

Grant In Aid County Advisors and Staff:

I truly hate to do this but this years snowmobile Grant In Aid meeting is being postponed until June 22nd (Wed) at 4pm. The reason for making this decision is that we do not have the financial data we need to make good decisions for this years grant awards.

As of yesterday the Fish & Game Department has only entered snowmobile registrations through the first ½ of January into their database. In discussions with them they cannot make the data entry go any faster and it is not anticipated that we will know the actual registration numbers from this winter prior to July. If we can get data for January and into February I would feel more comfortable with making some decisions, but with no reliable data to date there is no way to know how much funding we have available for grants. The 3rd quarter financial statement of the State Fiscal Year (Dec, Jan, Feb) gives us the tell tale state of how registrations are and what kind of funds might be available for GIA. We don't have that at this time.

The net result of this is that the clubs GIA contracts will be approximately a month later this year (planning on getting them to Governor & Council late July/early August). There are approximately \$2.4 million in grant requests this year (\$1million construction, \$1.4 million equipment). This is about \$1 more than we approved last year. There is no value in having you all drive to Concord to make major financial decisions without having figures from me (which I rely on data from Fish & Game to develop).

A separate topic is that the Bureau is involved in a financial audit from the Legislative Budget Assistants Office. This audit is reviewing all revenue and expenditures for July 1, 2010-March 31, 2011 (fiscal year 2011). Their analysis of GIA expenditures for groomers is coming up with findings that the current rules for the program are not written correctly and are in contrast to the GIA contracts that clubs sign; specifically in regards to the percentage clubs could keep from trade-ins of machines when buying a new one. Their analysis notes that clubs are not permitted to retain any percentage of trade-in value as part of their match for groomers, which is how the program ran up until 2 years ago.

Because of this finding we will be returning back to the previous system of groomer funding, in which we take all trade-in values and RTP awards off the top of the cost of a groomer and then apply the 60% rule to the remaining value. This topic has been very problematic for clubs this year and returning to the previous rules will make it easier for clubs to understand; however may increase the clubs portion back to where it would have been 2 years ago. We are reviewing whether there needs to be an adjustment in the purchase percentage from GIA (primarily to deal with the anticipated cost increases for EPA Tier 4 emission standards) from 60% to 63-65%.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have on the delay in getting financial figures or the groomer percentage clarification. I do apologize for any impact, though in reality there should be little, to any of your Counties clubs; but the data we require is from Fish & Game and we don't have it at this time.

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