands is offering some plots for cutting but does not know if logging will begin this winter. If it does, they will work with us to have weekend skiing with parking at the Sampson/East Dennis junction.

**Forest Service News:** Adam reported that the financial plan for the coming year is about to be signed. It is similar to last year and will allow reimbursement for justifiable expenses in maintaining the ski area. As noted above the new trail head sign board is ready for installation. As before, Forest Service training is required for snowmobile operators. However, Shawn is now a certified trainer so training can be at the divide. It is usually a half day, with recertification required every 2 to 3 years. We have some application forms and training can be scheduled when we have applicants. This will be discussed at the evening meeting as well. Adam requested that Pete work with Shawn to keep a simple, written record of his work training groomers. This training is aimed at the particular problems associated with grooming, particularly how to avoid getting stuck. It also allows Pete to determine if someone is ready to groom alone or needs more time as an assistant. The record is also useful in documenting volunteer hours for matching requirements. Paul Spencer volunteered to write up directions for new groomers, if needed.

**Events:** Bill suggested several events. The board felt a community ski day with a snowshoe tour (Teresa volunteered to lead this), simple beginners' lessons (Alice and ??) and hot drinks and cookies was a very good idea, helping us to create interest in cross country skiing and get new club members. The board was also in favor of doing a loppet out to Bald Mt. Lookout, if conditions permit. This is time consuming but worth it as it attracts more adventurous skiers. Also it usually allows skiing on those roads for one or two weeks afterward. Bill also suggested doing a fundraiser with Tapped, a pub on North Main in Moscow. They arrange a weekday evening events where \$1.00 from each local beer sold goes to the designated nonprofit group. He will contact them.

**Website:** Bill thanked Paul Spencer for bringing the website back to life. Anyone who has suggestions, pictures or corrections should send them to Paul Spencer.

**Other Business:** The yearly general meeting will be held at 7:30pm Nov. 16, 2016 (tonight). The agenda is a discussion of the general information on trails, grooming etc.; election of officers and a brief slide show on a trip to Roseland, BC that several members took last year. Bill will also see if there is a record of bylaws for the club. We are required to elect officers at the general meeting. Current officers are willing to serve again. They are President--Bill Thompson, Secretary—Alice Schroeder, Treasurer—Paul Hendrix, and Trails Manager—Pete Minard. Nominations from the floor will be gratefully accepted. Current board members, Teresa Baker, Tim Stury and Paul Spencer agreed to serve again. A request for volunteers for the board will be made.

Bill and Pete plan to move the warming hut to the junction of the lower part of Big Loop and Meadow Loop on the Divide Road this afternoon. Bill asked for suggestions of how we might thank Lane and Shirley Hathaway, owners of the Palouse Divide Lodge who help us in so many ways, including storing the snowmobiles and warming hut at the Lodge and allowing us to place it on their property at the junction in the ski season. Pete suggested helping their business was the best thing to do. One way would be to attend the fundraiser dinner they are holding this Saturday, Nov. 19, for the Fernwood Senior Center. Another would be to book the small cabins or encourage a larger group to book with them. We could also have a club weekend at the lodge. One possibility is joining the Panhandle Ski Club on their weekend. Teresa suggested working with them to raffle off a night or weekend at the lookout cabin, which sleeps 2-4. This could be done online through face book or at the Tapped fund raiser.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice L. Schroeder  
Secretary