

**Brule Valley Ski Club
Annual Meeting 9/21/2025**

Attendees:

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

Louise Beyea
 Brandon Burger
 Diane Culhane Lynn
 John DeSautelle
 Connie DeSautelle
 Dave Grapentine
 Greg Gullicksrud
 Jon Jurek
 Al Klein
 Bethany Kois
 Tim Pera
 Lynn Sarri
 Heather Swanson

Topic	Discussion / Decision	Future Actions
Old business		
Treasurer Report	<p>See report, below.</p> <p>We briefly discussed rate of return on our CDs and if we should explore other options to balance rate of return and length of CD.</p>	<p>Treasurer will explore available CD options. Board will review, make final decision.</p>
Secretary Report	<p>See report, below.</p>	
Bike / snowshoe Trail Report	<p>The mountain bike / snowshoeing trail has been expanded to nine miles, mainly by three people (Jon Jurek, Jon Thralow, Gary Mattson with help from Greg St Onge) and an excavator. The trails are now on the DNR website and the QR code is posted on our sign.</p> <p>Jon Jurek thanked the ski club for \$3,000 for the excavator, fuel, and equipment breakdown and provided a \$300 check from LOBSTERS (Ladies on Bikes-sters) from Cable-Hayward area) who recently rode and were excited about the trails.</p> <p>We discussed current usage (generally low as not well known) and</p>	<p>Continue support for trail development</p> <p>Work with</p>

	<p>need to advertise to expand usage. DNR is working signage and advertisement. We noted that the bike trails are not yet included on TrailForks.com, as waiting for the DNR to sign and advertise. We discussed other options to expand awareness, such as an open house, a bike event or mountain bike race. Pros/cons: soft wet trail can be destroyed by usage</p> <p>The crew plans to add 3+ miles in far SW corner and near the river, for a total of 11+ miles. They plan on using 17 pieces of used boardwalk that was obtained from Washburn Ranger District's Long Lake Recreation Area to build a boardwalk (like a bridge so called the Bridge Project) over a wet portion of Aspen Trail.</p>	<p>DNR on signage</p>
<p>Skijoring Trail Report</p>	<p>Last fall we hired a mulching machine, and x and x to create 1.5 miles for skiers with or without dogs. We added another .5 mile for a total of two miles. Matt from DNR will what? Need a dozer to finish the new trail. We are placing a dog waste station at the chalet or by the trailhead. We don't yet have signs or a name.</p> <p>The trail is good for new skiers as its mostly flat. However, in the first section there are some hills and at least one sharp curve that would be challenging for beginners. We discussed adding another start area with a parking lot westward on After Hours road, to avoid that section.</p>	<p>Continue support for trail development</p> <p>Work with DNR on a name, signs and adding a 2nd parking area</p>
<p>Lighting Trail Report</p>	<p>Linnea Weyandt and her daughter created a report that lays out several options for lighting some ski trails, including types of lighting, locations and costs. The costs range from \$15,000 to \$275,000. The distance ranges from 2 to 3.5 KM. We briefly discussed the options, but did not decide which we prefer. We supported the Board working with the DNR to explore those options and see which the DNR would prefer.</p> <p>Attendees expressed their interest, citing the benefits of lighted trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extend time that people can ski in the winter - Would especially people benefit who live nearby, work during the day, and want to ski in the evening or night. - Could attract skiers from other areas - Could benefit the local tourist economy, especially when we have good snow and southern WI has low snow. <p>We discussed challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost, logistics, and DNR resistance. - Lights are not in the current Master plan. It would have to be added to current plan via the state process or included in the next Master Plan for 2028. Either way, it would take time. <p>We discussed how to explore these options with the DNR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We should focus on their goals. Example: Parks/ Recs hold candlelight Event, with excellent attendance that benefits families in the community. - We should address any concerns they have. Example: Design to minimize the adverse effects of light on wildlife: lights focused om trail only, advantageous light type/ wavelength. - We could get data to explore and quantify the amount of 	<p>Board will discuss with DNR at October meeting</p> <p>Board will consider</p>

	<p>interest- from our members and people who ski the trails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We could inquire about the amount of use that occurred when other ski trails added lights. We had experiential evidence of robust night skiing in Superior Municipal Park, and Lester Park-Toski. <p>We briefly explored options for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use our own funds - Hold fundraising events - Apply for state funds - Become a Friends Group (we decided against this in 2024) - Could have an umbrella with another 501C-3 organization <p>We also considered not adding lights, as many people ski with headlamps now. As a club, we could provide ski lamps for people to borrow (but then how to ensure they remain on site?). We also heard about the Luna-tics who ski at night, especially near the full moons, to enjoy skiing at night in natural light.</p>	<p>obtaining more information</p> <p>Board will consider exploring other funding options</p>
<p>River View Loppet Ski Race</p>	<p>2025: Our ski race last year was held on 3/8/2025, with x skiers. We had fewer races than other years, probably because we had to cancel our usually January race date due to inadequate snow and had to compete with the Bear Chase.</p> <p>2026: We will aim for 1/17/2026 and chose an alternate date early in the season in case we have to reschedule. Al Klein will be race Director; Kathie Culhane-Pera will be Co-Director; Jon Jurek will continue to be in charge of the course. We will be looking for people to help, which is essential for a successful ski event, such as publicity and volunteer coordinators.</p> <p>We could consider changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - different trails/different lengths - new registration platform/ perhaps not refund registration - hold awards ceremony with lunch at the Brule Townhall again and hand out medals - for overall winners, have a plaque in the Chalet and add people’s names every year, instead of take-home plaques - have an on-line Silent Auction that starts before the race - expand the Silent Auction offerings for hand-made items, personal items, or services (i.e., a weekend cabin), <p>We discussed other type of events, especially if we have low snow again, such as Ski Tours, Fat Bike events. We also mentioned possibly having a ski swap and sell second-hand items (had done in Maple Town Hall years ago).</p>	<p>Al/ Kathie will work on details and recruit volunteers</p>
<p>Ski Lessons</p>	<p>We can continue and expand our support for skiing in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group lessons: Will hold again. We discussed possibly getting ski rentals again, as we had done in the past. - Individual Lessons. We could offer individual lessons that people can arrange on their own and pay a donation to the 	<p>Board will work on these.</p>

	<p>club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skijoring lessons. We could add also, with experienced members. - Weekly Tuesday afternoon group skis focus on ski skills. 	
Six Corner Cabin-	<p>DNR did not receive any bids above the minimum amount. We briefly reviewed the history of the cabin.</p> <p>The DNR is asking for our ideas, to be discussed 10/7/2025 with the Board. We wondered what the DNR is thinking and wants from us: Do they need money from us to finish finishing it? Do they want us to manage it? Clean it? We recommended the Board ask the DNR first about their plans/ options/ preferences/ and what they want from us.</p> <p>We discussed how the cabin could benefit the trails and the club, what we might want:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Day use- open for anyone to use during the day. - Rest area. - Food station during the Loppet. 	<p>Board will discuss with DNR 10/7/2025</p>
Honor BVSC members	<p>We honored two members with their own cribbage board with the BVSC map: Al Klein for his many years as Treasurer and Kathie Culhane-Pera as Secretary for the past two years.</p>	
Upcoming By-law change	<p>Members were informed about the upcoming by-law changed to accommodate one signature on checks >=\$500, increased from \$250, to assist managing the club's business.</p>	<p>Secretary will send out emails about voting</p>
Annual membership	<p>Annual memberships are due starting 10/1/2025. Brochures and membership forms available.</p>	
Other	<p>See Fall newsletter</p>	
Voting		
Elect New Board members	<p>16 total ballots, 1 by-email and 15 present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16/16 people voted for Linda Hobbs, President for 2 years - 16/16 people voted for John DeSautelle, Secretary for 2 years 	

Next Annual Meeting- TBD 9/2026

Next Board Meeting with DNR – 10/ 7/2025 at 10 AM in chalet.

Some Agenda items: Bike and skijoring trail expansion, signage, timber sales, lighting options, grooming, loss of 'No ATV' sign on River Road.

**Treasurer's Report
Brule Valley Ski Club
Annual Meeting September 21, 2025**

Security State Bank

Checking Balance \$4687.84

CDs 12 Month due March 23, 2026 \$16,567.35

5 Month due October 6, 2025 \$10,500.11

INCOME

Membership \$1,500

(27 Lifetime Members, 23 Household Members, 10 Individuals, 1 Business)

Ski race profit, per Al Klein \$934.01d

Outside donations \$1000 North Coast Cycle Association

EXPENSES

Insurance \$380

Marketing \$833.52

Fuel \$752.35

Repairs \$213.20

Trail work \$8965.00

Podiumwear purchases \$545.22

State Corp Tax \$25

Other

- Set up PayPal QR code for donations
- Set up credit account at Midland services for gasoline/diesel purchases, and received patronage equity credit of \$23.01.

Brule Valley Ski Club
Secretary's Annual Report

From 10/1/2024- 9/21/2025, the Brule Valley Ski Club supported our mission to maintain and expand the After Hours Trail system so it remains an asset that generates community pride and enhances the quality of life in several ways.

After Hours Trail activities:

- Held River View Loppet ski race on 3/8/2025 after postponing 1/18/2025 because of snow conditions
- Held ski auction – donations from members, Continental, New Moon, and
- Held ski swap of donated ski items from club members to support Northwestern HS students
- Held group ski lessons
- Held weekly fitness sessions at After Hours
- Held group hike on National Hike Day June 7, 2025

Trail planning, maintenance and development activities:

- Expanded bike trails to 9 miles and prepared to add wooden bridge sections
- Created new skijoring lollipop loop north of After Hours Road
- Created a draft proposal to light some ski trails
- Supported Brule River State Forest (BRSF) trail grooming

BVSC promotion activities:

- Created new club logo with variations
- Created new BVSC brochures and membership forms
- Completed winter merchandise sales with Podiumwear
- Completed summer merchandise sales with MarkIt

Administrative activities:

- Updated website www.brulescski.com (Scott Nesvold) and Facebook page (Beth Manz)
- Published 3 newsletters: Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025
- Held 3 board meetings and 2 meetings with DNR
- Maintained records on a Google Shared Drive
- Updated our newly written bylaws