

TRDMA meeting at Two Rivers Lodge on 5 November 2014 at 7 pm.

Present:

Michael J. Marx
Greg Stoddard
Wesley Brightman
Riley Dyche
Chase Tingle
Spencer Egbert
Ryan Olsen
Matt Hall
Jeremy Traska
Shaynee Traska

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 by Greg Stoddard (Treasurer).

Rabies clinic will be held on 11 November, starting at 11 am. Access through cemetery. Person comes inside to do paperwork. Vet will go to vehicle to do vaccinations.

The Soltice Race was discussed as not yet accepting registrations due to snow conditions. By the 1st December it will be decided whether the race will be 20-21 December or 3-4 January. Sign up at Pleasant Valley Store. Vets are still being looked for even though they are not required.

The TR100/200 will now be on 13-15 March due to the Iditarod. Vets are needed because this a qualifier race for the YQ and Iditarod. Due to changing trail conditions, White Mountain might be a way to get an alternative 100 mile loop pending approval as a qualifier race trail. Desired is to find race trails that will consistently be there and that racers will know that they can depend on the quality and consistency of the racing conditions.

Race fees are not yet set. Suggested is \$200 for 100 mile or \$425 for the 200 mile race. Early sign up incentives were suggested. (Example \$350 for early sign up by 15 Feb.)

The Chatanika 200 was originally a low profile race done purposely during the Iditarod to give up-and-coming racers a chance during a weekend when bigger teams are busy elsewhere. Presently kennels are becoming more centralized and the need for "smaller" qualifiers are becoming more prevalent. Question was asked if those wanting the race as a qualifier could get preference at early sign up. For example, hold 10 guaranteed spots for those seeking qualifiers.

Capping a race becomes necessary if there are not enough volunteers. We need 6 to 8 people for a checkpoint. For example; if 2 volunteers are not immediately present, then the checkpoint staffing must not suffer.

Race marshals should be more present and authoritative at the check points than in the past. Desired is that local mushers will sign up for one race and volunteer for the other Two Rivers race. Experience local mushers are looked for as race Marshals.

Next Tanana Valley State Forest CAC meeting to be held on 11 December. Article in Mushing Magazine described that civilization is encroaching on trail systems and mentioned Two Rivers. Dozers are currently active clearing areas for the 73 timber cutting sales this year. To date they have not yet not helped out with trails. Sled trails are being used by people getting firewood. If the State put in and posted the trails, there would be more ways to keep the trails clear for recreational purposes. Alaska State needs to look at the whole trail system so that timber sales are not limiting the trails. Some frustration was expressed that promised help with trails has not yet been given.

Straw and hay is wanted for filling in trail holes. Several in attendance requested that the "trail maintenance parties" be posted on Facebook even with short notice. Many people want to help, but don't always know days in advance when they are available to help.

For example, a car was moved on Jenny M Hill.

Trail to Flattop will not be maintained until later in the season.

The Fire Zone could can be accessed but needs to be cleared. Another 100 miles of trail may be able to be put in there.

Greg reported as treasurer that the "box" full of treasurer stuff showed some potential uncashed checks and possibly outstanding bills. Ballpark: the account might have a balance of about \$1000 less than this time last year.

Suggested that in earlier December a "paper" newsletter be made to inform membership of the top topics for the season. Once the dates for the Soltice race is set, this newsletter should be sent by normal post to active members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15. Next meeting to be 3 December at Two Rivers Lodge at 7 pm.