

## Minutes of the Brule Valley Ski Club

### Annual Meeting

After Hours Warming Hut, October 21, 2007

*Call to order.* President Cordell Manz called the meeting to order 5:10 p.m. Present were the following ski club and DNR staff members and friends: Kevin Feind, Kurt Janko, Cordell Manz, Wendy Lahnala, Borg Isaksen, Julie Isaksen, Susie Isaksen, Darrell Thompson, Bob Cragin, Linda Hobbs, Paul Haltvick, and Greg St. Onge.

*Notice & quorum.* It was established that there were enough ski club members present to form a quorum and that a meeting notice had been sent by U.S. mail to members on October 4.

*Minutes.* The minutes from the 2006 annual meeting were approved by unanimous vote on a motion by Greg St. Onge, second by Paul Haltvick.

#### *Officers' reports*

President Cordell Manz led a discussion of the year's accomplishments. During today's workday, some ten ski club members, friends, and DNR staff clipped bushes, removed hazardous branches along the trail, and got further along on raising the bridge on Difficult Return. During the last ski season, the club paid for the gas used to groom the trails, as well as for warming hut heat and other electricity used at the trailhead.

Secretary Susie Isaksen reported that we currently have 39 members, including 14 multi-member household memberships.

Treasurer Bob Cragin reported that on November 1, 2006, at the start of our current fiscal year, we had \$2700 in our checking account; now our current balance is \$5,153. Overall for the past year, our income from membership dollars, rental of our timing equipment, race fees, donations exceeded expenses; our year-end balance has grown by \$2,453. Bob will look into investing some of our checking account dollars in something that earns more interest, such as a certificate of deposit.

*Annual budget* for the upcoming year. After some discussion about how difficult it is to set a budget because race income varies considerably depending on race-day weather and other factors, a consensus emerged. On a unanimous vote by members present, a motion was passed to set a goal of increasing our year-end balance by \$2,000 again by November 1, 2008. The motion was made by Susie Isaksen and seconded by Greg St. Onge.

Discussion surrounding the budget motion indicated that we want to do as we have done in the past; we want to build on our ability to fund After Hours Trail facilities and equipment needs by using Ski Club dollars and volunteer hours to leverage cost-sharing grants. In past years, the Brule Valley Ski Club has used this approach to help the Brule River State Forest purchase grooming equipment; build, add onto, and improve the warming hut; build trail bridges; and construct the equipment storage building.

*Members and Donations.* Discussion then focused on another topic related to the secretary's and treasurer's reports. It was pointed out that people who ski After Hours frequently and participate in our fundraising race are strong contributors but that many others who frequently ski After Hours purchase only ski trail passes. The problem here is that trail pass dollars fund the Department of Natural Resources statewide trail fund, but the trail fund does NOT fully fund the grooming and facilities that are offered at the Brule trail. The Ski Club makes up the difference between what the DNR pays for at the After Hours Trail and what frequent trail skiers want and have come to expect. All agreed that we need to work harder at recruiting frequent After Hours

skiers who do not contribute more than their trail pass fees. Increases in the costs of gas and electricity make this especially important.

*Annual election of officers.* A motion was made and seconded to form a ballot consisting of the same officers that have served for the past year. The motion carried. Another motion was made and seconded to elect those on the ballot. The motion carried, with one light-hearted nay from one of those being elected.

*Open topic: new business, announcements and suggestions*

Darrell Thompson announced that the Hayward Area Ski Association will hold its annual Ski and Equipment Swap on November 10 at the Veteran's Center on Hwy. 63, at the foot of Main Street in Hayward. Bring items to sell between 7:30 and 9 a.m. The sale will be from 9 until 11:30 a.m.

Greg St. Onge noted some ways in which the Ski Club and the Archery Club are sharing use and support of After Hours Trail facilities.

It was suggested that it would be nice to have a designated snowshoe trail, perhaps 5K, at After Hours. The consensus was that the club wants this, and Cordell agreed to discuss this with the state forest's new manager after he or she comes on board.

*Adjournment.* On a motion by Susie Isaksen, seconded by many, the meeting adjourned at about 5:40. Most of those present stayed for a brief meeting of the Brule Valley Ski Club Board of Directors, which began at 5:45 p.m.

## **Minutes of the Brule Valley Ski Club Board of Directors Meeting**

After Hours Warming Hut, October 21, 2007

*Call to order.* President Cordell Manz called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Present were the following ski club and DNR staff members and friends: Kevin Feind, Cordell Manz, Wendy Lahnala, Borg Isaksen, Susie Isaksen, Bob Cragin, Paul Haltvick, and Greg St. Onge.

*Notice & Quorum.* It was established that all board members were present, that we had a quorum, and that a meeting notice had been sent by U.S. mail to members on October 4.

*Ski calendar.* By consensus, the board set the 2008 Brule Ski Calendar. The Learn-To-Ski days will be on Saturday, January 12, and Sunday, February 3. Lessons will be free to children and adults. Rental of skis, poles, and boots will be \$15 for adults; \$5 for children 12 and under. The River View Loppet Cross-Country Ski Races will be on Saturday, March 1.

*Newsletter.* Borg Isaksen said he would put the newsletter together again this year, and that he needs contributions of news and information by November 15 so that he can get the newsletter out in a timely manner.

*Riverview Loppet.* Cordell demonstrated how Microsoft Excel can be used to enter and sort individual race start and finish times. Club race organizers have been concerned because the person who usually does our computerized race-day timing records has moved away. Cordell's demonstration was quite impressive and very much appreciated.

*Adjournment.* There was a unanimous vote for adjournment on a motion made by Greg St. Onge, seconded by Bob Cragin, at about 6:05 p.m.