

**Brule Valley Ski Club  
Annual Meeting 9/29/2024  
Approved by BVSC Board 10/2/2024**

**Attendees:**

Linda Hobbs, President  
 Bob Cragin, Vice-President  
 Kathie Culhane-Pera, Secretary  
 Al Klein, Treasurer  
 Greg St. Onge, Member-at-Large

Phil Anderson  
 Louise Beyea  
 Tammy Brown  
 Dave Grapentine  
 Greg Gullicksrud  
 Jon Jurek  
 Beth Manz  
 Cordell Manz  
 Tim Pera  
 Lynn Sarri  
 Daryl Sarri  
 Jon Tharow

Topic	Discussion / Decision	Future Actions
<b>Old business</b>		
<b>President's and Secretary's Report by Linda Hobbs</b>	<p>In the past year, the BVSC Board has focused on several areas:</p> <p><u>Structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= Had 9 Board meetings</li> <li>= Drafted New Bylaws (clarified, added new dimensions, updated), consistent with state law), which members approved 6/2024</li> <li>= Passed a Conflict of Interest policy</li> <li>= Purchased liability insurance for Board members, costing \$380/year, which is separate from race insurance.</li> <li>= Placed all historic and current BVSC materials on a Google shared drive for easy access to all Board members.</li> <li>= Obtained a Zoom account, so can conduct meetings remotely without a time limitation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= Had 3 face to face meetings with DNR about multiple issues, to be presented and discussed later in the meeting: six corner cabin, expanding snowshoe/ mountain bike and skijoring trails, and creating a short lighted trail.</li> <li>= Reached out to NW High school to support their ski club</li> <li>= Organized the After Hours Outdoors Fitness Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o weekly ski session in the winter</li> <li>o monthly hiking sessions in the summer</li> <li>o weekly dry-land training sessions in the fall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	See below

	<p><u>Communication:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= Created three newsletters, Fall 2023/2024 and Spring 2024.</li> <li>= Created a brochure with a new complete trail map</li> <li>= Updated membership form and increased cost for first time in 30 years</li> <li>= Updated Facebook and website (which Nesvold is updating for us but which we could learn to do ourselves)</li> <li>= Started talking about ‘marketing’ to expand our membership, which new Board will pursue</li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion about report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= We discussed 3 ways that members could access minutes; they chose receiving emails with attached minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>Board will work on</p> <p>Secretary will send out minutes via email</p>
<p><b>Trail report by Greg St Onge and Jon Jurek</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= Have expanded snowshoe/mountain bike trails over 2.2 miles from Maple to River, for a total of about 6.7 miles. Plan to do another 0.5 mile this fall. (See map attached). Some sections are in good shape, others need more work due to exposed rocks and roots, and some were damaged by people hiking on wet on trails.</li> <li>= Started clearing for skijoring trail, to end of marked trail. (See map attached). Currently waiting for DNR to mark the trail further and to respond to our request to hiring machines and a crew to do the heavy manual labor.</li> <li>= Members have donated their time (JJ- 120 hours; JT-50 hours; others-not reported), equipment and fuel.</li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion about report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>=We discussed ways to work with the DNR: either 1) wait for them to mark the trail or 2) mark the trail, tell them, and then they will inspect, which has worked well for snowshoe/bike trail crew.</li> <li>= We lauded the members’ donation of time, equipment, and fuel to these efforts. We mentioned using BVSC/ DNR funds to finance trail expansion in the future.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Treasurer’s report by al Klein</b></p>	<p>Expenditures: \$840.03 (low due to low snow fall)  Income: \$2,850.20  Total: \$37,499.80 (up almost \$3K in the past year)  Checking account, with \$11,354.25; rest in 6 and 12 month CDs</p>	
<p><b>New business</b></p>		
<p><b>Honor BVSC members</b></p>	<p>= The Club honored 3 members with a plaque that is a cribbage board with the BVSC map: Cordell Manz for his leadership as President, Jon Jurek for his role as Secretary, and Greg St Onge for his any years of service for the club.</p>	
<p><b>Six Corner Cabin options</b></p>	<p>= We reviewed the 6 options that BVSC-DNR had discussed, which members had received by email, now that the cabin is no longer tied to constraints of Pittman-Robertson funds. (See table attached).</p>	

	<p>= WDNR wants us to consider becoming a Friends group, to assist with this (and future projects). Linda presented information about becoming a Friends Group: we would be able to submit grants to apply for funds, which we would have to match with our own funds, to do projects for the entire BRSF and for all activities, not just After Hours Trails. (See attached documents.)</p> <p>= We discussed pros and cons of each option, stressed the amount of money and work needed from BVSC for each, and reflected on becoming a Friends group. Our discussion centered around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does the cabin fit into our mission? As a warming shelter for skiers? As an overnight cabin for skiers?</li> <li>2. Do we want to manage, maintain, and clean, by spending time and money on the cabin?</li> <li>3. Do we want to create a Friends Group, raise funds for any DNR projects, and expand our activities beyond AH Trails?</li> <li>4. Do we want to rescue DNR from the problem they created, when they did not initially involve us, and even now have graveled the roads to the cabin without informing us?</li> </ol> <p>We took a straw vote to gauge preferences:</p> <p>#1- Sell: 9 people  #2- Day use: 3 people  #3- Night use: 0  #4- DNR campground: 3 people  #5- Skijoring trail: 0  #6- Devil's Hole: 0</p> <p>Based on these results, Louise Beyea placed a motion, which was seconded by Greg St. Onge: The attendees prefer the Board informs the WDNR that at the annual meeting, a straw vote indicated that the WDNR take care of the cabin itself. The motion was passed.</p>	<p>The Board will inform the WDNR</p>
<p><b>Skijoring Trail</b></p>	<p>=The full skijoring trail cannot be completed until there is a bridge over one wetland area (which won't happen this year), but we have started clearing trail, so could have a short loop ready this winter.</p> <p>= We discussed usage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-unknown number of skijoring people in the area, but "if we build it, they could come"</li> <li>- skiers could ski the trail with their dogs without "skijoring"</li> <li>- beginner skiers could enjoy it, as flatter than current trails out of the chalet</li> <li>- challenge: people could walk their dogs while hiking, without snowshoes or skis. Perhaps we should build a hiking trail for people to walk with their dogs, and not walk on AH snowshoe/bike trail.</li> <li>-potential challenge: people with kick-sleds- what shall we do?</li> </ul> <p>We discussed work plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Place flags (wait for WDNR or flag ourselves based on plan and then inform WDNR)</li> <li>-Set work dates and people can work on it on their own</li> </ul>	<p>Board will discuss with DNR</p> <p>Board will make and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Could benefit from machine work, such as a dozer</li> <li>-Consider signs to inform proper use</li> </ul>	communicate work plan
<b>Groom trails with WDNR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= We discussed details about grooming, as well as pros and cons of helping DNR groom.</li> <li>= Members reported on DNR personnel changes that had heard:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Kurt Jancko moved from Amnicon to AH, which may relieve DNR staffing and may make grooming trails easier for them.</li> <li>2) Cala Hakseth is the new park manager at Amnicon.</li> </ol> </li> <li>= Matt L has said he would train volunteers to groom. No date set.</li> <li>= Members wondered: would our being more active lead to their being less active?</li> <li>= We could create a grooming schedule, like a google calendar, detailing who (both DNR and volunteers) would groom when.</li> <li>= We would need someone to coordinate changes, as a preset schedule would have to respond to the weather.</li> <li>= A BVSC member (not DNR) could post on skinnyski.com ahead of time with grooming plan, as well as after grooming.</li> <li>= Perhaps we would also prioritize an area to be groomed first and maintained routinely</li> </ul>	Board will work with DNR on these ideas
<b>Lighted ski trails</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>= The Board has discussed the possibility of creating a small lighted loop with the DNR. DNR wasn't initially enthusiastic but then stated they would be willing to review a plan. Some members expressed interest in working on a plan, noting it would extend skiing after work hours on weekdays, and noted that 2 years ago ,</li> <li>= Examples: Superior Municipal Forest put in solar lights, so could be good to contact them.</li> <li>= Location: Perhaps we could add to a small 5 K out of the chalet, or on new skijoring trails.</li> <li>= Timing: Finish skijoring trail first and then add lights</li> </ul>	Board will draft plans and present to DNR
<b>Purchase or repair old rollers.</b>	Last year DNR informed us they could use new rollers. Members preferred repairing if possible.	Board will discuss with DNR
<b>Relations with DNR</b>	A recurrent topic of discussion was about the importance of working and communicating with WDNR. We reiterated the importance of having an MOU with them.	Board will work on MOU with DNR
<b>BVSC Logo and order merchandise:</b>	The Board is working to create BVSC Nordic hats, headbands, buffs, and jacket for members to purchase. This requires creating a logo in a software (like .ai) with colors. We briefly looked at logo options, and decided to create a committee.	Board will create committee for logo and merchandise.

<b>Voting</b>		
<b>Elect New Board members</b>	19 total ballots, 4 proxy and 15 present - 19/19 people voted for Linda Hobbs, President for 1 year - 19/19 people voted for Bob Cragin, Vice-President for 2 years - 17/19 people voted for Kathie Culhane-Pera, Secretary for 1 year - 18/19 people voted for Tammy Brown, Treasurer for 2 years` - 18/19 people voted for Greg St Onge, Member-at-Large x 2 years	New Board meeting 10/2/2024
<b>Vote on Bylaw amendment</b>	15/19 people voted to adopt Amendment to Bylaws  ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS  Section 5.1 – General Powers. The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. <i><b>When making decisions, if a Vote is taken, its purpose is for a decision on a specific action to be enacted by the Board. When a Survey is taken, its purpose is to gather insights and preferences about an issue, for the Board to make the final decision.</b></i>	Secretary and President will incorporate into bylaws and sign with today’s date.
<b>Information</b>		
<b>Riverview Loppet</b>	Al Klein will continue as race director. We discuss keeping race date as third January Saturday = 1/18/2025. This date conflicts with SkideShe, but there will probably be conflicts with every Saturday. Tour de Finn has asked if we can join them again; they have a race already set for Sunday January 19 will be Marine O’Brien; otherwise, we do not know their schedule.	Board will continue discussing with Race Director
<b>After Hours Outdoors Fitness Group</b>	Monthly hiking sessions in the summer Weekly dry-land training sessions in the fall- Tuesdays 4:15 Weekly ski sessions in the winter - adults on Tuesdays 4:15 - children/ parents with potluck on Wednesdays 4:30	Will continue advertising
<b>Annual membership</b>	Annual membership is due starting 10/1/2024. Brochures and membership forms available.	
<b>Other</b>	See Fall newsletter	